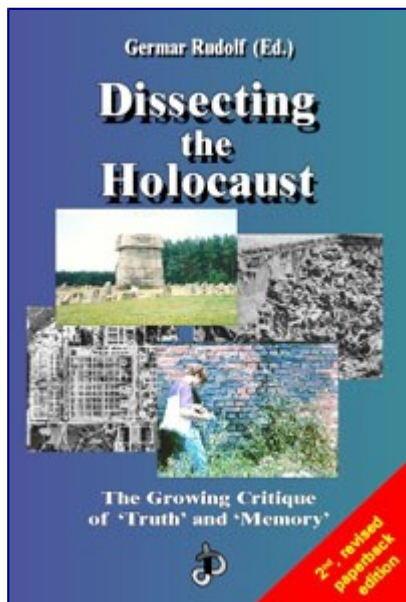


Holocaust Victims: A Statistical Analysis

W. Benz and W. N. Sanning – A Comparison



This paper is also part of “my” anthology [*Dissecting the Holocaust*](#). It is the result of a detailed analysis of the 1991 mainstream anthology *Dimension des Völkermords*, edited by Dr. Wolfgang Benz. In it, Benz tries to determine the number of Jews which fell victim to the Nazi “Holocaust.” This book was a reaction to the revisionist monograph *The Dissolution of the Eastern European Jewry* by W. N. Sanning, which had appeared eight years earlier. When I was preparing the original German edition of *Dissecting* back in 1993, I ran into that book by accident. Since I had a copy of Sanning’s book at hand, I began reading both side by side, making notes about the differences in their statistical sources and data as I went along. I turned the results into the following paper, which juxtaposes the results of both books. The later English editions included additional statistical material which is used to verify the results.

So how many Jews are unaccounted for? Six Million, as Benz claims, or only some 300,000, as Sanning wants to make us believe? As you will discover when reading my paper, neither figure seems to be accurate, although Benz seems to be far more off the mark than Sanning.

1. Introduction

Polemic discussions about the Holocaust frequently come to a dead end when one party resorts to the argument that it is after all an indisputable fact that six million persons of Jewish faith were missing after the Second World War and that therefore it does not matter in the slightest *how* these people were killed. But is the number of victims really undisputed?

In this line of argument it is usually overlooked that for a long time the figure of ‘six million’ was based on nothing more than hearsay evidence given by two German SS-bureaucrats at the International

Military Tribunal (IMT), specifically the written (never verbal) deposition of Wilhelm Höttl^[1] and the verbal but never cross-examined testimony of Dieter Wisliceny.^[2] These men claimed they had heard this figure from Eichmann^[3] who, however, later disputed this.^[4] On the basis of their testimony in Nuremberg both witnesses were transferred from the defendants' dock to the witness quarters – usually a life-saving transfer. While Wisliceny and Eichmann were later convicted and hanged, W. Höttl was never prosecuted even though he was no less deeply involved in the deportation of the Jews. He had clearly been promised exemption from punishment in return for his services as witness and, unlike Wisliceny, was lucky enough to see that promise kept.

Höttl's recent after-the-fact apologia for his testimony of that time^[5] contradicts what he had stated earlier, and is thus not very credible.^[6] For details of the ways and means with which the statements of such coerced witnesses were obtained during the Nuremberg Trials, see the chapter by Manfred Köhler in this volume.

Recently, British historian David Irving marveled that as early as June 1945, in other words immediately after the end of hostilities in Europe, some Zionist leaders were able to provide the precise number of Jewish victims – six million, of course – even though the chaos reigning in Europe at that time rendered any demographic studies impossible.^[7] Not long ago the German historian Joachim Hoffmann pointed out that the chief Soviet atrocity propagandist, Ilya Ehrenburg, had publicized the six-million-figure in the Soviet foreign press as early as January 4, 1945, i.e., fully four months before the war's end.^[8] W. Höttl has found an article in *Readers's Digest* which in February 1943 already reported the murder of at least the half of the six million Jews threatened by Hitler.^[9]

In 1936, Chaim Weizmann is reported to have said in front of the Peel Commission:^[10]

“It is no exaggeration to say that six million Jews are sentenced to be imprisoned in this part of the world, where they are unwanted, and for whom the countries are divided into those, where they are unwanted, and those, where they are not admitted.”

But this ‘magic’ number probably dates back even further. A series of *propaganda articles* published shortly after the end of the First (!) World War already mentioned six million Jews who had perished in a Holocaust in eastern Europe,^[11] and Benjamin Blech tells of an *ancient Jewish prophecy* that promises the Jews their return to the Promised Land *after a loss of six million* of their number,^[12] which is certainly grounds for speculations.

The origin of the six-million figure, which has by now been acknowledged as “*symbolic figure*” even by historians of the establishment,^[13] is thus more than questionable, and it is not surprising that even world-famous statisticians have long conceded that the issue of the numbers of victims is in no way settled.^[14]

In introducing the discussion of Holocaust victims, revisionist scholars time and again cite a publication in the Swiss paper *Baseler Nachrichten* of June 12, 1946 which postulated a maximum number of 1.5 million Jewish victims of National Socialism, as well as the fact that the International Red Cross never made any mention in its post-war Activity Reports of a systematic extermination of the Jews in gas chambers.^[15] Benz comments rightly that citing various undocumented newspaper

sources and the IRC, which out of a lack of any comprehensive overview never compiled any statistics of its own about the numbers of victims, is a very dubious practice.^[16] While there have been several attempts since the war's end to determine the number of victims,^[17] any monograph commensurate with the importance of the topic was lacking until the early 1980s. It was not until 1983 that a book was published in the United States – *The Dissolution of the Eastern European Jewry*, by W. N. Sanning^[18] – which attempted, by drawing on statistical material from mostly Jewish sources, to ascertain the number of Jewish Holocaust victims in the Third Reich's sphere of influence. Since Sanning concluded in his book that at the very most several hundreds of thousands of Jews perished of unknown causes in the Third Reich,^[19] it was to be expected that the establishment would counter with a reply containing a wealth of statistical material intended to reconfirm the “symbolic figure” of six million Jewish victims. And indeed, in 1991 the official *Institut für Zeitgeschichte* published a 585-page study titled *Dimension des Völkermords*.

“The bottom line indicates a minimum of 5.29 and a maximum of just over 6 million [Jewish victims of the Holocaust].”^[20]

This is how editor W. Benz summarizes the statistical investigations of his seventeen co-authors, each of whom focused on one nation that had been either occupied by or allied with the Third Reich. But it must be pointed out that

“Of course the purpose of this project also was not to prove any pre-set figure (‘six million’),”^[21]

even if the final result does happen to coincide with the semiofficial number. In the following discussion of individual contributions to this book, we shall refer only to the editor W. Benz rather than to the various co-authors to avoid confusing the reader with a multitude of different names.

In the summary of his 239-page book, Sanning writes:

– “At the beginning of World War Two there were fewer than 16 million Jews in the world [...]

– One million Jews died while fighting in the Red Army or in Siberian labor camps; [...]

– Approximately 14 million Jews survived the last war [...].”^[18]

Further civilian and military losses must be deducted from the missing one million Jews, so that Sanning eventually arrives at only about 300,000 Jews who lost their lives in unexplained manner in the German sphere of influence during the Second World War.

In view of the fundamental contradiction between these two works, an interested and critical reader naturally wonders which of the two authors is right. Since the answer to this question is of great consequence, and since recent scientific and technical findings have rendered several aspects of the Holocaust extremely questionable, the following shall compare and contrast the approaches and findings of both works.^[22]

2. Method

For this purpose, we will organize our analysis on the basis of the nations which, during World War

Two, came under German rule either in whole or in part, and we will examine the fluctuations exhibited by the Jewish population statistics there. The sequence of the nations corresponds on the whole to that used in Benz's work, where only these countries are dealt with. In comparison, Sanning incorporates more extensive demographic observations, taking into account non-European nations as well, for which reason no strictly defined sequence of nations under German rule can be maintained in his work.

Between 1933 and 1945, the national boundaries of the countries studied often underwent considerable changes. In the work by Benz each country is discussed by a different author, and since the various authors clearly did not agree among themselves with respect to common boundaries, there are many cases of overlap which frequently result in the populations in question being counted twice.^[23] We shall point this out as individual examples occur, and total these doublings at the end. Since Sanning, being the sole author of his book, did not have such trouble in allotting boundary areas, we will subsequently follow his choice of boundaries. Since the Benz book goes into great detail where such territories as were subject to changes in sovereignty are concerned, the appropriate corrections are generally quite easy to accommodate here.

For each nation or group of nations we shall first give a brief tabular overview of the Jewish population statistics as given in each work. Only where the data given in the two books are at considerable odds will reference to the soundness of the data and their calculation be made in order to determine which author's arguments are better. The reliability of the sources cited by the authors will also be touched on only in cases of dispute.

This will be followed by a comparison of the sum total of Jewish losses in German-occupied Europe, as calculated in each book, as well as by a summary critique which will also address the matter of where and how the victims Benz believes to have identified allegedly lost their lives; certain contradictions will become evident.

An overview of the numbers of Jewish emigrants from the European nations under former German occupation follows, as well as a survey of world Jewish population changes before and after the Second World War. Since these aspects are discussed *only* by Sanning, no comparison with the Benz book can be drawn – but since Benz's book appeared eight years after Sanning's, this certainly gives the impression that no factual counter-arguments were possible, at least where the matter of emigration was concerned.

And finally, Sanning's work is verified statistically; a similar test was already performed some time ago by a Swedish statistician.

To avoid a vast number of footnotes, sources will be indicated in the text by parenthetical references giving only the page number in question and identifying the book by the initial of its author/editor (S or B), and in tables by appropriate notation in the column "Ref." or in brackets. Only rarely will reference be made to the source quoted by the book itself.

3. The Nations Under German Influence

3.1. Germany and Austria

BENZ	Jews 10/41	Ref.	Jews 1945	Ref.	Victims	Ref.
Germany	164-235,000	34ff.	20,000	52/64	139-174,000	52/53
Austria	60,000	68	5,000	71	48,767	74
TOTAL	224-295,000		25,000		188-223,000	

SANNING	Jews 10/41	Ref.	Jews 1945	Ref.	Deaths	Ref.	Missing	Ref.
Germany	164,000	136	27,000	138	14,000	138	123,000	137
Austria	50,000	137	9,000	138	5,000	138	36,000	138
TOTAL	214,000		36,000		19,000		159,000	

Jewish emigration from the German sphere of influence, which had been strongly encouraged earlier, [24] became restricted in October 1941. [25] After that, deportations to labor, concentration and so-called extermination camps gradually began. For this reason, where reference is made in the following to Jewish population statistics prior to the beginning of the extermination of the Jews as described by defenders of the Holocaust claims, *it is this approximate date that has been used as the temporal dividing line.*

The low Jewish population in Germany as given for this time in the book by Benz is the same as that in Sanning's, since both are based on a monthly report of the Reich Association of Jews in Germany to the *Reichssicherheitshauptamt* [Reich Security Main Office]. Since this Association was an extension of the National Socialist state, the figure given is quite reliable. Benz, however, proceeds on the assumption that this figure represented only “full Jews“, and adds approximately 43% for “half-Jews” and “quarter-Jews“, even though these Jews were only partly (half-Jews) or not at all (quarter-Jews) subjected to the measures performed by the German authorities. [26]

Benz does not give any definite figures for the number of Jews in Austria, but believes that by the beginning of the war two-thirds of the Jews (as defined by the Nuremberg Race Laws) that had been present in Austria at the time of its unification with the Reich had fled (B68). This means that of 206,000 (B70), some 70,000 remained at the start of the war. Until October 1941, emigration – which amounted to approximately 15% in the Reich proper at this time (B35) – produced a further reduction of about 10,000.

For Germany, Sanning cites only those figures provided by the Reich Association. For Austria he refers to contemporaneous Jewish sources in Austria and the United States.

For the Jews to be found in post-war Germany Benz cites only estimates, and for those in Austria, nothing more than a number pertaining to ‘after the liberation’. However, due to the chaos reigning at that time, these statistics are very unreliable. Sanning cites data provided by the well-known Holocaust specialist Gerald Reitlinger, and his figures for Austria were not determined until October 1947, after the greatest of the population transfers in Europe had begun to subside.

While Benz ignores the increased mortality rate that characterized the Jewish population in the Reich between 1941 and 1945 due to the emigration of predominantly young people, which resulted in a

disproportionate percentage of elderly Jews, Sanning does take this into account, which further reduces his tally of missing persons. This illustrates clearly the contrasting approaches of the two authors: Benz proceeds on the assumption that the difference between pre- and post-war Jewish population figures must be the result of the extermination program, which may make any calculation of natural mortality rates seem superfluous. Sanning, on the other hand, does not automatically consider the difference to be necessarily indicative of deaths – as yet, to him, these people are only missing. Further differences in the treatment of statistical questions will become apparent in the following, and will be summarized at the end.

I have reduced Benz's numbers of victims by 21,000 for Germany and by 16,692 for Austria. These represent victims who fled to other European countries not then under German control, where, however, they later came under German rule and were allegedly exterminated (Germany: B64; Austria: B74). However, since these people are also counted as part of the Jewish population of their country of destination (particularly France and Czechoslovakia), it is necessary to deduct them once. For the moment we shall take note of **37,692 Jewish victims counted twice**, which must be deducted from Benz's total.

3.2. France, Benelux, Denmark, Norway and Italy

The reason for the great differences between the opening figures for France and the Benelux nations is that, except for the Netherlands, only estimates are available for the numbers of Jews living there before the war, both because these were simply never recorded statistically and because immigrants from Germany and Poland were not always registered. While Sanning bases his figures on information provided by the *American Jewish Yearbook 1940* (New York) and by Reitlinger,^[27] who cites barely half a million, Benz uses straight estimates for Belgium and France; among his sources for these estimates are reports from German authorities which, however, are likely to have inflated the numbers of Jews grossly for propaganda reasons.^[28]

BENZ	Jews 10/41	Ref.	Jews 1945	Ref.	Victims	Ref.
				103		
Luxembourg	3,500-3,700	104	2,450	(? is	1,200	104
Belgium	52,000	109f.	?23,482	calculated	28,518	130
France	300,000	109	?223,866	data	76,134	127
Netherlands	161,000	144	?59,000	from 10/41	102,000	165
Denmark	6,000	175	?5,884	minus	116	185
Norway	1,800	187	?1,042	the number	758	196
Italy	34,000	201	?28,086	of	5,914	216
				victims)		
TOTAL	558,400 ±100		?343,810		214,640	
SANNING	Jews 10/41	Ref.	Jews 1945	Ref.	Missing	Ref.
Luxembourg	Total:	132	500	133	Total:	133
Belgium	460,000		61,000	133	124,000	
France			238,000	133		

BENZ	Jews 10/41	Ref.	Jews 1945	Ref.	Victims	Ref.
Netherlands			36,500	133		
Denmark & Norway	Total: 8,000	133	Total: *7,000	133	Total: 1,000	133
Italy	48,000	132	39,000	133	9,000	133
TOTAL	516,000		382,000		134,000	

*fled

For Benz, the number of victims is by no means derived from the difference between pre-war and post-war Jewish populations, but rather from the number of those who allegedly were proven to have survived the deportations (2,566 of 75,720), and he cites Serge Klarsfeld to this effect.[\[29\]](#) The official post-war return registration of the deportees in France, as well as the accidental discovery of the survival of such as did not officially return, are what constitutes proof of survival to Klarsfeld.

Swedish demographer Carl O. Nordling comments rightly that the survivors from among the approximately 52,000 non-French Jews who fled to France before the war and were later deported to Auschwitz would not be very likely to report back to France after the war.[\[30\]](#) Similarly, a not inconsiderable portion of the survivors from some 23,000 remaining French Jews, some of whom had not taken French citizenship until shortly before the war, will have emigrated without registration after the war, possibly assuming a different name in their new homeland,[\[31\]](#) thereby becoming very difficult to trace.

Thus, Klarsfeld's method for determining the number of victims, a method adopted by Benz, can hardly yield a correct result. The statements of former inmates claiming that their relatives had disappeared also fail to convince; to date there have been many cases of chance reunions of family members who each believed for decades that the other had been exterminated.[\[32\]](#) Since families were separated and scattered throughout Europe after being imprisoned, and since especially for Jews there was no way of searching for their kin amid the chaos of post-war Europe, the lack of proof of a family member's survival is also no proof of his or her extermination. Carl Nordling recently demonstrated the fallacy of these incorrect and rash conclusion on the basis of an investigation of the fate of the Jewish population of the Polish city Kaszony.[\[33\]](#)

A further example of faulty methodology on the part of Klarsfeld and Benz may be found in their approach to those inmates who were 'selected'[\[34\]](#) on their arrival in Auschwitz, i.e., who were not officially admitted into the camp and therefore were not tattooed with an ID number. Klarsfeld and Benz lump all of these Jews together as victims of gassing because, being unfit for forced labor, they were allegedly deemed useless. Nordling [\[30\]](#) pointed out that the first transports, between March and July 1942, were almost completely admitted into Auschwitz, but that larger proportions of the transports were no longer registered in the camp later on.

If one assumes that non-registration meant death by gassing, then if the Third Reich had indeed been pursuing a policy of extermination one might expect to see the opposite trend, since in 1943 the labor shortage was considerably more severe in Germany than in 1942 and therefore Jewish workers ought to have been accorded greater value as the war progressed. The actual registration pattern, therefore,

indicates instead that the Auschwitz camp was first filled with workers and that the surplus was later channeled to the more than 30 affiliated labor camps surrounding Auschwitz, as well as to other camps and camp groups.

This theory explains why men from one 1942 transport were not registered (i.e., tattooed with prisoner ID numbers) in Auschwitz until April 1944.^[35] Despite not being registered in 1942 they were obviously not killed, but rather employed outside Auschwitz in some other capacity for 1½ years. We do not know how Klarsfeld and his colleagues manage to be so certain that other inmates not registered in Auschwitz were not also put to work somewhere else, but were by necessity gassed.^[36]

Thus it is clear that the statistical material on which Benz's book is based rests at least in part on an unsound speculative basis.

Benz does not even attempt the other method of calculating casualties – namely, the comparison of pre-war and post-war Jewish populations. The post-war data given in the preceding table and identified with question marks are thus based simply on the subtraction of the supposed number of victims from the pre-war population.

Sanning again refers to Reitlinger for his post-war figures. In comparing the figures from Benz et al. and Reitlinger – both of them establishment Holocaust scholars – one sees that the estimation of the numbers of missing persons for these countries is very difficult due to the insufficient data available. For this reason Benz simply assumes that most of the Jews deported from France and the Benelux nations (213,813, B103; 127; 130; 165) were in fact murdered. Reitlinger's data are obviously not suited to this argument, since they prove this assumption to be false, even if only by the fact that his data suggests that only approximately 134,000 Jews were missing. The question of how many of these missing persons emigrated unregistered immediately after the war is not addressed by Benz and will be discussed here in a later section.

Here, too, Benz's number of victims was corrected because the Dodecanese Isles off the Turkish coast (Rhodes, Kos, and others) were counted for Italy as well as for Greece. The corresponding 1,641 victims were therefore subtracted from Italy's original figure of 7,555 (B213; 216). Together with Germany and Austria this makes for **39,333 victims counted twice**.

3.3. Albania

Benz assumes that Albania, with probably fewer than 1,000 Jews at the start of the war, lost a few hundred Jews, but he has only estimates to rely on for this (B236; 238). Sanning does not discuss this country at all, since neither statistics nor any relevant studies are available.

3.4. Greece and Yugoslavia

BENZ	Jews 4/41	Ref.	Jews 1945	Ref.	Victims	Ref.
Greece	70-71,500	272	12,726	272	58,885	272
Yugoslavia	80-82,000	312/3	16,000	329	60-65,000	330
TOTAL	150-153,000		28,726		119-124,000	

BENZ	Jews 4/41	Ref.	Jews 1945	Ref.	Victims	Ref.
SANNING	Jews 4/41	Ref.	Jews 1945	Ref.	Missing	Ref.
Greece	65,000	134	12,000	135	53,000	136
Yugoslavia	68,000	136	12,000	136	56,000	136
TOTAL	133,000		24,000		109,000	

Where Greece is concerned, Benz has the better source material, since he had access to the Greek census data that was compiled just before the outbreak of the war (B247), whereas Sanning had to use one from 1931 (S134). Because of intensive emigration Sanning assumed a decrease in population and therefore mistakenly estimated the Jewish population at 65,000. Benz, on the other hand, arrives at a figure of at least 70,000 Jews in Greece, including the approximately 2,000 Jewish inhabitants of the Dodecanese Isles (primarily Rhodes and Kos).

With respect to Yugoslavia, both authors proceed from the last census data, collected in 1931 (approximately 68,000 Jews). Benz also estimates an increase of some 4,000 and an additional 5,000 or so foreign refugees, as well as another 3,000 – 5,000 *de facto* Jews who, while having renounced their faith, were nevertheless classed as Jews under the Nuremberg Race Laws. Sanning, on the other hand, seconds Reitlinger in the assumption that immigration and emigration balanced out in Yugoslavia, a country that grew increasingly anti-Jewish in its outlook since 1939 (B312). Sanning does not address the matter of *de facto* Jews.

For Greece, the difference between the data of the two authors results from Sanning's deflated pre-war figure and from the 2,000 Dodecanese Jews which he may have missed.^[37] For Yugoslavia, on the other hand, Benz appears to have estimated the pre-war figures a little too high. The actual number of missing persons, therefore, probably lies somewhere between the two figures, which do not deviate very much anyhow.

3.5. Hungary

First of all it is necessary to define which Hungary is at issue. Since Hungary had the same boundaries before the war as it did after, but briefly made tremendous territorial gains in between, we shall here confine our analysis to the area within the boundaries of today's Hungary (so-called Trianon Hungary). Since both authors give their Jewish statistics for the newly added and subsequently lost regions separately from those for Trianon Hungary, it should be possible to transfer this definition to the numbers of Hungarian Jews without any difficulty. There is one serious problem, however. Benz's distribution of the Jews among Trianon Hungary (some 401,000) and the territories gained (approximately 324,000) is based on a total of 725,000 Jews for Greater Hungary (B338), which is also Sanning's initial figure (S138). But Benz adds approximately 100,000 *de facto* Jews of non-Jewish denomination but coming under the Nuremberg Race Laws, as well as approximately 50,000 immigrants from Poland (B340). This increase of about 20% must be added accordingly to the figure for Trianon Hungary, resulting in 484,000 Jews. The subsequent statistics (casualties at the front in the Hungarian Military Labor Force, Soviet deportations, as well as the numbers of survivors and victims) follow from the number Benz cites for Greater Hungary if one considers that approximately 55% of all the Jews in Greater Hungary resided in Trianon Hungary, and if one assumes that all changes affected

all Jews equally. In fact, however, one cannot realistically assume this, *since it is an undisputed fact that the Jews of Budapest – some 150,000 to 200,000 – remained completely unaffected by deportations into supposed extermination camps* (B348f.; S143).

BENZ	Jews 1941 (340)	Killed in combat, and Soviet deportation (351)	Birth deficit (340)	Flight (340)	Jews 1945 (351)	Victims (351)
Hungary	484,000	Total: 27,000	2,900	9,000	166,000	277,000*

*Discrepancies in calculation are the result of revision; see text.

SANNING (144)	Jews 1941	Conversion s	Killed in combat	Soviet deportation	Birth deficit	Flight	Jews 1945	Missing
Hungary	400,000	10,000	27,500	65,500	20,000	6,000	200,000	71,000

Working with Greater Hungary rather than Trianon Hungary would avoid these problems, but we cannot do this, for the reason that all of Hungary’s territorial gains have been incorporated into other sections of Benz’s book. These regions are: the Bačka of Yugoslavia, northern Transylvania of Rumania, and southern Slovakia and the Carpatho-Ukraine of Czechoslovakia, with a total of approximately 324,000 denominational Jews, i.e., 391,000 *de facto* Jews (+20%). In computing his overall total, Benz counted all these Jews twice, with the exception of the Jews in those territories gained from Czechoslovakia.[\[38\]](#) Since the 214,000 *de facto* Jews who were counted twice amount to about 24.5% of Greater Hungary’s Jews, this corresponds to a duplicate counting of 122,500 Jewish victims out of an overall number of 500,000 Jews said to have been killed by the Germans (B351). If one considers that the proportion of victims in the border territories was greater than that in Trianon Hungary, since all of Budapest, for example, remained unaffected by the deportations, then a duplicate count of as many as 150,000 seems likely. This increases the **number of Jews counted twice to at least 161,833**.

Unfortunately not all of the co-authors contributing to Benz’s book employed the same methods as in the case of Hungary, where simple estimates added 20% to the initial number of Jews; the result is that the territorial overlaps and duplicate counts get completely out of hand. We shall focus less on the actual numbers in each case than on the methodologies applied. Hungary is an especially appropriate subject for a closer scrutiny of methodology, since this particular case represents an exceptionally explosive chapter of the (hi)story of the Holocaust. Advocates of the Holocaust doctrine assume as a matter of course that the Germans deported 400,000 to 500,000 Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz, where the majority of them were killed. The basis for this assumption are IMT documents which, according to Benz, prove that in spring and early summer 1944 “444,152 Jews were deported from Hungary” (B344).

In his book Sanning quotes Arthur R. Butz who pointed out that the International Red Cross made no mention in its Report, published in 1948, of any deportations of Jews to Auschwitz, but only of the beginning of Jewish tribulations in October 1944.[\[39\]](#) Aside from violent excesses, this time did see some deportations, whose purpose and destination, however, was forced labor in the Reich, not Auschwitz (B348; S139f.). Therefore, Butz and Sanning assume that no adequate evidence exists to prove that Hungarian Jews were deported to Auschwitz at all.

There is no way around the fact, however, that there are still Jews living today who really were deported to Auschwitz in spring 1944 and who have repeatedly testified as witnesses in court.[40] Further, Pressac states that between $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Hungarian Jews deported to Auschwitz, whose arrival and selection were photographed by the SS,[41] were considered fit for forced labor, i.e., were not killed.[42] As well, it can be proven, he says, that in the spring some 50,000 of these Hungarian Jews were transported on to the Stutthof camp via Auschwitz.[43] In this respect, therefore, Sanning's theory rests on a shaky foundation[44] – but so does that of Benz, who contends that the Hungarian Jews were killed immediately and almost without exception.

There are other indications as well that the theory of mass destruction of the Hungarian Jews is incorrect: the witnesses to this destruction unanimously claim that during these alleged mass exterminations the limited capacity of the Birkenau crematoria necessitated the excavation of enormous pits, in which the bodies were burned. Dark clouds of smoke, they claim, darkened the sky over Birkenau during this procedure. Fortunately (or unfortunately, depending on one's perspective) the aerial reconnaissance photographs taken by the Allies during this time prove that in the Birkenau camp, which was not obscured by clouds of smoke when the pictures were taken, there were neither open fires, nor giant pits, nor smoke activity on any scale large or small, nor piles of dead bodies, nor great supplies of firewood, nor anything else of the sort.[45] The Polish Historical Society concludes that in light of this evidence the number of victims in Auschwitz must be reduced by another 400,000 plus 74,000 (Polish Jews from the liquidated ghetto Lodz, who are also claimed to have been gassed around this time), leaving some 500,000 victims for Auschwitz.[46]

Even allegedly probative documents of the Nuremberg Tribunal cannot change this, since such documents are by no means always genuine, or true, and only ever provide evidence for deportations which are not disputed here in the first place – *they never document an extermination*. The reader is reminded of the example of Dachau, the concentration camp where the IMT alleged that hundreds of thousands were gassed, a claim which in the end turned out to be nothing more substantial than an atrocity propaganda lie.[47] We shall come across another case of dubious IMT documents in the discussion of the Soviet Union.

Benz's methodology proves to be very slipshod where other factors are concerned as well. He can only give vague estimates of the number of Jews who lost their lives due to Soviet deportation and in the Hungarian Military Labor Force (B339), whereas Sanning cites verifiable figures based on Jewish or at least pro-Jewish sources (S140; 142). Benz maintains the birth deficit at pre-war levels, whereas Sanning reasons that the Labor Force for Hungarian Jews as well as the overall poor conditions for Jews during the war would have caused the pre-war birth rate to drop further. Benz completely ignores the numbers of Jews who 'converted' to the Christian faith; in any case, Jews who converted to Christianity were no longer represented in any post-war statistics about Jews, and are thus considered by Benz and his co-authors to have been 'gassed'.

Now, what is interesting are the two authors' contrasting observations regarding the Jews said to be remaining in Hungary after the war. Whereas Benz suggests a total of 300,000 for Greater Hungary, Sanning cites that some 300,000 Jews were left after the war in Central (Trianon) Hungary alone. He

bases his claim on, first, the US War Refugee Board's *Final Summary Report*, which states that more than 200,000 Jews from Budapest were exempted from deportations following negotiations with the SS (S143). Second, in its aforementioned report the International Red Cross stated that some 100,000 Jews poured into Budapest from the provinces.[\[48\]](#) Furthermore, 200,000 Jews had been counted in Trianon Hungary in 1946, while according to Reitlinger one can assume that by then a veritable mass exodus of Jews to the West had begun (S143). One must also consider, he says, that no doubt a great many foreign, mostly Polish Jews were included in this migration. Sanning thus cites 200,000 as the minimum number of Jews present in post-war Trianon Hungary. For Benz, the number of survivors derives almost exclusively from the number of Jews present before the war, minus the decreases estimated as above, minus the actual or supposed deportations to concentration camps, i.e., (according to Nuremberg documents) to forced labor camps. Absolutely no other sources are used.

3.6. Czechoslovakia

BENZ (379)	Jews 1939	Emigration	Jews 1945	Victims		
Czechoslovakia	251,745	33,000	40,000	164-168,000*		
*Discrepancies exist in the author’s work itself.						
SANNING (146)	Jews 1939	Emigration	Killed in combat	Birth deficit	Jews 1945	Missing
Czechoslovakia	254,288	52,300	3,000	5,000	82,000	112,000

We shall consider Czechoslovakia as defined by its post-war borders (up to 1992), in other words without the Carpathian Ukraine. Benz, while discussing Czechoslovakia as for its borders prior to its first collapse in 1938/39, does give a breakdown of the proportions for the individual regions.[\[49\]](#)

Benz assumes a migration balance of net 33,000 emigrants up to mid-1943, while no net. emigration was allegedly apparent for Slovakia (B369). Regarding emigration from the Protectorate he cites official statistics of contemporaneous Jewish authorities which, however, did not incorporate illegal emigration (B358). Sanning totals more than 52,000 emigrants, substantiating this with a reference to the Anglo-American Committee, according to which the Jewish population had already decreased by 40,000 by late 1939 (S144). *Sanning is the only one to take into account the drop in birth rate and the casualties of the Hungarian Labor Force.*

Benz arrives at what he claims to be the approximate number of survivors in the Protectorate by totaling those Jews who officially reported back as survivors of the deportations, or who were otherwise found in Czechoslovakia after the war. Unfortunately such data were only ever gathered selectively, with respect to specific camps or cities, and never nationwide for any given point in time, so that the results are by necessity incomplete. For Slovakia, Benz derives his survivor statistics from the difference between those Jews who failed to return from deportations, and the population level prior to the deportations. Any westward migration is disregarded. Where the regions that were ceded to Hungary are concerned, Benz assumes that the Jews there suffered the same fate as the remaining Hungarian Jews. Aside from the Carpathian Ukraine, some 45,000 Jews were affected. The problems involved in the study of the Jews in the territory of Greater Hungary have already been mentioned.

Sanning refers to Reitlinger in pointing out that in 1946, in other words after the westward migration had already begun, some 32,000 Jewish survivors were found in the former Protectorate alone (S145). Also according to Reitlinger, 45,000 Jews – and according to other pro-Jewish sources, as many as 60,000 Jews – were found in Slovakia after the war (S146), which of course stands in clear contradiction to the estimates advanced by Benz, who claims 20,000 Jewish survivors for Slovakia and bases this assertion largely on Czech publications (B374).

3.7. Rumania

BENZ	Jews 1941	Jews 1945 (407)	Victims
Rumania (409)	466,418	356-430,000	107,295

SANNING	Jews 1941	Emigration	Killed in combat	Jews 1945	Missing
Rumania (153)	465,242	20,000	11,500	430,000	3,742

Rumania is considered as defined by its post-war boundaries, including northern Transylvania and excluding Bessarabia and northern Bukovina. The only disagreement between the two authors consists in the treatment of the Jews of northern Transylvania, who came under Hungarian rule in the Second World War (see above). According to Benz, the majority of these were ‘gassed’ in Auschwitz, whereas according to Sanning, most of their losses were sustained in the Hungarian Military Labor Force. Since the number of survivors – up to 430,000, as Benz and Sanning document several times – rules out any great losses on the part of the North Transylvanian Jews, and since these findings do agree with the aforementioned results of recent investigations, one can assume that the Jews in the territory of post-war Rumania suffered next to no losses. Benz simply bases his calculation of the number of victims on the lowest documented number of survivors, in other words, *he ignores the 430,000 Jewish survivors in his estimates, even though he mentioned them himself*.

3.8. Bulgaria

BENZ	Jews 1941	Jews 1945	Victims
Bulgaria (308)	50,000	50,000	0

SANNING	Jews 1941	Jews 1945	Immigration
Bulgaria (154)	48,400	56,000	7,600

Bulgaria is discussed here in its pre- and post-war boundaries, in other words, without Greek Thrace, without Yugoslav Macedonia, and without the southern Rumanian Dobruja with its quantitatively negligible Jewish population. Benz chose to base his analysis on the larger wartime territory, while failing to reduce the regions of Yugoslavia or of Greece accordingly. This results in duplicate counts of 4,200 victims for Greece (B272) and 7,160 for Yugoslavia (B298), increasing the **overall duplicate count to at least 173,193**.

On the whole, there is no doubt that the Jews on Bulgarian soil were not in any danger and suffered no losses.[\[50\]](#) Sanning even shows a post-war population greater than that of pre-war times, and explains

that Bulgaria served as gateway to the Middle East for a vast number of legal as well as illegal immigrants. According to Sanning, it is likely that noticeable numbers of foreign Jews were still in Bulgaria immediately after the end of the war.

3.9. Poland

BENZ	Jews 9/39	Ref.	Jews 1945	Ref.	Victims	Ref.
Poland	2,000,000	443	200,000	492f.	1,800,000	495

SANNING	Jews 1941	Ref.	Jews 1945	Ref.	Missing	Ref.
Poland	757,000	44	240,489	45	516,511	45

Poland is discussed here in terms of its post-war boundaries, without the eastern German regions. While Benz claims to add to this merely the administrative districts of Bialystok and Galicia, he does eventually include the victims for the entire territory that was Polish in the time between World Wars One and Two, i.e., parts of what was known during the Second World War as the Reich Commissionerships of Ukraine and Ostland. But since he deducts only the numbers of victims for Galicia and Bialystok from the total in his chapter about the Soviet Union, this results in duplicate counts which will be discussed in greater detail in the section regarding the Soviet Union.

3.9.1. Poland's Pre-War Population

The last pre-war Polish census indicated approximately 3.1 million Jews (B416; S20).

On the basis of detailed studies Sanning shows that even during the period between the two world wars, the Polish Jews exhibited an extremely low rate of population increase (S26f.). The *Institut für Zeitgeschichte* adds that since 1933 some 100,000 Polish Jews per year had turned their backs on radically anti-Semitic Poland and emigrated to western Europe or overseas (S32).^[51] Since those leaving the country were predominantly young people, the number of Jews in Poland must have decreased sharply due not only to this migration but also due to the increasingly disproportionate percentage of old people. Sanning puts the number of emigrants between 1931 and 1939 at only 500,000 and even factors in a population growth rate of 0.2%. He thus arrives at a population of 2,664,000 Jews prior to the war (S32).

This issue, to which Sanning devotes roughly 20 pages of intensive and thoroughly documented analysis, is accorded all of two sentences by Benz (B417):

“[...] if we extrapolate the census figures [of 1931] taking into account natural increase and emigration, we arrive at a 1939 total population of 35,100,000 persons for the Polish nation as a whole, of which the Jewish component is estimated at 3,446,000. We repeat: these figures are not certain [...]”

So Benz assumes, first of all, that the numbers of Polish Jews increased like those of the remaining Poles. Since Sanning clearly disproved this assumption eight years before Benz's work was published, and yet Benz does not even mention Sanning's arguments, there can be only one explanation for why untruths are clearly being disseminated here: *the purpose is to maximize the initial population figure for Polish Jews.*

Secondly, Benz assumes that the rate of emigration was essentially negligible. But since his book is a publication of the *Institut für Zeitgeschichte* and since this same *Institut* has publicly announced that some 100,000 Polish Jews had left Poland annually since 1933, one wonders whether this is a case of the left hand not knowing (or not wanting to know?) what the right hand is doing.

Benz therefore bases his subsequent arguments on a starting figure of 3,350,000 Jews present in Poland at the beginning of the war (B417), of which 2.3 million are assigned to the western part which the Germans occupied in 1939 (B418). *In this way Benz has falsified the statistic by probably 700,000 Jews at the least.* Are we to believe that Benz is unaware of Sanning's analysis of population trends in pre-war Poland? This seems out of the question, since after all Benz's book is a response to Sanning's. As I see it, the fact that Benz spares this complex topic no more than one sentence and an apologetic comment ("We repeat: these figures are not certain") explains everything: this is an example of statistics being stretched well past the breaking point!

3.9.2. Flight Migrations During the Polish Campaign

According to Benz, some 300,000 of the initial 2.3 million Jews of western Poland fled eastward from the German army during the Polish campaign, into the Soviet-occupied area; of these 300,000, approximately 250,000 were deported to Siberia by the Soviets. Benz states that these are estimates, since allegedly there are no reliable figures (B425f.; 443). Accordingly, Benz suggests that approximately 2 million Polish Jews came under German rule in western Poland (B443). To document these statistics, Benz refers first and foremost to data originating with German sources whose doubtful value has already been mentioned.^[28] Sanning explains that these figures are estimates calculated by the German authorities by extrapolating the census data from 1931 on the basis of a 10% population increase (S44f.). Even in those days there were no more reliable figures and analyses available, and contemporaneous statisticians made the same mistake that Benz repeats in his book.

Sanning quotes numerous Zionist, Jewish and pro-Jewish sources, all of which indicate that between 500,000 and 1 million Jews fled to the Soviet-occupied zone of Poland during the German-Polish war (S39-43). Again, the majority of these were deported to Siberia. Among the sources cited are Jewish relief organizations, which attended to 600,000 Polish Jews in Siberian labor camps. Since a considerable proportion of these deported Jews already died during the inhumane transports to these camps, Sanning postulates a total of 750,000 Jews who fled into the Soviet zone as well as a further 100,000 who had fled to Rumania (S44).^[52] Thus, the number of Jews in western Poland had decreased from an initial 1,607,000 (S39) to 757,000 (S44), while the number remained unchanged in eastern Poland due to the deportation of predominantly western Polish refugees (approximately 1 million, also Benz, B443).

The fact that such migrations of fleeing persons were not unusual is demonstrated by the example of Belgium, where 1½ to 2 million persons fled from the German army at the start of the war, effectively obstructing any strategic movements of the Allied armies (S43).

Benz's and Sanning's figures regarding the number of Jews remaining *after* the war are not very different from each other. It should be added, however, that according to the United Press the British

and American investigative committee for the European Jewish problem declared, at a press conference in February 1946, that there were still an estimated 800,000 Jews in post-war Poland, all of whom wished to emigrate.[\[53\]](#)

3.9.3. The Destruction of the Polish Jews

Whereas Sanning does not touch on the methodology of the alleged mass murder, Benz makes several observations on this topic, of which we shall quote some aspects, with comments where necessary.

First, Benz expounds repeatedly on the alleged exhaust gas murders in vans, which of course he considers irrefutably proven (Kalisz, B431, Chelmno, B447, 462, cf. Yugoslavia, B320). The reader is referred to the chapter by I. Weckert in the present volume.

Regarding the methods of killing in other camps, he reports the use of bottled Zyklon B gas in Belzec (B462). But Zyklon B gas, i.e., hydrogen cyanide, is not and never was bottled. For industrial purposes hydrogen cyanide is transported in tanker trucks, but it is never bottled. Further, he recounts the use of Diesel engines for mass gassings (Belzec, B462, Treblinka, B463, cf. USSR, B540). Regarding gassing with Diesel exhaust fumes, cf. the chapter by F. P. Berg, and regarding Treblinka, cf. the study by A. Neumaier, both in this volume. Any further commentary would be superfluous at this point.

A noteworthy admission on Benz’s part is the following:

“Considering the fact that there are very few usable sources of documentation about the extermination camps, the number of Jews killed at these murder sites is especially difficult to ascertain, and depends primarily on estimates provided by witnesses, on the analysis of the regular transports and their numeric strengths, and on the population of those areas from which the respective killing centers were ‘supplied’ [...]” (B463f.)

The unreliable nature of witness testimony is demonstrated repeatedly in the present volume. Furthermore, straight calculations based exclusively on pre- and post-war populations are possible only if no uncontrolled emigration took place and if the initial statistics are sure to be correct. It is quite amazing that Benz nevertheless has the gall to use this method.

Benz finally concedes that the availability of source material leaves a great deal to be desired, not only where the alleged extermination camps are concerned but also with respect to the entire organization of the alleged extermination network structure (B463, footnote), and that there is no written, i.e., documented and thus provable order for the destruction of the Jews (B3; 458f.; 512).

3.10. Soviet Union

BENZ (560)	Jews 6/41	Jews 1945	Victims	
Soviet Union	5,200,000	2,300,000	2,890,000	
SANNING (109)	Jews 6/41		Killed in combat	Casualties of d
Soviet Union	5,439,000	200,000		700,000

The Soviet Union is considered here as defined by its post-war boundaries until the early 90’s. To

determine the number of victims, Benz merely subtracts the number of Jewish citizens present after the war from the pre-war number. He then subtracts from the result the victims of Bessarabia and northern Bukovina, in other words, 100,000 victims which are included in his count for Rumania (B409), as well as the victims from Bialystok and Galicia (600,000, included in his count for Poland, B451). We do not need to correct this here, since we have discussed Rumania as well as Poland in their post-war boundaries. *But Benz commits two major errors in this context:* first, he forgets that after the war the Soviet Union annexed the Carpathian Ukraine, with a pre-war Jewish population of approximately 100,000. But since the victims from this area were included in the count for Hungary (B338, approximately 90,000 victims), this does not affect Benz's statistics. In our analysis, however, we considered Hungary and Czechoslovakia in their post-war boundaries and must therefore add the Carpathian Ukrainian Jews to the Soviet figures. This increases both the pre-war Jewish population and the number of victims accordingly. Of the approximately 101,000 Jews from the Carpathian Ukraine, Sanning considers 15,000 as missing and 86,000 as absorbed by the USSR (S156).

Secondly, Benz overlooks the fact that, contrary to his own claim, the former regions which made up the Reich Commissionerships of Ostland and the Ukraine are included in his discussion of Poland. Since Benz assumes approximately 1 million Jews in the Soviet-occupied area (B443), of which roughly 600,000 are properly accounted for in the adjustments he makes for Bialystok and Galicia (B457), this means that he counted some 360,000 Jewish victims twice (90% victims of the 400,000 Jews living there). **This brings the total of Jewish victims counted twice by Benz to 533,193.**

3.10.1. The Soviet Deportations

Sanning's category "*German Theater of War*" in the above table includes Jewish losses suffered in the area under German military influence as the results of pogroms not carried out or initiated by German troops, of starvation and epidemics, as well as of the execution of partisans (*permitted by international law*) of which Jews are known to have comprised a very great percentage. This category, as well as "*Casualties of deportation*" and "*Killed in combat*" in the Red Army, are rather willfully dismissed by Benz:

"It [the number of victims] also includes the casualties among Jewish soldiers and civilians [partisans] as well as those who succumbed to the strain of flight and to starvation. This is justified. They too were victims of brutal National Socialist policies." (B560)

Benz neither quantifies these categories, nor does he give reasons for this catch-all approach, for these are the closing words of his book. However, there certainly are clues to be found regarding the attitude embraced by the book's collective authorial mind.

For example, Benz speaks of the "*attack on the Soviet Union*" (B499), and asserts that Stalin had done everything he could to "*give Hitler no pretext for anti-Soviet measures, least of all for war*" (B507). Further, he believes that the Soviet Union had practiced a "*policy of appeasement*" (B508). Today it is generally acknowledged even in Russia that the fairy-tale of Germany's attack on the peace-loving Soviet Union really belongs in the junk room of Communist war-time propaganda.^[54] In this respect, the losses resulting from the war are not due exclusively to Germany, and they certainly have no

relevance whatsoever to any aspect of the Holocaust.

Benz suggests that there are no systematic accounts of the extent and scope of Soviet evacuations and deportations of material resources and human beings. He dismisses this very important aspect in merely two paragraphs, with the comment that Stalin did not wish to provoke Hitler with evacuation activities (no, it's not a joke – he really does claim this!) and that there were therefore hardly any noteworthy deportations (B507). Sanning, on the other hand, devotes pages 53-109 exclusively to this issue and draws on a wide range of Allied, Jewish and Soviet statistics to offer sound data regarding the scope of Soviet evacuation and deportation measures at the start of the war. And with that, Benz's claim that there are no systematic accounts of this topic is already disproved. Did Benz and his co-authors not even read Sanning's book after all? But clearly they must have, for Benz does not deem Sanning's explanations in general to be a systematic account:

"[...] The author [Sanning] distinguishes himself through his methodologically unsound handling of the statistical material as well as through daring and demonstrably erroneous reasoning and conclusions." (B558, footnote 396.)

Unfortunately, Benz does not enlighten his readers as to what might be erroneous about Sanning's arguments. While Benz assumes that approximately 3 to 3.2 million Soviet Jews came under the sphere of influence of German troops (B509), Sanning again shows, on the basis of unimpeachable sources, that the number must have been less than one million (S103). He documents the fact that in most Russian cities a large part of the population that was fit to work, and especially the intelligentsia, had already been evacuated by the time German troops moved in. It is beyond the scope of the present work to detail Sanning's plethora of documentation and proof at this point, but one of his arguments shall be discussed in greater detail. It is generally accepted that some 600,000 Jews wore the Red Army uniform. If one considers that many Jews were deported to labor camps beyond the Ural Mountains, and that the normal recruiting level did not exceed 30% of the male population in any of the nations involved in World War Two (all of which has been documented), then according to Sanning at least 4 million Jews must have lived in the non-occupied parts of the Soviet Union.

Now it may well be that these 600,000 Jews were already conscripted before the war, since as we know the USSR was planning her own large-scale attack on Europe,[\[54\]](#) and for that the Soviets had deported most of the male population fit for military service during the German advance. This would mean *for Benz* that only few men of an age for military service would have been left to fall into the hands of the Germans, so that in the occupied regions more than 90% of the female Jews would have been exterminated while the conscripted and deported men in the hinterland and in the army would have had a considerably better chance for survival. According to Benz, the mortality rate among the women would thus have been greater than or at least equal to that among the men. From this it follows that a demographic analysis of the Soviet Union today should reveal greater or equal numbers of men in the age group that was of military age at the time in question. However, this is clearly not the case. Rather, the sex distribution corresponds to that of the other Soviet peoples, in other words, there is a similar deficit of men. This means either that men and women were deported in roughly equal numbers and consequently relatively few Soviet Jews actually fell into German hands, or that Jewish women who

fell into German hands were generally *not* killed.

Regarding the number of Jews to be found in the post-war Soviet Union, Benz cites Soviet census data only. He sets out that “*doubts about the reliability of Soviet censuses [...] are not justified*” because these data served as the basis and foundation of the Soviet national economy (B558).

But every child knows nowadays that all conceivable kinds of data have been falsified in the service of precisely this national economy so as to manifest Soviet superiority in economic competition with the capitalist western world. Domestically speaking, these falsifications served to close Russian eyes, ears and mouths to the inexorably approaching collapse. But where the number of Jews identified by the censuses is concerned, there is not even any need for falsification. After all, the radically atheistic Soviet Union was one of those nations that made it especially difficult for the Jews to profess their faith. Therefore, the numbers of Jews that voluntarily acknowledged their faith in 1959 and 1970 (2.2 and 2.1 million, respectively; B559; S117) says nothing at all about the number of survivors in the Soviet Union. Jewish estimates dating from the 1970s suggest 3 to 4 million Soviet Jews (S117ff.). More recent newspaper reports even speak of 5 million Jews and more, which, however, seems unlikely in light of the stagnating demographic trends.^[55] Since Zionist circles are striving for the emigration of Jews from Russia to Israel after the collapse of the Soviet Union, it is possible that they tend to exaggerate the number of Jews in Russia, with the intent to dramatize their hard lot during 70 years of Stalinist oppression. The numbers of presumably present or missing Jews thus serve as politically strategic putty in other respects as well.

3.10.2. Mass Extermination in the Soviet Union

In terms of the mass murders of Jews on Soviet soil, Benz again cites mostly witness testimony as evidence.

Behind the frontlines of the German troops fighting in the Soviet Union, the so-called Special Units (*Sonderkommandos*) served, according to Benz, to combat partisan activity (B514f.; 518; 520; 528f.; 540). Aside from that, they allegedly were also chiefly responsible for the mass executions of Jewish civilians, whose numbers are very difficult to ascertain (B577). Benz suggests that the statistics circulated during the war in this respect by the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee are much too low, so as to “[...] *show the Soviet endeavors to rescue the Jewish population in an (inappropriately) favorable light in the United States.*” (B557, footnote.) But since the United States never bothered about the Jewish victims, and in fact exaggerated the number of victims in their own propaganda after 1933, it is not clear just how and whom Jewish anti-Fascists could have impressed in the States with allegedly deflated statistics. Benz’s suggestion, that anti-Fascists should have trivialized the alleged Fascist atrocities for propaganda reasons, is something completely new; the opposite is surely more likely. One can only conclude from all this that these numbers of victims that Benz considers to have been deflated by the anti-Fascists are in fact already exaggerated.

Regarding the use of vans for mass gassings in the Soviet Union, Benz offers us a single, particularly suspect source: the Stalinist show trials of Char’kov and Krasnodar (B526f.; 540).^[56] Such utterly uncritical, indiscriminate citing almost makes one wonder whether Benz and his co-authors perhaps

might even share Stalinist sentiments. Ignorance is no excuse for qualified scholars.

The mass executions in the East are generally considered proven, i.e., documented by the so-called “*USSR Event Reports*” which the Special Units allegedly sent to Berlin on a regular basis and which detail, among other things, the number of executions. All events, however, were not listed there, so that Benz considers them an insufficient basis for determining the number of victims (B542f.). One exception, it is claimed, is the typical case of Babi Yar (B530; 534; 542). But as it has been irrefutably proven by now that the alleged massacre of Babi Yar is an atrocity lie of no substance,[\[57\]](#) this admittedly throws the authenticity or at least the reliability of the entire IMT document series “*USSR Event Reports*” and all other documents into doubt, and hence the entire Special Units mass murder *per se*. Even Benz’s shameless assertion that “*the authenticity of these reports is beyond question*” (B541) cannot change that, since H.-H. Wilhelm, whom Benz quotes as proof of his claims, states as well, that the reliability of the figures given in these documents is doubtful.[\[58\]](#) How did H.-H. Wilhelm describe the behavior of Benz:[\[59\]](#)

“Often, the consensus of research can only be explained by the researchers copying each other’s work uncritically.”

Thus, Benz argumentation is typical of the reciprocal quoting that characterizes the “*standard literature*” of Holocaust apologetics, “*in which reciprocal citing produces the impression of a scientifically sound network of argumentation [....]*” (B8, footnote 24).

It should also be pointed out that Benz repeatedly stresses that the Germans destroyed all evidence of their mass exterminations, mostly through exhumation and complete incineration, for which reason no victims or mass graves remain in evidence (B320; 469; 479; 489; 537f.). Millions of victims allegedly disappeared without a trace. And in the case of Babi Yar, Benz implies, even in a manner invisible to methods of aerial reconnaissance.

Gigantic mass graves cannot be rendered undetectable by exhuming and burning the bodies they contain. Such large-scale disturbance of the soil and the concomitant disruption of soil layers, the settling of the fill etc. would be evident not only in the contemporaneous Allied and German air photos, but also today, if someone only cared to look. Since according to Benz “*this task was [carried out] inadequately in at least a few cases*“, there ought in fact to be much more evidence remaining: bodies or parts thereof that were not burned, millions of bones and teeth, as well as loads of ashes.[\[60\]](#)

If anything of the sort had ever been found, the Stalinist Communists – who were known for their efficient and effective propaganda system – would have made the most of this, naturally in the presence of international investigative committees. It would have been a welcome opportunity for revenge for the embarrassment the Germans had inflicted on the Soviets with respect to Katyn, which was only then being revealed, with the assistance of international investigative bodies, as the Soviet mass murder of Polish officers.[\[61\]](#)

But no, the oh-so-peace-loving Soviet Union would never have thought of doing anything so mean... Even today, when the mass graves of hundreds of thousands of Stalin’s victims are being discovered, often by accident and 50 or even 60 years after the fact, there are still no traces of any German mass

graves or burning sites, and in fact any public speculation whether modern methods might not help to locate some is studiously avoided – after all, any such sites have vanished without a trace, thanks to the wondrous methods *only* the Germans knew about.

When the German army retreated, what *did* turn up instead of mass graves were tens of thousands of women, old men, and children. In his address of indictment to the IMT, General Roman A. Rudenko explained that hundreds of thousands of children, women and old men who were unfit for forced labor were left behind in concentration camps by the Germans during their retreat.^[62] Counselor A. A. Smirnov submitted a document giving more details of these camps in White Russia.^[63] Urgent field research is needed to find out whether these people unfit for work may possibly have been some of those who were ‘selected’ in the camps further west and who, according to Steffen Werner’s theory, were in fact deported primarily to White Russia.^[64]

4. Of Victims, and Persons Missing and Found

4.1. The Number of Victims, i.e., Missing Persons

Nation	Victims, Benz	Victims, Benz – reduced by duplicate counts	Missing, Sanning
Germany	160,000	139,000	123,000
Austria	65,459	48,767	36,000
Luxembourg	1,200	1,200	
Belgium	28,518	28,518	
France	76,134	(Total: 207,852)	Total: 124,500
Netherlands	102,000	102,000	
Denmark	116	116	Total: 1,000
Norway	758	758	
Italy	8,564	5,914	9,000
Albania	?200	?200	0
Greece	58,885	58,885	53,000
Yugoslavia	60,000	60,000	56,000
Hungary	550,000	277,000	71,000
Czechoslovakia	143,000	164,000	112,000
Rumania	211,214	107,295	3,742
Bulgaria	11,393	0	-7,600
Poland	2,700,000	1,800,000	516,511*
Soviet Union	2,100,000	2,890,000	15,000**
TOTAL	6,277,441	5,759,785	1,113,153

*excluding the victims of Polish repatriation; **15,000 missing from the Carpathian Ukraine.

On pp. 15f. of his book Benz lists, for each country, the number of victims on which the co-authors of his book have agreed. In the preceding table, only the entries for Italy and Greece show different numbers, specifically the numbers given by the respective authors themselves, since the figures contained in Benz’s list differ slightly from these and do not appear in the chapters themselves (Italy 6,513, Greece 59,185).

The difference between Benz’s total and the total reduced here by the number of victims counted twice amounts to 517,656, which due to statistical rounding diverges only insignificantly from the 533,193 duplicate counts traced in the preceding. **This proves fully half a million ‘duplicates’ in Benz’s**

highly lauded ‘definitive work’, and corresponds to an approximate 10% inflation of the total.

This ought not to have happened if Benz had taken the trouble to coordinate the individual chapters of his book. In his introduction, however, Benz mentions a sum total of 5.3 to just over 6 million Holocaust victims.[\[20\]](#) It seems, therefore, as though Benz had already taken these duplicate counts into consideration, even if his results are not verifiable due to his failure to explain his line of reasoning.

The decisive difference between Benz and Sanning lies in their treatment of three countries: (Greater) Hungary, Poland, and the Soviet Union. On the basis of these examples we have shown here the (possibly deliberately) *erroneous* and *falsifying* methods of which Benz and his co-authors availed themselves in order to produce their statistics and to arrive at the desired result.

4.2. The Generally Accepted Distribution of Victims

In 1990, the number of victims for Auschwitz, which had been set at approximately 4 million by the Polish authorities ever since the time of the IMT trials, was officially reduced to one million.[\[65\]](#) In early 1993 the Polish Historical Society advised lowering the figure by another 400,000, since the air photos taken by Allied reconnaissance planes had shown that the extermination of the Hungarian Jews had never taken place.[\[45\]](#) The alleged mass extermination, they say, must therefore have been discontinued in May 1944 at the latest. In 1993 Pressac has begun to advocate the theory that the mass extermination did not start until 1942, half a year later than assumed to date, for which reason the number of victims, including the murdered Hungarian Jews, should be reduced to 630,000 gas chamber victims.[\[43\]](#) If one draws the obvious conclusions from these two publications – namely, the later beginning and earlier end of the killings – then the approximately 1 million victims must be reduced by 370,000 (according to Pressac) and by another 400,000 (according to the Polish Historical Society). We are thus left with only 230,000 alleged victims of the ‘gas chambers’. In the German edition of his latest book, Pressac reduces the number of gas chamber victims to about 500,000.[\[66\]](#) As I stated here in the first edition of this book, it seemed to be only a matter of time until the next downward revision of this continuously shrinking figure[\[67\]](#) would be made, and in fact, this downward revision came in 2002: ‘only’ 510,000 total victims are now claimed, 356,000 of them alleged gassing victims.[\[68\]](#)

Professor Ernst Nolte, for example, has considered it justified criticism to point out that while the number of victims of this supposedly largest extermination camp is being steadily reduced, the overall number of victims alleged for the Holocaust remains the same.[\[69\]](#) But the matter takes a turn for the grotesque when the number of Auschwitz victims is reduced and at the very same time the Israeli memorial site Yad Vashem hastens to report that new research in Soviet archives has revealed that the number of Jewish victims of mass execution behind the front is actually higher by 250,000 than was assumed to date, so that one should, in fact, reckon 6.25 rather than 6 million[\[71\]](#) or even up to 7 million.[\[71\]](#) One can only wonder with which statistical data and by which methods these revised figures were obtained.

But if the body count for the individual camps continues to drop and the overall total remains the same or even increases, then one must ask where the victims may have died, if not in the alleged gas

chambers? To solve this problem there are always endeavors, for example, to increase the number of victims for other camps. Case in point: for Treblinka, figures ranging from 700,000 to 900,000 have been the standard to date.^[72] Benz now postulates between 1 and 1.2 million (B468), of which 974,000 are said to have been Polish Jews (B495). Thus, Treblinka with its more than one million victims is weighted more heavily in Benz's analysis than Auschwitz is – a completely new trend in Holocaust studies.

Camp	Victims according to the IfZ	Method of killing	Victims, Benz, p. 17
Chelmno:	150,000	gas vans (CO)	
Belzec:	600,000	exhaust gases (CO)	
Sobibor:	200,000	exhaust gases (CO)	
Treblinka:	700,000	exhaust gases (CO)	152,000
Majdanek:	50,000	shooting, exh. gases (CO),	600,000
Auschwitz-Birkenau:	more than 1,000,000	Zyklon B	250,000
Mauthausen:	4,000	Zyklon B	900,000
Neuengamme:	450	Zyklon B, gas vans (CO)	60-80,000
Natzweiler:	several thousands	Zyklon B	1,000,000
Stutthof:	200	Zyklon B	
Ravensbrück:	more than 1,000	Zyklon B	
Dachau:	at least 2,300	Zyklon B	
	experimental gassings	Zyklon B	
Total, appr.	2,710,000		3,000,000
Total victims, appr.	6,000,000		6,000,000
Remainder, appr.	3,290,000		3,000,000

Now that the victims of Auschwitz have decreased numerically to far below the 1 million mark, the remaining 5 to 6 million victims must be distributed among other killing centers. The preceding table represents the distribution of victims as the official *Institut für Zeitgeschichte* (IfZ) would have it until recently.^[73] It is interesting, first of all, that the IfZ revised the statement of its former Head, Martin Broszat, who had said that there were no gassings in the concentration camps of the Reich proper.^[47] The fact that the above list once again contains the facilities of Dachau, Sachsenhausen, Ravensbrück, etc.,^[74] is no doubt due to the Institute's realization that one must never partially admit a lie because that means running the risk of being exposed totally. The figures listed in the last column are those given in Benz's book and originate with a much older publication of the IfZ.^[75] One wonders why Benz did not use more recent statistics provided by the same source.

It would also be interesting to see how historians might try to explain the 3-million-plus discrepancy between these approximately 2,700,000, i.e., 3,000,000 victims, most of them 'victims of the gas chambers', and the overall total of roughly 6 (or even 7) million victims. If one continues to reduce the Auschwitz death toll in accordance with the new trends to this effect, and simultaneously increases the overall total, this means that there are 4 million victims that must be freshly redistributed. Benz's minor increase of the number of Treblinka victims, from 700,000 to 1.2 million (B468), is not enough to solve the problem, and contradicts the above statements of the selfsame *Institut für Zeitgeschichte*. The remaining 3 to 4 million Jews cannot possibly be explained away as victims of *Einsatzkommando* executions, starvation and disease, and the like. Such numbers of people – numbers of a similar

magnitude as the total population of Berlin – do not simply vanish without a trace. It is thus not surprising that Benz does not attempt to explain in his book where the missing remainder might fit in.

4.3. The Exodus – the Return of Missing Persons

Benz does not spend so much as one single paragraph on the problem of Jewish post-war emigration from Europe. And what is more: he does not even *mention* that after the war there was a large-scale migration, especially of the European population of Jewish faith, which has become known as the modern Exodus. The first ten sections of his book are conspicuous in their lack of any mention of post-war emigration, while others (Greece and Yugoslavia) fashion a fig-leaf for themselves by admitting to a few hundreds or thousands who left the country after the war's end.

Since Benz usually calculates the numbers of victims from the difference between pre- and post-war populations, this cannot but result in a great margin of error. Sanning, on the other hand, presents a summary of Jewish immigration into non-European nations, which is reproduced in the above table (S173). These data has never been refuted, not even by Benz, so that one may assume that the figures are correct.

Sanning shows that in 1970 there were still some 860,000 Jews in formerly German-occupied Europe, excluding the Soviet Union (S174). Since the Jews of western Europe exhibited next to no population increase after the war, then in light of the post-war emigration (some 1.548 million, cf. above table) at least 2,408,000 Jews must have lived in the formerly German-occupied non-Soviet parts of Europe after the war. Sanning determines that immediately after the war only 1,443,000 Jews were statistically located in formerly German-occupied non-Soviet Europe (S157), while 1.1 million were considered missing.

Immigration of European Jews Before and After the Second World War

Destination	After the war	Before the war
Palestine		293,000 ('32-'44)
Israel	73,000 ('45-'48)	
USA [76]	585,000 ('48-'70)	406,000 ('33-'43)
Latin America	490,000	180,000 ('30s)
Canada, Australia, England,	150,000	90,000 ('30s)
South Africa	250,000	
TOTAL	1,548,000	969,000

Benz arrives at 1.2 to 1.3 million statistically accounted-for Jews in formerly German-occupied, non-Soviet Europe immediately after the war. The difference between this and the 2.4 million Jews which Sanning can account for, a difference of 1 to 1.2 million Jews, therefore, emigrated after the war without registering. If one relates these unregistered emigrations to the 1.1 million Jews which Sanning identifies as missing from the formerly German-occupied parts of Europe, then in view of the great fluctuations in the data one cannot, according to Sanning, make any statistically reliable observations regarding whether or how many Jews died from unknown causes under the Third Reich. In this context, 'statistically reliable' means: since the fluctuations in the data range well over several hundreds of

thousands, any losses on this order of magnitude cannot be demonstrated with any degree of certainty. In any case, however, it indicates that *the Jewish population* in formerly German-occupied non-Soviet Europe very likely *did not suffer any losses ranging into the millions during World War Two*.

4.4. Corrections for Wolfgang Benz

Starting figure (Benz)	Minus	Reason
5.3 to 6 million	at least 1 million	unregistered post-war emigration
	at least 1.5 million	Jews not statistically registered in the Soviet Union
	at least 0.5 million	victims of war, partisan warfare and Soviet deportation
	0.7 million	statistically inflated no. of Jews in pre-war Poland
	at least 0.3 million	destruction of the Hungarian Jews disproved
5.3 to 6 million minus at least 4 million → a maximum of 1.3 to 2 million missing persons		

If one deducts the approximately 1 million unregistered emigrants from the 5.3 to 6 million victims that Benz claims he found, this leaves him with 4.3 to 5 million victims. From this, one must further deduct the difference between the Soviet Jews who appeared in Soviet statistics and the real number (some 1.5 million), the number of Jews who died in the Soviet Union from other causes (deportation, war, partisan warfare, at least 500,000), the number of statistically fabricated additional Polish Jews (some 700,000) as well as the number of Hungarian Jews who probably did not succumb in their entirety (300,000), in other words, a total of roughly 4 million. This would leave Benz with a remainder of at most 1.3 to 2 million unsolved cases.

5. The Jewish World Population

Benz studiously avoids this ‘hot potato’ as well. Sanning, on the other hand, takes the trouble to trace the world-wide development of the Jewish population from before World War Two to today. He points out, among other things, that the official post-war statistics do appear to reflect losses from the Holocaust (S181). However, the Jewish world population outside the Soviet Union increased as rapidly in the first few decades after the war as is normally seen only in developing countries or in rural populations (S186ff.). Since nearly everywhere in the world the Jews are almost completely urbanized and belong mostly to the middle and even the upper classes, both of which factors would lead one to expect only a low rate of natural increase, this would indicate that something is very wrong here. From detailed demographic analyses Sanning draws those conclusions that were quoted here at the beginning, but which we will not discuss further since there appear to be no counter-arguments to them anyhow.

6. Statistical Checks

6.1. The Fate of Jewish Personalities

In the late 1980s the Swedish demographer Carl O. Nordling recreated the fate of Jewry during the Second World War by means of a statistical study^[77] based on the Jewish personalities listed in the *Encyklopædia Judaica*.^[78] He chose 722 Jews entered therein, drawn from 12 European countries^[79] that had come under German rule or supremacy in the course of the war. His choice was based on the following criteria:

- born between 1860 and 1909;
- not emigrated by January 1, 1938;
- still living on January 1, 1939.

According to Nordling's study, 317 (44%) of these 722 Jews had emigrated by late 1941, 256 (35%) were spared internment of any kind. Altogether, 95 of these Jewish personalities died during this time (13%), of which 57 cases (8%) occurred in the eastern camps as well as in unknown places and under unknown circumstances. Aside from the casualties resulting from disease, transport and starvation, therefore, these 8% must also include the victims of any deliberate mass extermination.

For the Polish Jews, the matter stands as follows:^[80]

Of 65 Jewish notables listed in the *Encyklopædia Judaica* on January 1, 1940, 13 (20%) emigrated, 14 (22%) survived, 38 (58%) died. Of these 38, however, 23 (60%) died, not in the eastern camps, but in freedom – in ghettos, on transports, as consequence of armed conflict or reprisals, as well as victims of starvation and disease in western camps (Dachau, Nordhausen). In only 15 cases, in other words in approximately 23% of the Polish Jewish notables, the place of death is either unknown or located in one of the eastern camps; and here it is again necessary to consider that some of them succumbed to starvation, disease and forced transports at the end of the war. Even among the Polish Jewish personalities, therefore, probably less than 15% could have been victims of a hypothetical mass extermination. Benz, on the other hand, assumes that approximately 80-90% of all Polish Jews present in Poland in 1940 – some 2 million, according to him – were murdered in the extermination gas chambers (B495).

In another study, Nordling compares his statistical findings with those of W. N. Sanning, a comparison which we will discuss at greater length here.^[80]

The percentages determined are astonishingly similar in many respects, and this indicates that Sanning's findings do indeed reflect the fates of Jewish notables as these are set out in the *Encyklopædia Judaica*. It is also worth noting that the opportunities for emigration were fewer, or the desire to emigrate was lesser, for Jewish personalities than was the case for the average Jewish population.

But before acknowledging Sanning's statistical findings to be correct, it is necessary to examine the fates of other Jewish population groups in the same way as that of the Jews represented in the

Encyklopædia Judaica in order to eliminate the following potential distortions:

1. The decision of which Jewish notables to include in the 1972 edition of the *Encyklopædia Judaica* will have been influenced by the fates of the Jews in question during and after the war:
 1. Some Jews may have been included only *because* they died as a result of German measures of persecution. Examples: Janusz Korczak (1879-1942) was included because he voluntarily went to Treblinka with a group of children; the nun Edith Stein (1891-1942) was included because she died a martyr. If these people had survived, they might not have been included in the encyclopedia.
 2. Some Jews, on the other hand, were included only because they survived the war and could go on to become famous afterwards. For example: Pierre Mendès-France (born in 1907) was only a little-known Undersecretary of State before the war.
2. International connections or material advantages may have made emigration easier for Jewish notables than for the average Jewish citizen. However, this category of Jews had largely already emigrated by the start of the war.
3. Jewish VIPs cannot change their identity, go underground, flee, or emigrate illegally as can persons who are less well-known. Unlike for the average citizen, therefore, the life and suffering of Jewish personalities is usually easier to trace.
4. It is possible that due to their greater social and political involvement Jewish notables were subject, especially during the war, to more restrictive measures imposed by the German occupation powers.

Comparison of Statistical Analysis
of the Jews Living in the German Sphere of Influence
and the Corresponding Data for Identified Jewish Notables in the Same Region

Jewish Overall Population			Identified Personalities		
CATEGORY	'000	%	%	NO.	CATEGORY
Present 1939[18]	5,044	177	148	629	Present in Jan. 1939[78]
Emigration 1939-1941[18]	-2,197	77	48	-206	Emigration 1939-1941[78]
Present 1941	= 2,847	100	100	= 423	Present 1941
Jews registered in Auschwitz (assuming that 60% of all internees were Jews)[78]	244	8.6	8.5	35	Deported to Auschwitz[78]
Missing, May '45[78]	-207	7.3	7.6	-32	Missing, May '45[78]
Survivors of Auschwitz	= 37	1.3	0.9	= 4	Survivors of Auschwitz
Registered in Theresienstadt[82]	141	5.0	5.0	21	Deported to Theresienstadt[78]
Deported from Theresienstadt[82]	-88	3.1	1.2	-5	Deported from Theresienstadt[78]

Jewish Overall Population			Identified Personalities			
Died in Theresienstadt	[82]	-33.5	1.2	-5	Died in Theresienstadt	[78]
Survivors of Theresienstadt	= 19.5	0.7	2.6	= 11	Survivors of Theresienstadt	
			17.0	72	Disappeared in concentration camps after deportation	[78]
Disappeared, due neither to emigration nor death by natural causes	[18]	304	10.7	12.3	52	Disappeared, not due to death by natural causes
Survivors in all camps, April 1945	[83]	275	9.6	5.7	24	Survivors in all camps, May 1945

6.2. The Korherr Reports

Richard Korherr was the leading statistician of the Third Reich. In early 1943, on Himmler's instructions, he drew up a report on the trends which European Jewish population statistics had exhibited since the NS had come to power. Himmler wanted to submit this report to Hitler. After several discussions and some correspondence with Himmler, Korherr revised and shortened his first report.[\[84\]](#) These two reports as well as the correspondence that goes with them are counted among the allegedly central pieces of evidence proving the Holocaust, on whose basis G. Wellers, for example, believes he can set the number of victims of the Holocaust at approximately 2 million by late March 1943 alone.[\[85\]](#)

It needs to be said at the start that there is nothing whatsoever in the Korherr Reports and the accompanying correspondence, which was intended for Hitler's and Himmler's eyes only, which would indicate any intent to exterminate the Jews of Europe, or which would suggest that killings had already taken place – which is surprising enough, since it would hardly have been necessary to keep any such goings-on from Himmler's or Hitler's knowledge. The Report does reveal, however, that some 2½ million Jews were evacuated to the East. Korherr states:

“Between 1937 and early 1943 the number of Jews in Europe had decreased by approximately 4 million, due partly to emigration, partly to the excess of deaths over births among the Jews of Central and western Europe, and partly to evacuations, particularly from the more densely populated eastern regions, which are counted here as part of the decrease.”[\[86\]](#)

Why does Korherr mention that the evacuations are counted as part of the decrease? That would make sense only if they are not actually gone from Europe but are nevertheless counted statistically as having emigrated. So were they perhaps not dead? S. Challen was puzzled not only by this additional remark and by the absence of even the slightest allusion to the mass murder in these top secret papers intended for Himmler and Hitler only, but also by the fact that the reputedly best statistician in Germany covered

up gross errors in his report so elegantly.[\[87\]](#)

In his conclusions, for example, Korherr wrote that the Jewish population losses in Europe from 1933 to 1943 (some 5 million) were caused approximately 50% by emigration to other continents, but his statistics cite only about 1.5 million emigrants. So roughly 1 million emigrants are missing. This begs the question: why would Germany's foremost statistician draw conclusions contradicting his own data, and in a secret report intended for Hitler, no less? Furthermore, if one adds Korherr's individual 1943 figures regarding the Jews scattered throughout the world, one arrives at a total that is only slightly less than the pre-war total; this already rules out any mass extermination. S. Challen therefore went to the trouble of examining Korherr's claims more closely. He ultimately concludes that Korherr, acting on Himmler's orders, reduced the emigration statistics by one million and increased the number of Jews evacuated to the East by that same million. And in one of his letters, Himmler writes that this report would serve well as a cover.[\[88\]](#) Challen arrives at the well-founded conclusion that Himmler wanted to keep Hitler from realizing that a large part of the Polish and Russian Jews in the East had gotten away by means of flight and Soviet evacuation measures. On the basis of Korherr's data, Challen calculated that the Jews lost approximately 1.2 million of their number during World War Two, some 750,000 of them in Germany's sphere of influence.[\[89\]](#)

In 1977, Korherr himself confirmed that he did not know anything about an ongoing extermination of the Jews during the war and was not aware that the term "*Sonderbehandlung*" (special treatment) was used as a code word to allegedly cover up mass murder.[\[90\]](#)

In the end, therefore, the Korherr Reports confirm Sanning's statistics regarding the fate of the eastern European Jews, and are not even remotely suited to proving a hypothetical mass murder.

6.3. Compensation

A common question is whether the number of Jewish applications for compensation from Germany would not reveal how many Jews survived the Third Reich. In fact, any such attempt runs into insurmountable problems. The German Federal Ministry of Finance does provide detailed information about compensation payments made to persons persecuted in the Third Reich. On July 1, 1979, approximately 4.3 million individual applications for compensation had been filed; 13 years later the Ministry cites some 4.4 million individual applications.[\[91\]](#) For several reasons, however, this number is difficult to interpret. For one thing, the Ministry does not register the faith group of the applicants, so that there is no way of telling how many Jews are included in the total. Secondly, approximately half the applications have been turned down, but no reasons for the individual decisions are given; perhaps the applicant had never actually been in the German sphere of influence, or perhaps he had not suffered any losses despite his/her alleged Jewish faith. The refusals can thus also not be interpreted. Thirdly, the Ministry's statistics reflect the number of applications, not the number of applicants. Since each kind of compensation (damage to life, health, property, fortune, professional advancement, etc.) must be applied for separately, any one applicant may very well have applied several times. On the other hand, many applications were made collectively by groups of persons, so that the statistics reflect entire families or even larger groups with one single application. One must also consider that until recently

the Jews in the Soviet Union could not collect any compensation and are thus not included in the figure.[92] And finally, an American newspaper has reported that only one in two Holocaust survivors receives compensation payments from Germany.[93] Thus, at the present time, the statistics available regarding applications for compensation do not lend themselves to answering demographic questions.

6.4. Holocaust Survivors

According to information from the Israel-based official organization *Amcha*, which devotes all its activities to taking care of Holocaust survivors, 834,000 to 960,000 Holocaust survivors were still alive in the summer of 1997. The same organization defines a *Holocaust survivor* as

“any Jew who lived in a country at the time when it was: – under Nazi regime; – under Nazi occupation, – under regime of Nazi collaborators as well as any Jew who fled due to the above regime or occupation.”[94]

According to a letter from the German section of this organization, roughly $\frac{1}{3}$ of all Holocaust survivors are so-called “*child survivors*”[95] and where “*child survivors*” means that the according Holocaust survivors were not older than 16 years at the end of the war.[96]

If the average life expectancy of all age groups of these survivors as well as the statistical distribution of the Jews over these age groups in 1945 were known, it would be possible to calculate approximately how many Holocaust survivors were still alive in 1945, i.e., after the war ended. Unfortunately we do not have such data, but we can on the one hand estimate this age distribution by extrapolating it from the known statistical distribution of the Jews of the 1920s and 1930s,[97] corrected by *Amcha*’s statement about the $\frac{1}{3}$ of “*child survivors*”. On the other hand we can draw on the life expectancy statistics of another people whose fate from 1945 onwards was at least similar to that of the surviving European Jews of that time.

Since the German people as a whole experienced terrible living conditions from 1941 to 1948, it seems appropriate to draw on their mortality statistics.[98] For our calculations we have assumed two different age distributions in 1945: the first as given in the Atlas quoted,[97] and the other based on the assumption that $\frac{1}{3}$ of all survivors in 1997 must have been between 0 and 15 years of age.[99] The rest of the calculations simply draw on the German “*death tables*”.

Probably the results as shown in the following table may change if we get better data about the death rates of the Jewish survivors and about their age distribution then and today. But certainly our results are likely to at least approximate the truth. If one assumes a more severe fate for the average Holocaust survivor than for the average German – which most scientists tend to do – then this would result in an even higher number of survivors in 1945.

The number of Holocaust victims would be the difference between our calculated number of survivors, and the number of Jews who were alive in Europe prior to National Socialist persecution. The inflationary definition of ‘Holocaust survivor’ by *Amcha*, however, makes our task difficult. Given this definition, it is for example not clear how one should handle the hundreds of thousands of Jews who

were deported to Soviet slave labor camps by Stalin or who fled voluntarily with the Red Army to the East right at the beginning of the German-Russian war.[\[100\]](#)

According to Sanning, and corresponding to the findings of other statistical studies, in the late 1920s and early 1930s there were roughly 6.1 million Jews in those European countries, excluding the Soviet Union, which later came under the influence of National Socialism.[\[101\]](#) Undoubtedly some 3 million Jews lived in the pre-war Soviet Union, of which at least one million lived in areas that were never occupied by German troops. Thus, in the late 1920s and early 1930s some 8.1 million Jews lived in what was to become the German sphere of influence. According to our calculations, 3.46 to 5 million of them survived the ‘Holocaust’, and 3.1 to 4.64 million did not.

Jewish Holocaust Survivors according to Amcha and drawing on German ‘death tables’

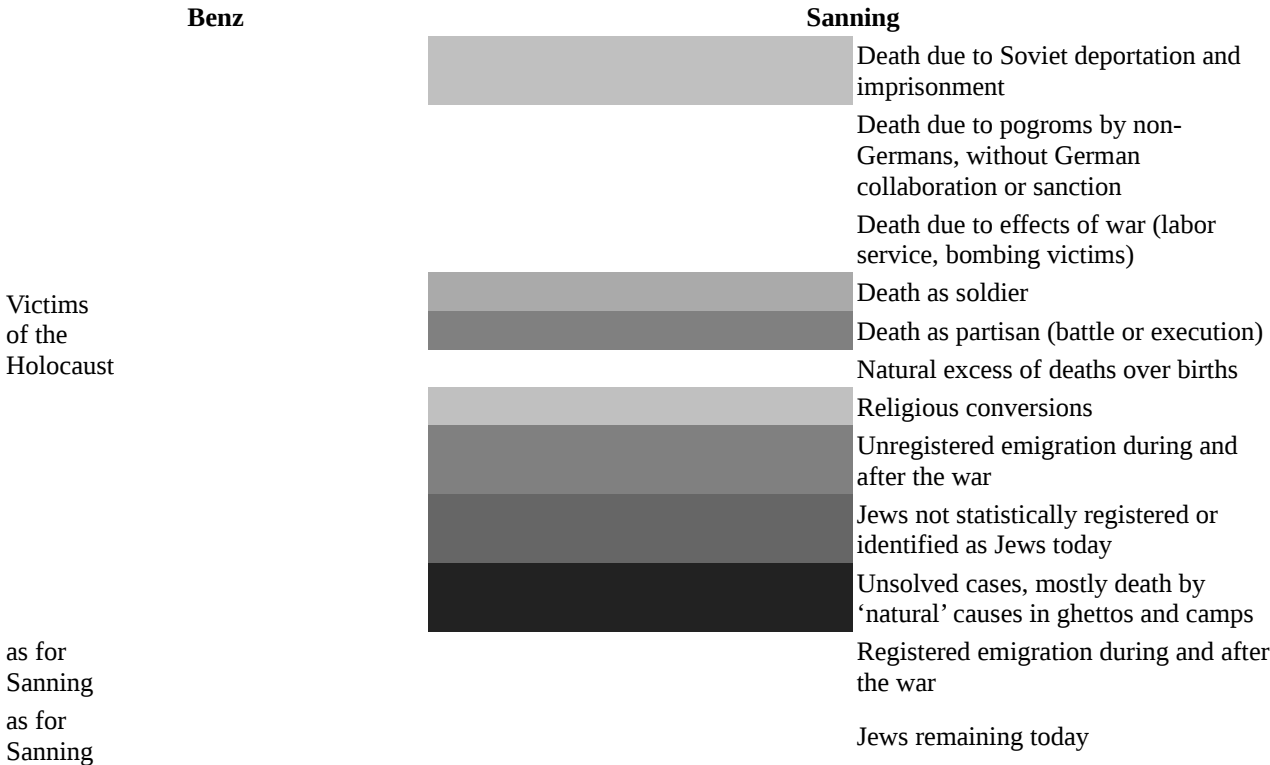
German surviving rates [%]				living Holocaust survivors 1945 [102]					
Age 1945	1945 from original sum [%]	1997 from original sum [%]	1997 from survivors 1945 [%] [103]	Age 1997	distribution according to Atlas... [97]	distribution ¹ / ₃ “child-survivors” 0-15 years			
					[%]	(1997: 834,000)	(1997: 960,000)	[%]	(1997: 834,000) (1997: 960,000)
0-4	89.5	72.0	80.4	52-56	5.0	217,231	250,050	2.4	83,003 95,543
5-9	88.5	66.5	75.1	57-61	5.9	256,332	295,059	3.4	117,588 135,353
10-14	87.5	58.0	66.3	62-66	5.9	256,332	295,059	5.5	190,216 218,954
15-19	86.0	45.5	52.9	67-71	5.7	247,643	285,057	11.0	380,432 437,907
20-24	83.0	30.5	36.7	72-76	6.3	273,711	315,063	15.0	518,771 597,146
25-29	78.0	15.5	19.9	77-81	4.3	186,818	215,043	16.7	577,565 664,823
30-34	73.0	5.5	7.5	82-86	6.7	291,089	335,067	15.0	518,771 597,146
35-39	66.0	1.0	1.5	87-91	7.7	334,535	385,077	12.0	415,017 477,717
40-44	61.0	0.2	0.2	92-96	8.3	360,603	415,083	8.0	276,678 318,478
45-49	54.0	0.0	0.0	97-101	8.8	382,326	440,087	5.0	172,924 199,049
50-54	47.5	0.0	0.0	102-106	8.1	351,914	405,081	3.0	103,754 119,429
55-59	40.5	0.0	0.0	107-111	7.5	325,846	375,075	2.0	69,169 79,619
60-64	33.0	0.0	0.0	112-116	6.6	286,745	330,066	0.5	17,292 19,905
65-69	24.5	0.0	0.0	117-121	6.1	265,021	305,061	0.5	17,292 19,905
70-74	15.0	0.0	0.0	122-126	3.8	165,095	190,038	0.0	0 0
>75	5.0	0.0	0.0	127-131	3.3	143,372	165,033	0.0	0 0
Total:					100.0	4,344,614	5,000,994	100.0	3,458,472 3,980,975

The word ‘Holocaust’ is placed in quotation marks here because this figure includes not only victims of arbitrary killings by the National Socialist regime (which is a more specific definition of the term ‘Holocaust victims’), but also many other categories, such as victims of Stalinist mass deportations, Stalinist slave labor camps, victims of regular combat (as soldier, labor force or air raid victims) as well as irregular combat (partisan), victims of non-German pogroms, natural excess of deaths over births, etc. All these reasons, which certainly did reduce the numbers of Jews compared to the time prior to National Socialist rule, may add up to more than one or even two million.[\[100\]](#) *Consequently, the number of possible real Holocaust victims – according to official data provided by Israel – is probably less than 3 or even 2 million Jews.* This admission is fair enough to start with.

However, one should be aware that even the published number of Holocaust survivors is a figure likely to be manipulated due to its financial implications for Jewish organizations who are permanently claiming compensations (cf. Note [\[92\]](#)). Thus, it was not very surprising that R. Bloch, Jewish head of the Swiss Holocaust fund, the task of which is the collection of money for Jewish Holocaust survivors, announced in early 1998 that there are more than 1.000.000 Holocaust survivors still alive at that time. [\[104\]](#) There appears to be a permanent Jewish resurrection nowadays...

7. Conclusions

In its analysis of the central and western European nations, W. N. Sanning’s book rests on a somewhat shaky foundation. Benz has the better material in this instance. Neither of the two works addresses the problem of ‘de facto Jews’ in sufficient detail; while each of Benz’s co-authors deals with the problem as far as he sees fit, Sanning touches on this matter only marginally.



Graph 1: Diagrammatic representation of W. Benz’s and W. N. Sanning’s approaches to determining the number of Holocaust victims. The size of the individual bars does not reflect the number of cases.

But it is the analyses of the nations Poland, the Soviet Union and Hungary, as well as the issue of post-war emigration, that are of vital significance to a determination of the number of Holocaust victims. *In this respect, Benz’s work fails miserably.* Graph 1 is a visual summary of the two books. The overall height of the bars represents the number of Jews prior to World War Two in the area that later came under German dominion. Roughly speaking, Benz determines his number of Holocaust victims by subtracting the number of registered emigrants during and after the war from the initial pre-war population. He blames on the Germans Jewish victims of Soviet deportation and imprisonment no less

than the victims of pogroms that took place neither with the participation nor even with the tacit approval of German troops, as well as the victims of Allied bombings, the casualties of the Labor Force, the Jewish soldiers who fell in the ranks of the Soviet armies, and the casualties from regular partisan warfare. Since none of these victims lost their lives due to deliberate or culpably negligent measures or actions by the Germans, this method of maximizing the number of victims can only be called dishonest. Sanning rightly excludes these victims from his analysis, of course with the exception of the regular partisan victims, whose numbers are difficult to estimate and which must not be lumped together with any victims of potential irregular executions.

Benz also all but ignores actual or apparent losses through non-military means such as the natural excesses of deaths over births, religious conversions, unregistered emigration during and especially after the war, as well as Jews not statistically recorded as such today. In particular, Benz fails to make any mention of the partly uncontrolled and unregistered post-war mass emigration that has become known as the 'modern Exodus'; of the fact, generally acknowledged today, that Soviet statistics reflect only a fraction of the Jews actually living in the Soviet Union; and of the fact that the Polish Jews also suffered great population decreases in the inter-war period due to emigration, the disproportionate percentage of old people, and the excess of deaths over births.

Benz emphasizes that where the Soviet evacuations, the Jewish population trends in Poland, and the Polish flight migrations are concerned, there are no definite figures, and one must rely on estimates alone. He arrives at his utterly incorrect estimates in the space of a very few sentences, without any sort of logical line of reasoning. Even though he admits that these issues are in dire need of further research, he avoids any such endeavor.

Instead, the book unleashes a prodigious verbal deluge in order to rehash early Jewish history and the history of each nation's anti-Jewish measures, something which countless other authors have already done (some of them much better) and which contributes nothing to solving the authors' self-appointed task.

Recent findings, such as the evidence which air photos can provide regarding the alleged extermination of the Hungarian Jews, are also studiously ignored. And what is worse: where the alleged methods of killing are concerned, Benz regurgitates the old, oft-refuted claims and ignores the fact that engineers and scientists are the sole experts in this field.

Also, Benz and his co-authors quote Stalinist and Communist sources with not so much as half a thought to critical assessment even when these sources clearly go back to show trials, and blithely adopt Stalinist terminology in their arguments, showing themselves in a dubious and unscientific light in the process.

Documented deaths in
German concentration camps
as of Jan. 1, 1993

Total	296.081
Auschwitz	60.056

Bergen-Belsen	6.853
Buchenwald	20.687
Dachau	18.456
Flossenbürg	18.334
Groß-Rosen	10.951
Majdanek	8.831
Mauthausen	78.859
Mittelbau	7.468
Natzweiler	4.431
Neuengamme	5.785
Ravensbrück	3.639
Sachsenhausen	5.014
Stutthof	12.634
Theresienstadt	29.375
Other camps	4.704

And finally, fourteen of the supposedly best subject historians in the world^[105] were clearly incapable of ensuring uniform treatment of national boundaries in the individual chapters. An eye to this would have avoided counting half a million victims twice in the overall total.

Thus the judgment they thought to pronounce on another scholar ultimately reflects on themselves:

“[...] almost all other studies of the Holocaust give the impression that the number of victims could be [...] determined directly from the retrospective number of [counted] Jews.”(B408)

“The author [in this case, Benz et al.] distinguishes himself through his methodologically unsound handling of the statistical material as well as through daring and demonstrably erroneous reasoning and conclusions.” (B558, footnote 396.)

Like Benz, Sanning commits the error of placing too much faith in those statistics which are available. In actual fact, the fluctuations in the data preclude any definitive answer to the question of how many hundreds of thousands of Jews lost their lives in the German sphere of influence. These figures are lost in the fluctuations characterizing the statistical material. To date, only those figures provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross can be regarded as certain. The ICRC's Special Office in Arolsen keeps track of all officially documented deaths in German concentration camps of the Third Reich. A summary from January 1, 1993 documents 296,081 deaths. The distribution of these deaths among the individual camps is shown in the accompanying table.

Jews probably constitute about half of the total. One must keep in mind, however, that these cases are not all. The camps Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka are missing from the table, as are the victims in the ghettos. And finally, one must remember that according to the Death Books approximately 66,000 people died in Auschwitz by late 1943 alone,^[106] and that the Americans mentioned 25,000 dead in the concentration camp Dachau during the war.^[107] A realistic estimate of the actual number of victims, therefore, may be twice as high as the total of victims registered by name in the records at Arolsen. The number of victims registered by name is now said to be about 450,000.

[108] Doubtless the greater part of these are Jews, but exact figures are as yet unknown.

Even from this perspective, death clearly took a heavy toll.

Notes

- [1] International Military Tribunal, *Trial of the Major War Criminals*, IMT, Nuremberg 1947, v. XXXI, pp. 85f., and v. XI, pp. 228ff., 256ff.
- [2] Ibid., v. IV, p. 371.
- [3] Also claimed by W. Benz (ed.), *Dimension des Völkermords*, Oldenbourg, Munich 1991, pp. 1ff.
R. Aschenauer, *Ich, Adolf Eichmann*, Druffel, Leoni 1980, pp. 460f., 473ff., 494; regarding this Eichmann biography's value as historical source material, cf. D. Kluge, *Deutschland in Geschichte und Gegenwart (DGG)* 29(2) (1981) pp. 31-36. See also P. Rassinier, *Was ist Wahrheit?* Druffel, Leoni 1982, pp. 90, 134; R. Servatius, *Verteidigung Adolf Eichmann*, Bad Harrach, Kreuznach 1961, pp. 62ff.; U. Walendy, *Historische Tatsachen (HT)* no. 18, Verlag für Volkstum und Zeitgeschichte, Vlotho 1983; H. Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, Reclam, Leipzig 1990, pp. 331ff.
- [4] W. Höttl, *Einsatz für das Reich*, S. Bublies, Koblenz 1997, esp. pp. 77, 412f.
Cf. G. Rudolf, "Wilhelm Höttl – ein zeitgeschichtlich dilettantischer Zeitzeuge", *Vierteljahrshefte für freie Geschichtsforschung (VffG)*, 1(2) (1997) pp. 116f (online: vho.org/VffG/1997/2/Buecher2.html#Hoettl).
- [5] D. Irving, *Nuremberg. The Last Battle*, Focal Point, London 1996, pp. 61f.
- [6] J. Hoffmann, *Stalin's War of Extermination 1941 – 1945*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Capshaw, AL, 2001, p. 189f.
- [7] W. Höttl, *op. cit.* (note 5), pp. 412, 515-519.
Retranslated from the introduction of Walter A. Berendsohn to Thomas Mann, *Sieben Manifeste zur jüdischen Frage*, Jos. Melzer Verlag, Darmstadt 1966, p. 18. I am grateful to R.H. Countess for bringing this to my attention.
- [8] Most prominently in *The American Hebrew*, v. 105, no. 22, Oct. 31, 1919, pp. 582f. *The New York Times* carried many 'reports' about millions of Jews suffering and dying in eastern Europe during and after WWI, see the analyses by Don Heddesheimer, *The Barnes Review*, 3(2) (1997), pp. 19-24 (online: vho.org/VffG/1999/2/Heddesheimer153-158.html)
- [9] B. Blech, *The Secret of Hebrew Words*, Jason Aronson, Northvale, NJ, 1991, p. 214.
- [10] Testimony of M. Broszat, expert witness for the Frankfurt Jury Court, May 3, 1979, Ref. Js 12 828/78 919 Ls.
Cf. Prof. F. H. Hankins, temporary President of the American Association for Demography, quoted in *The Journal of Historical Review (JHR)*, 4(1) (1983) pp. 61-81 (online: ihr.org/jhr/v04/v04p-61_Hankins.html).
- [11] R. Harwood, *Did Six Million Really Die? Historical Fact No. 1*, Samisdat Publishers, Toronto n.d., pp. 26ff. (online: www.zundelsite.org/english/harwood/Didsix01.html); cf. also J. Rothkranz, *Die kommende Diktatur der Humanität*, v. 2, Pro Fide Catholica, Durach 1990, pp. 91ff.
- [12] W. Benz, *op. cit.* (note 3), pp. 9ff., based on H. Rothfels, *Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte (VfZ)* 14 (1966) p. 244.
- [13]
- [14]
- [15]
- [16]

- J. Leszcinsky, "The Decline of European Jewry", *Congress Weekly*, New York, Sept. 24, 1951; L. Poliakov, *Breviaire de la haine*, Calmann-Lévy, Paris 1979; G. Reitlinger, *The Final Solution*, Mitchell, London 1953, Ger.: *Die Endlösung*, Colloquium, Berlin 1956; H. Krausnick, *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte* 4(32) (1954) p. 426; P. Rassinier, *Was nun, Odysseus?*, Priester, Wiesbaden 1960; A. Ehrhardt, special supplement to *Nation Europa* 12 (1961); H. Krausnick, in *Dokumentation zur Massenvergasung*, Bundeszentrale für Heimatdienst, Bonn 1962, pp. 16-22; P. Rassinier, *Deutsche Hochschullehrer-Zeitung (DHZ)* 1/2 (1963) p. 61; G. Wellers, *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte* 28(30) (1978) pp. 22-39; R. Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, Holmes & Meier, New York 1985, ch. VIII section 3.
- [17] W. N. Sanning, *The Dissolution of the Eastern European Jewry*, Institute for Historical Review, Newport Beach, CA 1983; Ger.: *Die Auflösung des osteuropäischen Judentums*, Grabert, Tübingen 1983; cf. Sanning, *DGG* 28(1-4) (1980) pp. 12-15, 17-21, 25-31 (online: [vho.org/D/DGG & .../D/da](http://vho.org/D/DGG&.../D/da)), as well as the discussions with representatives of the opposing side: W. D. Rubinstein, W. N. Sanning, A. R. Butz, *JHR* 5(2-4) (1984) pp. 367-373; D. Desjardins and J. S. Conway, *JHR* 7(3) (1986) pp. 375, 379 (online: ihr.org/jhr/v07/v07p375_Desjardins.html and .../v07p379_Conway.html).
- [18] W. N. Sanning, *The Dissolution...*, *op. cit.* (note 18), p. 14.
- [19] W. Benz, *op. cit.* (note 3), p. 17. Since each contribution to this book opens with a summary of the history of the Jews in the country under discussion, and gives a detailed account of all the anti-Jewish laws, measures and events that took place there, one must first dig one's way
- [20] through masses of extraneous material which has already been set out in many other books before one can isolate the statistically relevant data among all the alphabet soup. The size of Benz's book is thus no indication of its statistically pertinent content.
- [21] *Ibid.*, p. 20.
- Initial critiques of W. Benz's work have already appeared in W. Hackert, *DGG* 40(2) (1992) pp. 19-24 (online: vho.org/D/DGG/Hackert40_2.html), and: U. Walendy, *HT* 52, Verlag für Volkstum und Zeitgeschichtsforschung, Vlotho 1992, pp. 27-33.
- [22] This was also pointed out by E. Jäckel, Professor of Contemporary History in Stuttgart, in his review of Benz's book in the German weekly newspaper *Die Zeit* of June 28, 1991.
- [23] For the relationship between Zionism and National Socialism, cf. A. Schölch, *VfZ* 30 (1982) pp. 646-674; F. R. Nicosia, *Hitler und der Zionismus*, Druffel, Leoni 1989; Nicosia, *VfZ* 37 (1989) pp. 367-400; Y. Bauer, *Jews for Sale?*, Yale University Press, New Haven 1994.
- [24] Cf. the letter of GeStaPo Chief Müller to the representative of the Chief of the SiPo and the SD in Belgium and France, Oct. 23, 1941, in P. Longerich (ed.), *Die Ermordung der europäischen Juden*, Piper, Munich 1990, p. 82.
- [25] Cf. IMT Document PS-4055 (USA Exhibit 923), *IMT v. XX*, pp. 330ff., reprint with preceding comments in *VffG*, 1(2) (1997), pp. 60-68 (online: vho.org/VffG/1997/2/Xanten2.html).
- [26] G. Reitlinger, *The Final Solution*, A. S. Barnes, New York 1961.
- [27] W. N. Sanning gives several examples of such exaggerated data from German sources:
- [28] Rumania, 1.5 to 2 million (in actual fact, approximately 700,000); France, 1.2 million (actually about 300,000) (S45).
- [29] S. Klarsfeld, *Memorial to the Jews deported from France 1942-1944*, Beate Klarsfeld Foundation, New York 1983, p. xxvi.
- [30] C. O. Nordling, "Was geschah den 75.000 aus Frankreich deportierten Juden?", *VffG* 1(4) (1997), pp. 248-251 (online: vho.org/VffG/1997/4/NorFra4.html); cf. also the analysis of the

“*Sterbebücher*” of Auschwitz by E. Aynat which supports Nordling’s thesis presented in his article: “*Datos estadísticos sobre la mortalidad de los judíos deportados de Francia a Auschwitz en 1942*”, in J.-M. Boisdefeu, E. Aynat, *Estudios sobre Auschwitz*, publ. by E. Aynat, Valencia 1997; German: “*Die Sterbebücher von Auschwitz*“, *VffG* 2(3) (1998), pp. 188-197; online: [.../1998/3/Aynat3.html](#); cf. E. Aynat, “*Consideraciones sobre la deportación de judíos de Francia y Bélgica al este de Europa en 1942*“, in Aynat, *Estudios sobre el “Holocaust”*, Gráficas Hurtado, Valencia 1994.

Jewish immigrants to Israel were subjected to moral pressure to discard their usually German-sounding names in favor of Hebrew ones; cf. J. G. Burg, *Schuld und Schicksal*, Damm, Munich 1962.

Various reports in *St. Petersburg Times*, Oct. 30, 1992: “*Miracles still coming out of Holocaust*”; *Chicago Tribune*, June 29, 1987: “*Piecing a family back together*”; *State-Times* (Baton Rouge), Nov. 24, 1979, p. 8; *Jewish Chronicle*, May 6, 1994: “*Miracle meeting as ‘dead’ sister is discovered*”; cf. *San Francisco Chronicle*, Nov. 25, 1978, p. 6; *Northern California Jewish Bulletin*, Oct. 16, 1992; cf. *JHR* 13(1) (1993) p. 45.

C. O. Nordling, “*Die Juden von Kaszony*“, *VffG* 1(4) (1997), p. 251-254 (online: [vho.org/VffG/1997/4/NorKas4.html](#)).

The German word used at that time was “*sortieren*” [sort] and not “*selektieren*” [select], as used today.

S. Klarsfeld, *op. cit.* (note 29), notes for Table III, p. xxvi.

R. Faurisson has pointed out (S. Thion, *Vérité Historique ou vérité politique?*, La Vielle Taupe, Paris 1980, p. 328, online: [vho.org/aaargh/fran/histo/SF/SF1.html](#); Engl.: [.../engl/thion/SThtpt1.html](#)) that according to D. Czech (*Hefte von Auschwitz* 7 (1964), p. 88)

none of the women in Transport No. 71 from France to Auschwitz were given registration numbers, in other words, **that all women were gassed on arrival**. This is disproven by S. Klarsfeld (*op. cit.* (note 29), p. XXVII) who states that 70 women from this transport had survived, among them Simone Jacob (*ibid.*, p. 519), who later became the first woman President of the European Parliament (as Simone Veil). The revised edition of D. Czech’s *Auschwitz Chronicle, 1939-1945* (Henry Holt, New York 1989, p. 612) now states that 223 women from this transport did receive a number after all (78560-78782), and – as prevailing opinion would have it – had thus been ‘selected’ as fit for forced labor. As far as we know it has not been determined whether the 70 surviving women mentioned by Klarsfeld were among these 223.

Sanning does not mention whether he perhaps listed them under Italy. Since his figures for this country are greater than those of Benz (see above), this is a possibility.

Regarding Bačka see B330, regarding Transylvania see B409.

A. R. Butz, *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century*, Institute for Historical Review, Newport Beach, CA 1992, p. 138.

E.g., the witnesses I. Lazar and L. Heuser in the trial of G. Weise, cf. R. Gerhard (ed.), *Der Fall Weise*, Tübingen, Berg 1991, pp. 28, 33.

S. Klarsfeld, *The Auschwitz-Album*, Beate Klarsfeld Foundation, New York 1980.

As G. Holming has pointed out, this relation of $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ may be the one of inmates registered in Birkenau and those sent to other camps, and not of those killed, “*Wieviele Gefangene wurden nach Auschwitz gebracht?*“, *VffG*, 1(4) (1997), pp. 255-258 (online: [vho.org/VffG/1997/4/HolWie4.html](#)).

- J. C. Pressac, *Les crématoires d'Auschwitz, la machinerie du meurtre de masse*, Édition du CNRS, Paris 1993, p. 147, cites the Yad Vashem without giving any further details; acc. to findings of J. Graf and C. Mattogno in the archives of the former camp of Stutthof, only 25,000 Jews were deported (cf. J. Graf, C. Mattogno, *Concentration Camp Stutthof and its Function in National Socialist Jewish Policy*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago, IL, 2003; online: vho.org/GB/Books/ccs). Perhaps the rest was sent to other labor camps. Cf. also the report about Hungarian Jews as forced laborers in the Volkswagenwerke in Wolfsburg: H. Mommsen, M. Grieger, *Das Volkswagenwerk und seine Arbeiter im Dritten Reich*, Econ, Düsseldorf 1996; P. Bölke, "Der Führer und sein Tüftler", *Der Spiegel* 45 (1996), p. 138f.
- [43] W. N. Sanning has since reconsidered this theory; personal communication.
- Cf. J. C. Ball, *Air Photo Evidence*, Ball Resource Services Ltd., Delta, BC, 1992; cf. his chapter in the present volume, as well as J. Konieczny, *The Soviets, but not the Western Allies, should have bombed the Auschwitz camp*, Polish Historical Society, PO Box 8024, Stamford, CT 06905, April 1993.
- [44] J. Konieczny, *op. cit.* (note 45).
- Cf. correction, M. Broszat, Institut für Zeitgeschichte, *Die Zeit*, Aug. 19, 1960, as well as a letter on IfZ stationery to a Swedish addressee, dated July 17, 1961; also H. Wendig, *Richtigstellungen zur Zeitgeschichte*, issue 5, Grabert, Tübingen 1993, p. 50; E. Kern, *Meineid gegen Deutschland*, Schütz, Göttingen 1968, pp. 263ff.; extensive source material in F. A. Leuchter, *The Second Leuchter Report*, Samisdat, Toronto 1989 (online: www.zundelsite.org/english/leuchter/report2/leucha.html).
- [45] A. R. Butz, *op. cit.* (note 39), p. 139.
- Whereas the chapter about Czechoslovakia speaks of 102,542 Jews in the Carpathian Ukraine (B355), the chapter about Hungary mentions only 78,000 Jews there (B338). Once again: inaccuracies and contradictions in Benz's book.
- According to R.H. Countess, at the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust (26-28 January 2000), Bulgaria was specifically singled out for *protecting* its Jews. That means that Bulgaria will *not* have to pay any 'reparations' – unless certain discoveries are made.
- [46] H. Graml, *Die Auswanderung der Juden aus Deutschland zwischen 1933 und 1939*, in Institut für Zeitgeschichte (ed.), *Gutachten des Instituts für Zeitgeschichte*, v. 1, pub. by ed., Munich 1958, p. 80.
- [47] Cf. also J. G. Burg, *op. cit.* (note 31), pp. 11ff.
- Keesing's Archiv der Gegenwart, 16th/17th year, Rheinisch-westfälisches Verlagskontor, Essen 1948, p. 651, Memo B of Feb. 15, 1946. After the War the Allied occupation authorities officially registered up to 5,000 Polish Jewish emigrants per week (!) in the western zones alone (no number of weeks given, though); W. Jacobmeyer, *VfZ* 25 (1977) pp. 120-135, esp. p. 125. In addition, there were migrations via other countries, as well as the non-registered emigrants.
- [48] Eg. cf. V. Suvorov, *Icebreaker: Who Started the Second World War?* Hamish Hamilton, London 1990; E. Topitsch, *Stalin's War: A Radical New Theory of the Origins of the Second World War*, Fourth Estate, London 1987; W. Post, *Unternehmen Barbarossa*, Mittler, Hamburg 1995; F. Becker, *Stalins Blutspur durch Europa*, Arndt Verlag, Kiel 1996; Becker, *Im Kampf um Europa*, 2nd ed., Leopold Stocker Verlag, Graz/Stuttgart 1993; W. Maser, *Der Wortbruch. Hitler, Stalin und der Zweite Weltkrieg*, Olzog Verlag, Munich 1994; J. Hoffmann, "Die Sowjetunion bis zum Vorabend des deutschen Angriffs", in Horst Boog et al., *Das Deutsche Reich und der Zweite Weltkrieg*, vol. 4: *Der Angriff auf die Sowjetunion*, 2nd ed., Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, Stuttgart

1987; Hoffmann, “Die Angriffsvorbereitungen der Sowjetunion“, in B. Wegner (ed.), *Zwei Wege nach Moskau*, Piper, Munich 1991.

[55] New York Post, July 1, 1990.

[56] Cf. the chapters by F. P. Berg and I. Weckert, this volume.

[57] Cf. the chapters by H. Tiedemann and J. C. Ball, this volume.

[58] Cf. the remarks in the introducing chapter, notes 142-144.

[59] H.-H. Wilhelm, in U. Backes, E. Jesse, R. Zitelmann (eds.), *Die Schatten der Vergangenheit*, Propyläen, Berlin 1992, p. 403.

[60] Cf. C. Loos, *RHR* 5 (1991) pp. 136-142 (online: www.lebensraum.org/french/rhr/Loos.pdf), as well as the chapter by A. Neumaier, this volume.

[61] F. Kadell, *Die Katyn-Lüge*, Herbig, Munich 1991.

[62] International Military Tribunal, *Trial of the Major War Criminals*, IMT, Nuremberg 1947, v. VII, p. 171, Feb. 8, 1946.

[63] *Ibid.*, v. VII, pp. 578ff., Feb. 19, 1946; cf. Document USSR-4, not included in the IMT Document Volumes.

[64] S. Werner, *Die 2. babylonische Gefangenschaft*, pub. by auth., Pfullingen 1990 (online: vho.org/D/d2bg/I_II.html; English: vho.org/GB/Books/tsbc); Werner, *DGG* 41(4) (1993) pp. 13-17 (vho.org/D/DGG/Werner41_4.html).

[65] Cf. *Jüdische Allgemeine Wochenzeitung*, July 26, 1990; *Der Spiegel* 30/90, 111; *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Sept. 21, 1990; *Die Tageszeitung*, July 18 and 19, 1990; cf. also F. Piper, *Die Zahl der Opfer von Auschwitz*, Verlag Staatliches Museum in Oswiecim, Auschwitz 1993.

[66] J.-C. Pressac, *Die Krematorien von Auschwitz. Die Technik des Massenmordes*, Piper, Munich 1994, p. 202.

[67] For a general critique of the alleged Auschwitz death toll, see Robert Faurisson, “How many deaths at Auschwitz?“, *The Revisionist* 1(1) (2003), pp. 17-23 (online: vho.org/tr/2003/1/Faurisson17-23.html); Werner Rademacher, “Die Wandlungen der Totenzahl von Auschwitz“, *ibid.*, pp. 256-267 (online: vho.org/VffG/1999/3/Rademacher256-267.html).

[68] F. Meyer, “Die Zahl der Opfer von Auschwitz“, *Osteuropa*, 52(5) (2002), pp. 631-641.

[69] E. Nolte, *Streitpunkte*, Propyläen, Berlin 1993, p. 312.

[70] “Mehr Judenmorde als bisher bekannt” [More Jews murdered as known before], *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Dec. 17, 1991, p. 7; similar reports were to be found throughout the other daily media.

[71] R. Breitman, “Holocaust Secrecy Now Abets More Genocide“, *New York Times*, November 29, 1996; D. David, “British Documents: 7 million died in Holocaust“, *Jerusalem Post*, May 20, 1997.

[72] Cf. the chapter by A. Neumaier, and Ingrid Weckert’s remark about Yad Vashem, this volume.

[73] Report of the Institut für Zeitgeschichte, May 1990.

[74] E. Kern, *op. cit.* (note 47); see also G. Schirmer, *Sachsenhausen – Workuta*, Grabert, Tübingen 1992, pp. 10, 49ff.

[75] I. Arndt, W. Scheffler, *VfZ* 24 (1976) p. 105.

[76] Since the United States does not register the religious denomination of immigrants, the official American statistics regarding the immigration of Jews are very unreliable; cf. Sanning, *The Dissolution...*, *op. cit.* (note 18), pp. 160-166. How very problematic the statistics for Jews living in the United States are becomes apparent from a report of the *National Observer* of July 2, 1962, according to which the number of Jews in the States was not 5 to 6 million, as

officially reported, but rather 12 million – a most improbably high figure; cf. E. L. Ehrlich, *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte* 38(16) (1988) pp. 16-22; *DHZ* 4 (1962) pp. 31f.

C. O. Nordling, *Revue d'Histoire révisionniste (RHR)* 2 (1990) pp. 50-64; Engl.: *JHR* 10(2) (1990) pp. 195-209 (online: vho.org/GB/Journals/JHR/10/2/Nordling195-209.html). I am grateful to R. Faurisson for bringing these papers to my attention.

Encyklopædia Judaica, Jerusalem 1972.

170 French, 96 Poles, 93 Germans, 85 Austrians, 64 Hungarians, 63 Italians, 49 Dutch, 42 Czechs, 29 Rumanians, 13 Danes, 9 Yugoslavs, 9 Belgians.

C. O. Nordling, *RHR* 4 (1991) pp. 95-100 (online: online:

www.lebensraum.org/french/rhr/Nordli4.pdf), with corrections to update *op. cit.* (note 77); the data given here were updated by C. O. Nordling in accordance with his latest findings.

C. O. Nordling, *RHR* 5 (1991) pp. 96-106 (online:

www.lebensraum.org/french/rhr/Nordli5.pdf); Engl.: *JHR* 11(3) (1991) pp. 335-344 (online: vho.org/GB/Journals/JHR/11/3/Nordling335-344.html).

H. G. Adler, *Theresienstadt 1941-1945*, Mohr, Tübingen 1955.

N. Masur, *En jude talar med Himmler*, Stockholm 1945.

IMT Documents NO-5193 to 5198.

G. Wellers, *op. cit.* (note 17); cf. the critique of Wellers by C. Mattogno, “Sonderbehandlung. Georges Wellers und der Korherr-Bericht“, *VffG* 1(2) (1997) pp. 71-75 (online: vho.org/VffG/1997/2/Mattogno2.html).

IMT Documents NO-5193.

S. Challen, *Richard Korherr and his Reports*, Cromwell Press, London 1993.

IMT Documents NO-5197.

See also Carlo Mattogno, “Sonderbehandlung. Georges Wellers und der Korherr-Bericht“, *VffG* 1(2)(1997), pp. 71-75 (online: vho.org/VffG/1997/2/Mattogno2.html)

Korherr’s Letter to the Editor, *Der Spiegel*, no. 31 (1977). p. 12: “The allegation that I stated that over a million Jews died as a result of special treatment in the camps of the Government General and the Warthegau is likewise untrue. I must protest against the word ‘died’ in this connection. It was precisely that word ‘Sonderbehandlung’ that led me to make a telephone inquiry to the RSHA asking what this word meant. I received the answer that it referred to Jews who were to be settled in the district of Lublin.”

J. Fisch, *Reparationen*, C. H. Beck, Munich 1992; E. Rumpf, *Wiedergutmachung*, Kultur- und Zeitgeschichte – Archiv der Zeit, Rosenheim n.d. [1992]; cf. M. Weber, *JHR* 8(2) (1988) pp. 243-250 (online: vho.org/GB/Journals/JHR/8/2/Weber243-250.html); Ger.: *DGG* 37(1) (1989) pp. 10-13 (online: vho.org/D/DGG/Weber37_1.html).

It lasted until mid of 1997 that this topic was raised between International Jewish Organizations and Germany; cf. The American Jewish Committee, “Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe deserve pensions from the German Government“, Open Letter to the German Government, signed by 83 Senators, *New York Times*, August 17, 1997; Erik Kirschbaum, “Jewish leader urges Bonn to pay Holocaust claims“, *Reuter*, Bonn, August 19, 1997; “Jewish group rejects offer to Holocaust survivors“, *Reuter*, Bonn, August 24, 1997; “Jewish group to issue list of holocaust fund recipients“, *Reuter*, New York, September 17, 1997.

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Georgia, March 31, 1985, pp. A14ff.

Adina Mishkoff, Administrative Assistant *Amcha*, Jerusalem, E-mail <adina@amcha.org> from Wed, Aug. 13, 1997, 16:17:20 CDT, to Multiple recipients of list H-HOLOCAUST <H-

HOLOCAUST@H-NET.MSU.EDU>; E. Spanic, H. Factor, V. Struminsky, “*Number of Living Holocaust Survivors*“, Amcha Press Release, PO Box 2930, I-91029 Jerusalem, July 27, 1997.

[95] Amcha Germany, letter from Aug. 22, 1996, to all Germany mayors in order to raise funds for Amcha; facsimile in *VffG*, 1(2), (1997), p. 70 (online: vho.org/VffG/1997/2/RudWie2.html).

[96] Letter of A. Mishkoff, *Amcha Israel*, Jerusalem, May 17, 1998, in which the $\frac{1}{3}-\frac{2}{3}$ -distribution is confirmed.

[97] E. Friesel, *Atlas of Modern Jewish History*, Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford 1990.

[98] Cf., e.g., the ‘Death tables’ (*Sterbetafeltn*) for Germans in Lexikon Institut Bertelsmann (ed.), *Ich sag dir alles*, Bertelsmann, Gütersloh 1968

[99] For more details on this see my article, note 95. Since we divided our age distribution list into 5 year steps, we could not calculate a ‘child’-age of 16 years. Thus, the real numbers will be a bit lower than those given in the table’s row for 0-15 years. We didn’t correct them since the base on which these figures were calculated are not very reliable anyway, as Prof. Alan Glicksman, responsible for compiling the data for the USA, stated in an e-mail message. This is just in order to give us a clue.

[100] Cf. W.N. Sanning, *Die Auflösung...*, *op. cit.* (note 18), p. 53-136.

[101] *Ibid.*, p. 243; the value for Germany has to be increased to 539,000, and the Jews of the Baltics must be added to the value for the occupied Europe.

[102] Equation used: $(\text{distribution}[\%]) / \Sigma((1997 \text{ from survivors } 1945) \cdot (\text{distribution}[\%])) \cdot \Sigma(\text{survivors } 1997)$; for 0-4 years in 1945, e.g.: $\text{distribution}[\%]$ for *Atlas* = 5.0%; $\Sigma((1997 \text{ from survivors } 1945) \cdot (\text{distribution}[\%])) = 19,2$ (i.e.: 19,2% of all survivors of 1945 still alive in 1997); $\Sigma(\text{survivors } 1997) = 834,000$, result: 217,231 for age 0-4 in 1945; total survivors in 1945: 4,344,614.

[103] Surviving rates 1997 divided by those of 1945. Only one decimal digit given.

[104] *Handelszeitung* (Switzerland), February 4, 1998. Even the Israeli Prime Minister’s office recently stated that there were still nearly one million living survivors, see Norman Finkelstein, “*How the Arab Israeli War of 1967 gave birth to a memorial industry*“, *London Review of Books*, January 6, 2000. I owe this information to David Irving.

[105] Aside from the contributors to his volume, Benz also thanks Professors Yisrael Gutman, Otto D. Kulka, Yehuda Bauer, Christopher Browning, Czeslaw Madajczyk, Helmut Krausnick, H. D. Loock, Randolph L. Braham and Wolfgang Scheffler, p. 20.

[106] Cf. Staatliches Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau (ed.), *Die Sterbebücher von Auschwitz*, Saur, Munich 1995; for the entire time of the camps’ existence, Pressac estimates the total at a reasonable 130,000: *op. cit.* (note 43), pp. 144ff.

[107] Prosecution Exhibit no. 35, National Archives USA, May 13, 1945, ref. no. M-1174, roll 4, frame 54; cf. E. Gauss, *Vorlesungen über Zeitgeschichte*, Grabert, Tübingen 1993, p. 235 (online: vho.org/D/vuez/v4.html).

[108] Without specifying the exact source, W. Sofsky (*Die Ordnung des Terrors: Das Konzentrationslager*, Fischer, Frankfurt 1993, p. 331, footnote 37) quotes the Red Cross regarding 450,000 victims registered by name.

The Emigration Of The Jews From the Third Reich

By [Ingrid Weckert](#)

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Contemporary historiography has grown accustomed to the habit of painting with dark colors all events related to the Third Reich regardless of what had really transpired. This happens foremost in respect to the Jewish people. Thus the history of the emigration of the Jews from Germany has been absolutely distorted.

There are still many publications which proclaim that the emigration of the Jews from Germany amounted to some sort of secret undertaking as if those Jews who wished to leave had to escape under the cover of darkness, sneaking secretly across some odd border crossings, leaving behind all their goods and property. In other dramatizations one can read how dearly they had to pay for an exit visa. The fantasy as well as the stupidity of the storytellers knew no moderation.

However, the German government did in truth favor emigration and it took place under steadily growing pressure. The anti Semitic legislation of the Third Reich is a matter of fact that nobody can deny. The psychological pressure to which the Jews living in Germany had been exposed since 1933, as well as its all too often tragic consequences for individuals and families, must not be belittled. But this has been carried into the public consciousness with innumerable publications as well as radio and television broadcasts. We need not discuss this subject presently.

Nevertheless, contrary to many adventure stories and memoirs, it must be stated that the emigration was not a venturesome escape but a legal event in accordance with established, published procedures.

German government offices and Jewish organizations worked hand in hand to facilitate the emigration. Interested Jews were extensively counseled and received considerable aid. All talk about a dangerous flight in the middle of the night is sheer nonsense. The German government wanted the Jews to leave the country, to prevent them from doing so would have been counter-productive.

1. The Jewish "Declaration of War"

FOLLOWING ADOLF HITLER'S appointment to the office of Reich's chancellor, January 30, 1933, and the following seizure of power by the National-Socialist party, the majority of the 500,000 Jews who lived in Germany assumed that the new political situation would not lead to fundamental changes in the conduct of their daily life. At worst they feared temporary impediments, but not their general exclusion from public life and beyond this a possible expulsion. Thus only politically exposed persons, known for their opposing views, packed their suitcases and left for a foreign haven, convinced that they would return sooner or later.

However, as early as March 24, 1933, not even two months after the National-Socialists had assumed

power, did a self-proclaimed "World Jewry" declare war on Germany. Inasmuch as this World Jewry possessed no sovereign state to found its action, it placed its might where it exercised the greatest influence, namely the international forces of the world-economy, and declared a world-wide boycott of Germany.

After this spectacular declaration, which appeared in the London *"Daily Express"*, it should have become crystal clear to all Jews, and foremost those living in Germany, that such a provocation calls for a response. No self-respecting country, and such was the Germany of those days, would have simply turned the other cheek. Furthermore, an economic boycott would have hit our country at its most vulnerable spot.

The economic situation amounted to a catastrophe. The unemployed numbered above six millions, countless factories and enterprises had gone out of business, a totally collapsed economy burdened the new government with new tasks and apparently insolvable problems. The boycott of German export could have triggered the execution of the death sentence for German industry.

It speaks for the genius of the then existing leadership that the mortal collapse did not happen, but just the opposite, for within an incredibly short period of time Germany recovered in a manner" which provided direction for many other countries.

2. The Jews inside Germany

One result of the hostile position demonstrated by the self-styled World Jewry was the endeavor of the new German government" to discharge all Jewish citizens from influential job positions; Only after that "declaration of war" did there arise the will to remove them from Germany altogether, to compel emigration. This led subsequently to a state-supported Jewish emigration policy.

There should be no doubt about it: For the German Jews this was a tragic development. For regardless of the fact that the self-appointed World Jewry had declared war against Germany, Germany had been the fatherland for hundreds of thousand of them who had lived in that land for many generations. The very thought of "Auswanderung"/emigration, appeared at first as some unthinkable monstrosity. For a long time many German Jews would not entertain such a suggestion.

Among them were many groups and subgroups holding various political viewpoints. Apart from purely religious subdivisions there existed many varieties of interest groups which often expressed opposing points of view in regard to specific issues.

The four most important Jewish groups in Germany were:

1. The "Central-Verein Deutscher Staatsbürger Jüdischen Glaubens," for short 'Central Verein' or "CV". This central unit was founded in 1893 and renamed in 1935 "Central-Verein der Juden in Deutschland," with approximately 70,000 members. Its political newspaper was the "C.V.-Zeitung"

[Translator's Note: The 3rd Reich authorities eventually rejected the term "Deutsche Juden," German Jews, and replaced it categorically with "Juden in Deutschland," Jews in Germany. The

established old Jewish families, ("We have found a father land, Oh Lord, we have finally found a fatherland") considered this an insult, for it put them on one level with the orthodox "Kaftanjuden" of Eastern Europe to whom a portion of Palestine should be allotted as their 'Promised Land, realized.']

2. The "ZIONISTISCHE VEREINIGUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND," which the Zionists founded in 1897, membership about 10,000 people. They published the "Jüdische Rundschau". This Zionist Union split in 1925. A new zionistic movement was launched, the "Neu-Zionistische Bewegung," also called the "Revisionisten" or "Staatszionisten." They indeed advocated the creation of an independent Jewish state, and Georg Kareski became their representative in Germany.
3. "Der "Reichsbund Jüdischer Frontsoldaten", an association of 10,000 Jewish combat soldiers founded in 1919, they issued a newsletter called "Der Schild" (The Shield).
4. The "Verband national-deutscher Juden," founded in 1921, about 10,000 members, issued the newspaper "Der National-Deutsche Jude".

To represent the Jewish interest vis-à-vis the national-socialist government more effectively, a "Reichsvertretung der deutschen Juden" (RV), renamed "Reichsvertretung der Juden in Deutschland" in 1935, was established in 1933. The "VNJ", however, refused to join this union..

In spite of all those differentiation two basic directions can be clearly recognized: One in which being German was the major issue and being Jewish of a secondary religious concern. The other direction bound the Jewish religion to an ethnic/folkish identity, and they felt to belong to a Jewish people indeed. Among the German Jews these amounted to a minority, though in the course of time their influence dominated.

However, the overwhelming majority of the German Jews had lived for more than a century in the land. With the emancipation edict of 1812 they had been granted full political rights as equal citizens and all still existing restrictions had been removed.

Subsequently they felt they were Germans indeed and not aliens. This feeling of belonging to Germany caused (even during early NS time) an outspoken animosity against the Zionists who increased their campaign against any form of assimilation, and for emigration.

Nevertheless, the zionistic "Jüdische Rundschau" emphasized, "The German people should know that centuries of historical connection cannot be simplistically dissolved." (April 13, 1933), and on August 29, 1933, "We believe that the German Jews, too, must find their place and position in this state and we hope that an agreement which is in harmony with this state can be developed."

Furthermore, even after the Nuremberg Laws had been promulgated, this German Zionists' paper declared that it would be a continued challenge of the Jews to develop positively their special position within the German nation.

Following are quotes which show how much Jewish citizens identified themselves with Germany in those days. Of course, this must not invite the impression that the majority of Jews had not taken a

position of distrust or rejection, yet there were also positions taken about which nowadays few people dare to speak.

The opening statement of the Union of National German Jews declared:

"The VNJ is an organization of Germans of Jewish descent who, though freely acknowledging their roots, are insolubly bound to being German and to German civilization, so much that they can neither feel nor think but German."

Dr. Max Naumann, chairman of the VNJ, had already prior to the rise of National-Sozialismus, and foremost in the critical years 1920-1924, repeatedly published essays dealing with the Jewish question. In these writings he took the position that there was a difference between "Deutschjuden" and "Fremdjuden" and said:

"The Deutschjuden are a part of the German nation, the Fremdjuden an alien element from all corners of the earth, a people without a land, for even British ruled Palestine is not theirs and will never be theirs."

He suggested that those alien Jews are characterized by a convulsive orthodox backwardness and the insane belief of belonging to a chosen community, which for other people amounts to a problem. Among those Fremdjuden he counted the Zionisten.

But among those he differentiated between "honest and straight thinking Zionists" who on their part freely acknowledged their separateness and agreed to dwell in Germany as guests, possibly under restrictive laws. But those who were neither" established German Jews nor Zionists-as-defined, might as well go to hell. For it is better for a small group" to vanish than hundred of thousands who do" know where they belong. To say, "Nicht zugrundegehen darf unser deutsches Volk," ("Our German people must not perish.").

One may now object that such was the opinion of just one person. However, this one person had been time and again reelected as chairman of the Nationaldeutsche Juden. We may therefore rightfully assume that such a group, expressing seemingly extreme views about their own Jewishness, did in fact exist. And, as stated earlier, the Union of the Nationalistic German Jews refused to join the confederation of all the other Jewish groups, for the members thought so intensely of themselves as Germans that - to their understanding - they had no business in a Jewish confederation.

Still more radical was the position taken by the youth group, the "Schwarze Fähnlein," which disbanded in 1934 in order to demonstrate their total separation from all Jewry after most of its member had abandoned their ties to formal Judaism.

In respect to "National-Sozialismus" other positive attitudes are recorded. Back in 1931 the periodical "Der Nationaldeutsche Jude" posed the question, "Can Jews be Nationalsozialisten?", and replied in the affirmative. It reported:

"Have not we Jews equally bled on the battle-fields for Germany? Was not a Jew the president of the first German parliament meeting in the [Frankfurt] Paulskirche? [Error, please see

Notes/Anmerkungen] Wasn't the founder of the Conservative Party a Jew? To whom owe the political parties which proclaim a united German fatherland to be their first aim their initial impetus and organization?" To Jews, indeed. - Who formulated and defined with clarity the major demands which today [January 1931] are the focus points of the national-socialist party? A Jew, Walter Rathenau."

After Hitler's appointment to office the same newspaper editorialized:

"The Germany of the future faces new tasks which can be accomplished only by a reborn people. To create such a people, to create a national community the like never before existed in German history, is the great – and if properly undertaken – truly liberating task of the national leadership."

Herr Naumann of the National German Jews declared in 1934:

"We have always placed the well-being of the German people and fatherland, to whom we feel insolubly bound, above our own well-being, Therefore we welcomed the national uplifting of January 1933, though it brought us hardship, for we saw in that uprising the only chance to correct all the damage which in the preceding fourteen years had been done by un-German elements."

And an orthodox rabbi from Ansbach declared in 1934:

"From a Jewish position, I reject the teachings of Marxism and embrace (bekenne mich)" Nationalsozialismus, naturally without its anti-semitic components. Without anti-semitism this National-Socialism would find a most loyal following among observing Jews."

As mentioned above, although these views were not expressed by a majority; nevertheless such positions did exist and indeed expressed a point of view which did not please the national-socialists. For they desired not that their ideas be affirmed by Jewish citizens but that the Jews should get out of Germany.

This attitude taken by the national-socialists agreed in principle with the Zionists' position who advanced an ethnic/folkish Jewishness and for that very reason denied a potential inner bonding of Jews to Germany. Nevertheless, they favored Nationalsozialismus as it shared with Zionism the same basic positions, namely the affirmation of one's own people and statehood.

In regard to the recently proclaimed Nuremberg Laws a reporter of Goebbels' evening tabloid, "Der Angriff" interviewed Georg Kareski, the chairman of the German "Staatszionisten" in December 1935. Kareski responded in a very positive fashion, stating that those laws fulfill old Zionist demands. Such is the separation of German and Jewish civilization and folkishness, the establishment of Jewish schools for Jewish students advancing a specific Jewish "Kultur", and foremost the prohibition of mixed marriages which according to Jewish law had been forbidden in the first place.

Alas, the Kareski interview remained not without disagreement in Jewish circles, but most orthodox as well as all Zionist groups voiced agreement.

3. Emigration

For the future of the Jews only one country was considered by the Zionists, the Palestine of those days.

The idea that all Jews should have to leave Germany was even for them at first unthinkable. They desired to recruit the younger people, those capable of doing heavy physical labor in Palestine. To promote this aim they considered close collaboration with the national-socialist government and their own organization not only possible but mandatory in order to obtain positive, realistic results. And their prognosis was correct. In the following years a steadily improving co-operation between them, representing the Jews who wished to leave for Palestine, and the NS authorities developed.

The German officials wished to finish the emigration assignment as fast and early as possible. To repeat once again: Most Jewish groups and organizations did not recognize a need for emigration in the beginning and yielded only as, in time, pressures were exerted upon them.

Three Jewish aid-to-emigration societies existed in Berlin, in part since the turn of the century.

The "Hilfsverein für deutsche Juden," the assistance-society for German Jews, concerned itself with emigration to all countries *except* Palestine. It maintained worldwide contacts with Jewish groups which checked local conditions and helped immigrants to adapt to their new habitats.

The "Palästina-Amt" concerned itself exclusively with "ALIJA," a Hebrew synonym which should be understood as a stepping up toward Jerusalem, designed for younger Jews capable of the hard work which a resettlement in Palestine demanded.

A third institution was "Hauptstelle für jüdische Wanderfürsorge," which had dealt originally with unsettled and in a way migratory Jewish persons. Later the care and repatriation of non-German Jews became their main task.

The NS government, seeking to push the emigration of the "undesirable" Jewish population, entered two major agreement designed to regulate/advance their emigration:

1. the "Haavara Abkommen," and
2. the "Rublee-Wohlthat-Abkommen."

The Haavara was active from 1933 to 1941 and concerned itself with emigration to Palestine. For that matter, this agreement is discussed in most research literature. Haavara's erstwhile" director, Werner Feilchenfeld, published in 1972 his own brochure on this subject, but it seems that most people who wrote about Haavara had failed to read Werner Feilchenfeld's text or they would not have composed so much nonsense about "Haavara."

The Rublee-Wohlthat-Abkommen/agreement is commonly swept under the carpet. It dealt with a far greater number of the emigrating Jews, all those who did not leave for Palestine but for another European or overseas country, that is approximately two thirds of the total emigration. This agreement, unfortunately, was in force for only 8 months immediately prior to the outbreak of WWII, which put an end to all regular emigration efforts.

We mention this with emphasis for it proves that nothing was further from the mind of the German government in those day than an annihilation of the Jewish people, i.e. that assumed Judenvernichtung.

4. "Haavara"

Representatives of the citrus-plants production company Hanotea Ltd. approached the German government as early as February 1933 in order to explore how to serve their mutual interests from the German position on emigration and from a Jewish-Palestinian position on immigration to the then British ruled "Mandats-Gebiet Palestina. The Jewish party sought to secure the best possible terms for emigration which would subsequently benefit Palestine. The German authorities greatly agreed with the Jewish proposals and thus the first eco-political agreements were reached in early May, 1933. In the course of the year this led to the Haavara Treaty. Haavara is a Hebrew noun meaning "transfer", and in the present context mainly the transfer of property and tangible goods. Under this Hebrew word, "Haavara", the treaty has been officially recorded by the Germans.

The Haavara provided for the following arrangements: Jews who considered emigration to Palestine could deposit their estate/funds with two Jewish banking institutions in Germany. They could do so even when they only considered emigration but for the time being wished to remain in Germany. Nevertheless, they could transfer funds to the accounts of Jewish settlers who had already established themselves in Palestine, or they could invest their money in Palestine. Furthermore, they could prepay their German health-insurance up to ten years, a privilege not accorded to the ordinary German citizens.

Werner Feilchenfeld wrote:

"The preparation for a new home in Palestine for those persons still living in Germany constituted, in view of the German foreign-exchange difficulties, an extraordinary circumvention of the regulations concerned with foreign investment by Germans."

Built into the Haavara agreement was a travel-credit-arrangement with a Tel-Aviv travel agency, which made it possible for German Jews to visit Palestine and explore the living and working conditions prior to their final decision. They paid for their journey in Reichsmarks and, according to Feilchenfeld, page 49, received in Palestine travel coupons for their expenses. This was an exception to then governing German foreign-exchange regulation which made foreign travel for ordinary citizens hardly possible. The "Raft Dutch Freud", Energy thru Joy state supported travel groups of the NS "Arbeitsfront" paid for their pleasure plus vacation trips via a clearing house accounting system .

When the time had come for German Jews to emigrate for good and settle in Palestine, they could exchange Reichsmarks for 1,000 Palestine Pounds which were equal to British Pound Sterling. Those funds they had to show when they entered Palestine for settlement. In a publication which had appeared some years ago it was claimed that they had to pay 1,000 Pounds for the visa. That claim is total nonsense. The money was theirs in fact and they had to render proof that they could sustain themselves and start a new source of livelihood/income, and would not become a burden to society in Palestine.

The balance of whatever funds remained at their disposal in their Haavara-account. They could take along their household goods and tools, as well as equipment required to practice their job-skills and related items required for the conduct of civil life. The "Reichsfluchtsteuer," a special tax introduced by Chancellor Heinrich Brüning in 1931 and imposed on all German citizens who wished to emigrate, did

not apply to Jews who left via Haavara.

By way of the Haavara-accounts Palestinian merchants could pay for merchandise imported from Germany. Additional protocols extended that privilege to traders from Egypt, Syria and Iraq. In Palestine the new settlers received for their products tangible goods in exchange, houses, real estate and citrus groves, as well as cash.

There were numerous additional agreements, among them that all pensions and social-insurance income would be transferred, without penalty payments or fees, to those Jews who had left for Palestine. As Werner Feilchenstein wrote, page 49. Jews living in Palestine could – via the Haavara – send money to relatives and friends in Germany.

Wrote Herr Feilchenfeld, page 61ff.:

"The supporting client/sponsor made payment in Palestinian funds via Haalava in favor of his client/receiver who then would be paid by 'Paltreu' of Berlin in Reichsmarks. This system of a private Clearing House for support payment to Jewish people in Germany was extended to a world-wide system in 1937, and it was its task to execute the support payments which arrived from all parts of the world for Jews in Germany, and to employ the imported foreign currency as a 'Kapitaltransfer' to Palestine."

For those Jews who did not own the means to present the one thousand Pounds required for entry to Palestine, the "Vorzeigegeld," the Haavara offered another immense advantage. They could arrange for credits which had to be repaid years later. Therefore all Jews who wished to leave Germany for Palestine were indeed in the position to do so.

The Haavara arrangement, fitting the fundamentally positive attitude of the German government regarding Jewish emigration, encouraged some of the German responsible parties to operate in shadowy areas. Rolf Vogel, the former Jewish Bonn correspondent of "Deutschlandberichte", which was dedicated to the advancement of Jewish-German understanding, writes in his book "Ein Stempel hat gefehlt", ("One stamp was missing", documents concerning the emigration of German Jews, Munich, 1977):

"Numerous were the individual actions which occurred beyond the actual legal limits, foremost when the concerned Jews wished not to go to Palestine, or when no other assistance seemed possible. Thus it did happen that Jews had to sell their business enterprises but lost their money because they could not transfer it. To prevent such a loss, German officials suggested to several Jewish business owners not to emigrate "pro forma," but to work abroad as sales representatives of the companies they once owned. In this manner they earned salaries and sales dividends which subsequently were paid to them in foreign valuta, and they recovered a portion of their lost Reichsmarks."

Other neat tricks involved the forwarding of sealed packages which had been deposited in German courts of law as "My last Will and Testament" to sympathetic foreign courts acting on behalf of the deceased who were still very much alive. And the NS Party official daily newspaper, the "Völkische Beobachter" favored the placement of advertising which led to phony Swiss addresses, and mail

forwarded without much ado. In spite of all, the true advantage to the total German economy must not be overestimated. Somewhere between 200,000 and 300,000 consumers – and this was about the total number of the "Jischuw", the Jewish community in Palestine – were hardly capable of giving 60 million people a substantial foreign export market. Furthermore, the export to Palestine produced no foreign currency because all transactions took place by way of Haavara, and Reichsmarks.

On the other hand, the Haavara produced immense benefits for Palestine, and Dr. Ludwig Pinner, a member of the board of directors of the Haavara company, never grew tired of repeating his high praise.

"Palestine had been until the early thirties an agricultural country on a low level of development.

"Only the immigrants from Germany changed the economic structure and the social fabric of the Jischuw profoundly and contributed to its development decisively. Their participation and impact doubled industrial production, modernized technology and the produced merchandise rose slowly to European standards.

"The participation of the German Jews, both as industrialists and investors, determined that development which advanced the economy of the Jischuw out of its preindustrial and precapitalistic state.

"Its impact on the development of a Jewish Palestine found expression not just in the economic and social spheres, but also the cultural, scientific and artistic. The modernization of hospitals which the Transfer had made possible elevated Palestine to a first class medical center. The employment of those human beings in research and teaching institutions, production and administration, in the public life and maintenance of order was of immeasurable importance in the preparation of those challenges which destiny held in store."

The funds of the "Kapitalisten"(that is, "moneyed people" in this context) which could flow into Palestine without an upper limit made the emigration of labor equally possible. "Palestine as a country under construction can absorb immigrants proportionally as the incoming capital and its accompanying spirit of enterprise creates new job opportunities," explained Dr. Georg Landauer, chief of the German Department of the Jewish Agency and member of the Haavara' Board of Directors in an interview with the "Jüdische Rundschau."

There existed then the fear that moneyed Jews with their capital strength would move on to other countries and only the poor Jews would get to Palestine. Dr Landauer cautioned: "An immigration of job-seekers, workers (Arbeitnehmer)" without an immigration of work-providers (Arbeitgeber) , cannot take place," according to "Jüdische Rundschau", February 18, 1936.

4.1" Resistance against the Haavara

4.1.1 ...from a Jewish position

Nevertheless, there existed a formidable resistance raised by Jewish parties in spite of the Haavara agreement's positive aspects for both Jews and Palestine. Edwin Black, in his book "The Transfer

Agreement," describes details about such bickering behind the lines. The very fact of collaboration between the Third Reich and zionistic groups to the benefit of Israel seems to him incomprehensible and inexcusable and he consequently charges the concerned Jewish groups with Nazi-collaboration. This is understandable if one considers that according to his belief all those Jews who remained in German became victims of the Holocaust.

Jewish organizations the world over lamented the failure of the boycott which their own people had earlier declared. To them all the advantages which had been negotiated for Jews leaving Germany amounted to null and zero if considered in relation to general Jewish interests.

Inside Palestine specific troubles developed, too. The Haavara's monopoly position in regard to the German import/export business triggered the anger of Palestinian merchants as it impaired their own business activities. The foremost emerging Jewish industry in Palestine, seeking to sell its own manufactured goods, opposed the import of the far better and less expensive merchandise from Germany. Under pressure, the Haavara eventually yielded to requests of established Jewish manufacturers and declared an import-stop for selected items, the "Tozeret Haarez" clauses for the protection of indigenous products. Clever operators, of course, learned how to juggle the paragraphs and derived advantages from such regulations to their own blessings first and foremost.

Thus a manufacturing enterprise could import all its machinery by way of the Haavara from Germany and then produce with these machines home-made goods which sold under the "Tozeret-Haarez" protective cover. This reduced naturally the need for merchandise which earlier had been imported and the Haavara accounts' available transfer funds.

Thus reported the "Jüdische Rundschau," November 12, 1935 :

"A large scale emigration is not possible without Kapitaltransfer. Inasmuch as this remains a subject of public debate in Palestinian circles one may assume that it has, in part, to do with an ignorance of the real circumstances/connections, and in part the influence of groups which for economic as well as others reasons wish to eliminate the Haavara as a competitor."

4.1.2 From the German position

The Haavara did not meet with unopposed agreement among Germans either. For it not only imposed a burden on the foreign-exchange currency market but the political situation as well. Hans Döhle, the German Consul General at Jerusalem, emphasized in a study dated March 22, 1937, that the German government, under the terms of Haavara, downgraded all considerations which in all other countries applied for the maintenance of German interests, and did so – in Palestine – to advance Jewish emigration from Germany and the settlement of those Jews in Palestine. The strengthening of the Jewish economy, made possibly by the ease of transferring German-Jewish industrial enterprises to Palestine, claimed Herr Döhle, would in time work on the world market against Germany. And, he emphasized, ". . . the enmity of the Palestinian Jews against the German shows at any given opportunity."

Great Britain, too, felt disadvantaged by the imports and launched newspaper attacks against Germany.

The Haavara arrangement carried the following negative factors, according to Consul Döhle:

1. Loss of foreign currency on account of exports not paid for with foreign currency;
2. The creation of a German-Jewish economy strengthened the anti-German Jewish influence in Palestine.
3. Limiting the administration of German exports to Palestine to the Jewish Agency disregarded other German sales initiatives.
4. Bad blood among the native Arabic and German traders who had to conduct their export/import business with Germany via the Jewish Agency.
5. Frustration among the British colonial powers who felt threatened by the German economic competition.

Consul Döhle's skeptical account was not unjustified, considering that he had been a constant witness of daily local anti-German demonstrations throughout the land that owed so much to the German immigrants. Palestine was like an animal that bites the hand which feeds it. And the hostile attitude of the Palestinian Jews toward Germany expressed itself on many levels. For example, at a Purim festival (see attached Notes for Purim) Germany was shown as a fire-breathing, venomous green dragon covered with swastikas; an attached sign demanded the "Tozeret-Haarez" trade protection and a boycott of German imports, as reported in "Der Angriff," October 1, 1934.

Adolf Hitler, in spite of all those thoughts and events, declared that an abandonment of the Haavara agreement was out of the question and that the emigration of the Jews must be promoted by all means.

Haavara capital transfers – by ways of neutral countries – continued even after the outbreak of the Second World War and ceased only as late as December 1941, when the United States entered the war.

The Haavara accounts in Germany were maintained by two Jewish banks, Warburg of Hamburg and Wassermann of Berlin. Early in the war the accounts were frozen because they did then amount to "Feindvermögen", that is technically property belonging to the enemy. Following the end of the war, 1945, these accounts still existed and were available to the rightful owners.

5. Emigration and the "SS"

Paradoxically it was exactly the SS which – next to the Reich's Ministry for Economics – advanced and supported the Jewish emigration. From the very beginning the SS had sought to influence German policies regarding the Jews. It recommended a mass emigration but simultaneously cautioned not to pressure those Jews who thought of themselves primarily as Germans and only secondarily as Jews. Among those one had to awaken first a Jewish consciousness and identity; this had to happen through the support of Jewish cultural institutions. Only a Jew who had first become conscious of his separate identity would be willing to leave Germany for a future Jewish homeland.

All auspices of promotion, care and protection which the SS subsequently provided for Jewish institutions followed that logic. As strange as it may sound today, the Gestapo addresses were the first to which Jews turned when they felt disadvantaged or abused by ordinary German officialdom. Thus, when in the course of the Reich's Crystal Night, November 1938, the Jewish emigration offices at the

Berlin Meinekestrasse were damaged, it was the SS which promptly dispatched cleanup crews and did as much as possible to return that office to operational status. A propaganda pamphlet advocating emigration to Palestine was composed by a later "Judenreferent der SS", Leopold Edler von Mildenstein, and published in Goebbels' newspaper "Der Angriff" in several installments between September 26th and October 9th, 1934, under the title "A Nazi visits Palestine". Mildenstein had spent half a year there and his report, vividly and convincingly written, renders a fascinating picture about the conditions in the erstwhile British trust territory and the then existing political currents. Mildenstein used the pseudonym "Lim", the first three letters of his name read in the Hebrew order from right to left.

Meanwhile, SS and Gestapo partook in the maintenance and financing of training camps which Zionist organizations had established all over Germany. There young Jews acquiring agricultural and craftsmen's skills were prepared for a very different life in Palestine. In part, the SS even provided land for the establishment of such camps. Francis R. Nicosia, in "The Third Reich and the Palestine Question," Austin 1985, shows a location map of some forty institutions which could be found all over the Reich from the Gut Lobitten estate in East Prussia, and the Danish border district of Flensburg, to the Gut Winkelhof estate near the Swiss border.

Following the Anschluss such training camps were also established in Austria. Adolf Eichmann, the director of the SS main office for Jewish emigration in Vienna, was one of the major sponsors. He also collaborated effectively with the (parent organization of the later) Mossad. Indeed, at times SS specialists escorted Jewish groups across borders and took care of their unimpeded passage.

Hannah Arendt expressed the opinion that Eichmann's argument at the Jerusalem tribunal, 1960, claiming that he had saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of Jews, does in fact agree with the truth though his statement was met with the laughter of derision at that court.

6. The Rublee-Wohlthat Agreement

The Haavara Agreement concerned itself exclusively with the emigration to Palestine. The second official regulative paper, the Rublee-Wohlthat agreement, concerned itself with the emigration to other countries and therefore the greater number of Jews. Similar to the Palestine requisites all those countries demanded proof of financial independence which, in turn, made emigration more difficult, for the German Reichbank was compelled to provide more foreign currency which was already in short supply. To top it all, many countries now refused to accept further Jewish immigration.

This problem was the subject of an international conference for refugees which deliberated at the French spa Evian-les-Bains along the shore of Lake Geneva, summer 1938. Delegates from 32 countries met July 6 to 17 at the Hotel Royal for shared discussions about various ways of aiding the German Jews. All participants were united in their condemnation of the prevailing German government anti-semitism. They expressed compassion for the poor Jews who were driven from their home-country and affirmed resolutions stating the absolute necessity to find places where those Jews could be resettled. However, each and every speaker emphasized that it so happened that his own country was not in the position to accept a significant number of immigrants.

The only tangible result of that conference was, finally, the establishment of an "Interstate Committee" with headquarters in London. George Rublee, an attorney from Washington, became its president.

Rublee searched from the very beginning for contacts with the German government. His efforts were supported by the German ambassador in London, Herbert von Dirksen, as well as Ernst Woerman, chief of the political department of the Foreign Office. Ernst von Weizsäcker, then a "Staatssekretär" in that Foreign Office and father of a later President of the German Federal Republic, sabotaged for months on end all such efforts. About that power-play extensive files survived in the official German records.

Weizsäcker had Rublee informed that he should entertain no hopes whatever for any collaboration from the German side. He rejected repeatedly the attempts of other diplomats who tried to introduce Rublee to German authorities. He even prohibited the German embassy at London from responding to Rublee or mentioning his efforts in their reports. At the British embassy, Berlin, Herr von Weizsäcker inquired whether or not Rublee was an "Aryan" in the first place. When Rublee offered to go to Berlin, he rudely rejected that offer because – according to his point of view – it had no value.

Eventually Hitler learned about von Weizsäcker's intrigues and without much ado he asked Reichsbankpräsident von Schacht to develop a financing plan which made it possible for all Jews, who were still in Germany to emigrate. Schacht responded and Hitler dispatched him to London, mid-December 1938, to meet Rublee and other concerned individuals. After the war Herr von Schacht made it appear as if the plan and his journey to London had been his idea and it had taken some trouble to convince Hitler to agree. Still existing documentation speaks differently.

In any case, the above-mentioned Interstate Committee accepted the Schacht plan as a foundation for further discussion and in January Rublee was invited to go to Berlin, circumventing Herr von Weizsäcker and Ribbentrop's Ausenministerium. In Berlin, Rublee continued to negotiate with Schacht and then with Göring's Ministerialdirektor Helmut Wohltat. [Note: Göring was plenipotentiary of the second Four Years Plan with extensive executive powers.] This led within four weeks to the Rublee-Wohltat treaty.

The basic ideas of this treaty were as follows -

1. There shall be an international trust fund to which 25% of all German Jewish estate/ property (Vermögen) shall be transferred.
2. Foreign, non-German creditors shall advance funds to aid the emigrants, rendering credits which the Reichs government would repay over a period of twenty years in foreign valuta, hard currency. Accordingly immigrants will not only have the required "Entry Money" but additional capital required for a productive resettlement. 150,000 skilled/productive Jews would be a vanguard, their families to follow afterward. All Jews above the age of 45 may remain in Germany and there shall be no further discriminations against them. All restrictions regarding their employment and housing shall be eliminated.

The text of the memorandum of this agreement between Rublee and Wohlfahrt was officially called a

"treaty." It was actually composed by Rublee after his return to London and then forwarded to Wohlfahrt. Herr von Weizsäcker, however, refused to recognize the treaty because the Foreign Office had not been a party of those arrangements, ("Pagraphierung von Vereinbarungen mit Mr. Rublee kommt nicht in Betracht".) which was exactly of his own doing.

It was Hermann Göring who subsequently submitted the text to Adolf Hitler, and Hitler approved the treaty without further ado.

Rublee, on the other hand, submitted the text to that international commission of representatives from thirty countries. The commission then requested Rublee to inform Wohlthat that they had acknowledged the agreement with interest and would do whatever possible to render assistance to Jews emigrating from Germany, and do so on the basis of that treaty. In real life, however, that assistance looked quite differently, but not on account of any German initiatives.

Upon the successful conclusion of the negotiations, Mr. Rublee, now a gentleman 72 years of age, retired from his office as the director of the Interstate Committee. In England a finance company with a starting capital of \$1,000.000.- was launched, and in the United States various Jewish bankers committed themselves to raising sufficient funds to assure the realization of all resettlement projects. Sir Herbert Emerson, the new director of the Interstate Committee, was convinced that the Jewish emigration was secured and would be finished within the next three to five years.

In January 1939 the "Reichszentrale für die Auswanderung der Juden" opened in Berlin. This central office for the emigration of the Jews based its activities on the Rublee-Wohlthat treaty arrangements which had now, at least, eliminated earlier existing barriers.

Later Mr. Rublee spoke about those days:

"The Germans fulfilled all their obligations during the months which followed my departure from Germany and up to the outbreak of the war there were few – if any – persecutions of the Jews. Some left and those who remained behind enjoyed an easier life. I received a good number of letters from Germany in which Jewish people expressed their gratitude for the work I had done."

The outbreak of the war greatly diminished the chances of emigrants to find a new home-country. Additionally, the British naval blockade shut down German exit-ports and the Palestine immigration had been significantly reduced on account of earlier restrictions imposed by the British. New exit routes via Turkey and Greece evolved. The "Jüdische Nachrichtenblatt" reported in its editions of June 18 and 24, 1940 on a venturesome journey which led via Yokohama to America. A map illustrated the long way from Berlin to Warsaw – Tschita – China -Yokohama – San Francisco/Los Angeles. And from there to destinations either in the United States or Latin America. Following the occupation of France, the German government offered emigrants with a valid entry visa secure regular commercial transportation to ports in Spain and Portugal where they could board regular merchant marine ships of a neutral country, including the United States.

The fact that emigration, though on a much smaller scale, did continue after the outbreak of the war is due to three major factors:

1. International Jewish connections which in many cases applied considerable ingenuity and fantasy
2. The inclination of German authorities to continue the good work and greatly
3. A task-force which eventually would serve quite different assignments, namely the "Mossad le Aliyah Bet".

7. The Mossad and the Illegal Immigration

"Mossad le Aliyah Bet" translates literally as "office for the second immigration," and covered in fact the illegal immigration to Palestine. Out of this developed later the Mossad secret state police maintained by the modern state of Israel. The original office was founded by Palestinian Jews in Paris, back in 1937. It grew out of the conceived necessity to counter British- Palestine-policies, for the English issued only a limited number of entry permits, and surely considerably fewer than the number of Jews who wished to settle in Palestine.

Potential immigrants were grouped into specific categories, considering their personal wealth and position/skills, and entry visa were issued according to desirability. If a person with some tough luck belonged to a category which according to the British Mandate administration was not desirable, that person could not count on an entry visa.

Between 1932 and 1945 the following immigration categories applied:

- A-1: Persons with 1,000 Palestinian Pounds own capital
- A-2: Educated people with 500 Pounds, to the extent the overall economic situation assures them a position according to the immigration authorities' judgment
- A-3: Craftsmen/artisans showing a minimum of 250 Pounds
- A-4: Retirees with a minimum income of 5 Pounds a month
- A-5: Persons of special, rare skill or knowledge with at least 500 Pounds of their own

Category B: Persons with assured means of support

- B-1: Orphans under the age of 16 whose support was guaranteed by a public institution
- B-2: Persons engaged in a religious calling/profession
- B-3: Students and pupils whose support had been assured until they completed their education.

Category C were workers/employable labor between the age eighteen to thirty-five. The number of visa was determined twice a year by the Palestine British Mandate government.

Category D were wives, children and parents of Jews dwelling in Palestine, to the extent that the sponsor could support them.

"Jugendaliya" was a special category for young people between the ages of fifteen and seventeen.

One can understand that such cataloging of potential immigrants according to their utility enraged the Jewish leadership. This the more so since the Palestine Mandate, dated July 24, 1922, providing for an easing and support of Jewish immigration, though under proper consideration of other minorities'

rights. Subsequently they sought to circumvent British regulations and to organize their own ways of immigration, which according to British understandings were simply illegal.

Notably, those British rules were further tightened May 17, 1939. However, starting in 1937, the Mossad had opened offices in many European countries; the Berlin office established contacts with the SS and Gestapo and a close collaboration developed. Corresponding with their fundamental attitude toward Jewish emigration, SS and Gestapo often assisted the Mossad agents.- In December 1938 the Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler ordered the release of all Jewish concentration camp inmates who wished to prepare for emigration. Mossad agents were permitted to recruit in the camps a following among those who were willing to make a run for Palestine aboard chartered ships.

[Translator's note: In those days there were only three KZ in Germany, Dachau, Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen, with a total inmate population of -30,000 people; among them German Jews were a distinct minute minority; most inmates were either "asocials" or political dissenters.]

To the extent Pino, the Mossad operative, could guarantee the Gestapo an immediate emigration, he could effect the release of many young Jews. A paper, signed by him, was sufficient to prompt their discharge.

Inasmuch as that Palestine route was not officially recognized, the emigrants needed transit visa and related documentation. The Gestapo assisted in providing the required cover as well as the charter of suitable ships plus payment for services rendered. Subsequently, in 1939, many ships carried thousands of immigrants illegally from Europe to Palestine.

[Translator's note: This became eventually known as "Jew dumping", a term not used by Ms. Weckert.]

The Gestapo-Mossad collaboration did not end with the outbreak of the war but increased in some areas. Immigration papers to phony destinations were issued and the emigrants drilled not to reveal their true destination. This Mossad action was made possible by the SS/Gestapo and unofficial cooperation of other German offices. The departure of some 10,000 emigrants from German ports was scheduled for the summer of '39. But the war started before the ships could leave those ports and the Royal Navy blocked all exit routes.

8. Suggestions advanced by the "Irgun"

This plan (of moving 10,000 Jews from German held ports to Palestine) was reconsidered by Abraham Stern, then one of the leaders of the "Irgun", the Jewish anti-British resistance group and freedom fighters (see footnote/Anmerkungen). He proposed to the Germans the Irgun's help and assistance in their fight against England and suggested, as the German show of good will, the immediate transshipment of 10,000 Jews in spite of the ongoing war, summer 1941. He expressed the opinion that the German ships were well in the positions to get through the British blockade and move the immigrants to the shores of Palestine. Once they had reached that point, the British could not return them.

[Translator's note: As fantastic as it may seem today, this dare-devil plan may not have been overly absurd. In summer '41 the Wehrmacht won great battles against the Red Army and Rommel's Afrika

Korps was equally advancing. The German and allied Italian forces were mostly supplied by ships spiting the Royal Navy. Alas, at a most unfortunate moment two Italian tankers carrying fuel for Rommel's panzers were sunk by the Navy, but that was due to British intelligence work and Italian treachery which in fact delivered those tankers to their destruction. Had the tankers reached Libya and the gasoline Rommel's Korps, Egypt was for the taking and an Irgun uprising in Palestine – where the Irgun & Co. were already tying down some 30,000 British combat soldiers – would have put the whole Middle East plus all its oil under German control. The Arabs, on the other hand, had sided in two world wars against Germany and German fascination was bound to Ancient Egypt and the cradles of civilization which once existed between Nile and the two-river-country Mesopotamia, and the stories of Harun-el-Raschid and "1001 Nights", but not the Arab'Massenmenschen of our time.]

Furthermore, the "Jew-dumping fleet" could have gathered in Greek waters, under German control, as well as Turkish waters, for the Turks were as German-friendly as they were on guard against the assuming neo-roman Italians. From the northern Mediterranean shoreline the ships could have made it in a long-night's run to Palestine.- Furthermore, a late friend of mine piloted one of the giant Blohm & Voss flying boats of the Luftwaffe there and then, and those giants could have, in part at least, amounted to the "on the wings of eagle you shall return" prophecy.

Finally, the attention of interested readers is invited to the "Struma" story, a tightly packed aged freighter carrying potential Jewish immigrants bound from Constanta to Palestine, back in 1942. She had reached Istanbul where British authorities made it clear that she will never make it to Palestine and compelled the Turks to return her to her Roumanian home-port, Lacking escort, the "Struma" was sunk by a Soviet submarine and not, as touted all over the world after the war, torpedoed by the Roumanians or SS-hirelings.)

It seems questionable whether the above Stern proposals had indeed reached the proper address in Berlin, for their negotiators were later captured in Syria. In any case, in Berlin it may have been out of the question to run a convoy with women and children across the western Mediterranean Sea and to get them unharmed to Palestine. For such action the German government would not have assumed responsibility.

However, already in a writing dated January '41, that is to say half a year before the above reported event, the Irgun approached the German government and in a letter suggested to fight with the Germans against England in Palestine and, by means of its network of agents, in other countries as well.

For this participation the Irgun demanded "recognition of the national aspiration of the Israelite Freedom Movement on the part of the German Reich's government, the creation of a Jewish brigade, military organization of training of the Jewish manpower in Europe under the auspices and leadership of the National Military Organization/Irgun Zewai Leumi, and their participation in combat actions aimed at the conquest of Palestine, if such a combat area should develop.

[Translator's note: A year later Rommel had indeed crossed into Egypt from Libya. But another year later, at El Alamein, British intelligence defeated German armor, and it was all over.]

The above letter must have been dispatched at the same time when two Stern agents were negotiating

with Werner Otto von Hentig who early 1941 had journeyed on German government business to Beirut, then a French Mandate still loyal to the government of Marshal Petain and not yet occupied by British forces. His "talks" must have been similar in content to that letter, for Hentig writes about it as follows:

"In Beirut I took quarters at the Hotel Monopol . . .

"The oddest delegation came from Palestine proper. Its leader, a young officer-type man of excellent appearance, proposed collaboration with the Nationalsozialisten against their own folks, and foremost the orthodox Zionists, if Hitler would guarantee/affirm the full independence of a Jewish state in Palestine."

"To that Jewish delegation I could only reply that their offer of an alliance, on account of their conditions and in consideration of our Arabian friends as well as our own basic principles , could certainly never be accepted."

This letter of the Irgun, composed in the German Language, certainly made it to Berlin. A German response, if there was one, the available records do not show.

9. Conclusion

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTINUED even after the end of the war, 1945, and until the founding of the modern state of Israel, because the British continued to keep the Palestinian borders closed to Jewish immigration. However, in the course of the ten years between 1938 and 1948 far more than one hundred thousand immigrated to Palestine illegally. The total number of those who left Germany (and Austria) after 1933 cannot be determined statistically because neither the concerned emigration nor immigration offices followed proper accounting procedures. Estimates run between 200,000 and 507,000, a discrepancy which shows the trustworthiness of those figures.

All those numbers – with one exception – are based on conjectures based on different groups and times. To repeat, statistical data embracing all emigration simply does not exist. And some authors classify "Germany" as the Reich within the borders of 1937, others include Austria. Still others limit their data to the time 1933-1939, though emigration continued after the start of the war and the full-scale illegal emigration to Palestine was not launched until 1938.

There is only one number which is based on official German documents, and this number is generally rejected because it seems too high. Curiously, this number is contained in one document which otherwise is accepted as one of highest authority because with it the German plan for a scheduled destruction of Jewry is contained, namely – the "Wannseeprotokoll". All data of this document are considered trustworthy and accurate, except the emigration data.

On page 4 of that protocol it stated that "since the Machtübernahme , January 30, 1933, until the accounting day, October 31, 1941, a total of about 537,000 Jews had been brought to emigration:

360,000 from within the old borders, the Altreich," starting 1/30/33
147,000 from Austria, the Ostmark, starting 3/15/38
30,000 from Bohemia/Moravia, the Protektorat, starting 3/15/39

We shall not discuss the problems of the Wannsee-protokoll's historical genuineness and validity, which is earnestly questioned, but point out that contemporary historiographers arbitrarily determine which part of a document must be accepted as trustworthy and correct, and which portion must be rejected as unbelievable. In regard to our subject the fact remains that accurate figures dealing with the emigration simply are not available, or in fact do not exist. However, about 1/4 to 1/3 of the emigrants went to Palestine, 1/3 to other European countries and all the others went overseas, mostly North and South America.

The Haavara, as we reported earlier, is occasionally mentioned in technical non-fiction literature, rarely by the public information media. The Rublee-Wohlthat treaty is practically unknown. On the other hand, the great majority of Germans are certainly well indoctrinated about the Holocaust; about an emigration plan which permitted the German Jews to leave the country without much trouble very few know. This is apparently one of the "volkspädagogisch unerwünschten Wahrheiten," as the Swiss Professor Walther Hofer once formulated it, speaking of that unwanted factual truth which for the people's sake must be suppressed.

However, it remains the task of the historian to bring truth to the forefront, to move out of darkness to bright daylight a knowledge about what had really happened in those days.

Attachment

Basic Outline of the proposal advanced by the National Military Organization "Irgun Zewai Leumi" regarding the solution of the Jewish Question in Europe and a participation of the N.M.O./Irgun in the war as an ally of Germany.

Responsible leaders of the national-socialistic Germany repeatedly emphasized in their remarks and public speeches that the restructuring of Europe includes a radical solution of the Jewish Question, "a Europe free of Jews", by means of evacuation.

The evacuation of the Jewish masses from Europe is a precondition to the solution of the Jewish Question, and is solely possible and "endgültig" – please see translator's note at the end of this chapter – by means of a transfer of those masses to the homeland of the Jewish people which is in Palestine, and the creation of a Jewish state within its historical borders.

The N.M.O./Irgun, fully aware of the positive attitude of the German Reichsregierung's policy in regard to Zionist activities inside Germany, and equally informed about the Zionist immigration plans, held the opinion that:

1. a shared interest (community of interests) in matters concerning the restructuring of Europe according to German concepts and the true national aspiration of the Jewish people, represented by the N.M.O./Irgun, may well exist;
2. co-operation between the new Germany and a reborn, folkish-national Hebrew nation would be possible and
3. the recreation of the historical Jewish state on a national and totalitarian basis, treaty connected

with Germany and thus strengthening Germany's own position in the future Middle East.

[Translator's note: "Der Judenstaat als ein Vorposten Europas", a Jewish state as the vanguard of Europe, was a thought that had emerged during the time of Kaiser Wilhelm II. The German Jews, alas, thought of this as a home-state not for them but the oppressed masses of the East etc. – for whom they felt compassion but no shared folkishness.]

Assuming the above consideration as a starting point, the N.M.O./Irgun, representing the national aspirations of the Israelite freedom movement, approached the German Reich's government with the offer to partake in the war on the side of Germany.

This offer of the N.M.O./Irgun – whose activities in the military, political and information realm would extend to areas outside Palestine after a period of organizational preparations – would be bound to the military training and organization of the Jewish manpower of Europe under its own leadership and its active participation in combat action if a front suitable for the conquest of Palestine should develop.

The indirect participation of the Israelite Freedom Movement in the restructuring of Europe, foremost in conjunction of a positive-radical solution to the Jewish Problem but under consideration of the enumerated aspiration of the Jewish people, would in the eyes of all mankind greatly enhance the moral standing of the New Order. [See additional text under "Notes/Anmerkungen"]

This cooperative expression of the Israelite Freedom Movement would also be in line with the last speeches of the German Reich's chancellor in which Herr Hitler emphasized that he would engage any combination and coalition necessary to isolate and defeat England.

A brief overview of the origin, nature and activity of the N.M.O./Irgun in Palestine

The N.M.O./Irgun evolved, in part, from the Jewish Home Protection [German "Selbstschutz", the American term "vigilante" seems to fit best] and the New Zionist's Revisionists Movement, with which the H.M.O./Irgun had been loosely connected until the death of Herr V. Jabotinsky. However, the pro-English position of the Revisionist Movement rendered a renewal of this union impossible and led to separation.

The purpose of the N.M.O./Irgun was the building of a Jewish state within its historical borders.

The N.M.O./Irgun rejected the suggestion of a colonializing slow infiltration as the only means of retaking the fatherland and did so in opposition to all other Zionist currents; instead it raised the banner of combat and sacrifice as the only true way to reconquer and liberate Palestine. Due to its own militant character and anti-English position, and the corresponding ongoing persecution imparted by the English colonial administration, the N.M.O./Irgun had been compelled to go underground in its political activities as well as the military training of its members.

Its partisans' actions were launched as early as autumn 1936, and following the publication of the English White Book (restricting further immigration) it increased its underground terrorist activities and sabotage against British properties in the summer of 1939. Such actions, as well as the secret daily radio broadcasts from Palestine, had been registered and editorialized by the world information media.

Until the outbreak of the war, independent political N.M.O./Irgun offices were in Warsaw, Paris, London, Geneva and New York. Foremost, the Warsaw office concentrated on the organization of the national-zionistic youth and maintained close contacts with the Jewish masses which – especially in Poland – embraced with ardor the combative spirit of the N.M.O./Irgun and sought to support it by many means. Two N.M.O./Irgun newspapers were published in Warsaw, the "Jerozalima wseljona" and the German language "Die Tat".

The Warsaw office also maintained close contacts with the erstwhile Polish government and its military circles which met the M.N.O./Irgun endeavors with the greatest interest and understanding. Thus selected groups of N.M.O./Irgun members traveled 1939 to Poland where their military training was further advanced by Polish officers in Polish military installations. Records of those negotiations between the N.M.O./Irgun and the Polish government, conducted in Warsaw for the purpose of activating assistance, should be found easily in the archives of the last Polish government which ceased at the outbreak of the war.

In its weltanschauung and structure the N.M.O. resembles the present totalitarian movements of Europe. Neither the extremely sharp counter-measures of the English administration, nor those of the Arabs, nor the arguments of the Jewish socialists could or did paralyze or severely impair the combat capacity of the group.

Notes

This text is a free but textually correct translation of the original German "Die Auswanderung der Juden aus dem Dritten Reich" as published in "KRITIK", ISBN 3-88037-068-0, Kritik-Folge 88," Copyright by Ingrid Weckert, Nordwind Verlag, Molevey 12," DK – Kollund, Denmark. Rights for the American-English translation and edition granted by the author, Ms. Ingrid Weckert, 1996. Ms. Ingrid Weckert's original German text contains 24 notes/Anmerkungen. The following may be of interest to the general American reader:

Page 2: This is an error. The president of the first German parliament meeting at the Frankfurt Paulskirche church was Heinrich Freiherr von Gagern, a scion of old nobility from Rügen, Pomerania, whose family roots can be traced back to the 13th Century. Possibly, the writer of the article was victim of an error and actually meant Martin von Simson, a baptized Jew, who in 1871 was the first president of the new Reichstag of the recently founded Second German Reich, Otto von Bismarck serving as Reich's chancellor.

Page 15, Purim: The biblical Book of Esther relates an event for which no historical data exist. Accord to the story, Esther, the Jewish wife of the Persian king, had learned that there existed a plan to exterminate all the Jews of the Empire, and the court officer Haman was in charge of its execution. Artaxerxes, the Persian king, was in the beginning inclined to consent. Then Esther, in order to save her people, resorted to a ruse. – During a court festival she seduced Haman but arranged for the king to catch them in the act. She then lamented that Haman had tried to rape her. The enraged king ordered that Haman be hanged. Esther, persuaded the king to permit the Jews living in the Persian empire to

avenge themselves against their perceived enemies.

[Translator's note: The above is a very sloppy reading/interpretation of the biblical text. Though the story is fiction, composed about 170 B.C. when the Maccabees fought for the reestablishment of a Jewish state, the storyline relates court intrigues and when the antagonist Haman was caught by the king lying on Esther's couch, he was pleading for his life for he feared justly that his goose had been cooked. For details check Esther VII 6-8. In any case, this is the only book of Holy Scripture in which God is not mentioned, not even the word "God," and the ancient rabbis, when they determined what is and what is not Scripture, intended to kick Esther out. But the Esther story was already so deeply implanted in the people's mind that it had become, like The Holocaust in our time, an element of the Jewish religion.]

The Bible reports that in two days 75,000 human beings were murdered by the Jews. Alas, the story has no historical basis. Preuss/Berger in their theological textbook "Bibelkunde", pg. 118, remark:

"In the Esther story Jewry found that wish fulfillment which in reality did not exist. In memory of this event that had never happened – and even in the story nothing had happened to the Jews in the first place – the Esther festival evolved and is celebrated in a carnival fashion to this day."

Page 23: The complete name reads "Irgun Zewai Leumi", that is "National Military Organization". For that matter, already in September 1940 did Abraham Stern divorce himself from the original "Irgun" and launch his own group "Lechi", that is "Lochamei Cherut Israel" which translates as "Fighters for the Freedom of Israel". Nevertheless, during the first few months following that separation, he still presented himself as a representative of the legitimate/regular "Irgun".

Page 28: This is an essential element of a very complex issue. Therefore, to avoid easily possible distortion, the translator will first render the German text and then his translation.

"Dieser sich kompliziert lesende Satz heisst mit klaren Worten: Die deutsche Judenpolitik, d.h. die Ausweisung der Juden aus Deutschland, ist möglicherweise in den Augen der Welt unmoralisch. Sie gewänne aber an moralischer Gerechtigkeit, wenn Dutch die Ausweisung ein Judenstaat entstehen würde. Der Zweck heiligt die Mittel, oder: Was den Deutschen eigentlich nicht erlaubt wäre, ist für die jüdischen Nationalisten eine willkommende Unterstützung ihres Kampfes and damit gerechtfertigt."

Translated: "This hard to read sentence expresses with clear words: The German Anti-Jewish policy, that is the expulsion of the Jews from Germany, may in the eyes of world appear to be immoral. It would obtain moral justification if this expulsion would lead to the creation of a Jewish state. The end justifies the means. Or, what is actually not permissible for Germans is to the Jewish nationalists a welcome support of their own struggle and is therefore justified."

Page 27: about the word "endgültig"/final, a word from the translator:

"Endlösung" as well as "endgültig" are certainly the buzz-words most closely related to "Holocaust". The idea of an "engültige Endlösung der Judenfrage" was well known to the translator when he was still a youngster in Berlin. He related it then with the "Blutapfelsinen", those fantastic Jaffa-Oranges with the thick red juice and other fruits grown by Jews in Palestine, produced by a people returned to

the land, a people showing that they can be so much more than peddlers and bankers. I remember distinctly a sentence spoken by one of my teachers, and this fellow turned out to be an SS-officer, "We must provide for the Jews to return to their homeland, we must force them to live in a nation-state of their own that they may commit the same dumb mistakes all other nation-states make and stop setting themselves up as our teachers in morality."

The oddity in the working of an old man's mind: He may forget his social security number, his telephone number, more numbers, his wife's birthday, but what stays undead down there, deep down in that gray mass, is some absolutely irrelevant trivia that somehow impacted his life, like Jaffa blood-oranges perhaps, and lyrics of a fairy-tale opera written by a Herr Schickaneder for Mozart's majestic Magic Flute. Crazy, isn't it?

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How Many Jews Died in the German Concentration Camps?

Carl O. Nordling

It is well known that the majority of those who were interned in the German concentration camps during part of the Second World War did not return to their homes after liberation. Most of these people were Jewish. It has been a common belief that about six million Jews died in these camps, intentionally killed in accordance with a grand program for the physical extermination of the entire Jewish population of Europe. Most laymen presume that this was proven by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg in 1946. The international court did not prove anything of the sort, however, and historians who have dealt with contemporary German or Jewish history have long since modified this description in various degrees.

Recently, new light has been shed on Jewish population loss in the Second World War by the German Walter N. Sanning in his book *The Dissolution of East European Jewry*. This is an investigation of twentieth-century Jewish demography and migration, done with carefulness and objectivity. It is based on more than 50 publications containing statistical population data on Jews in various countries, including migrations, fertility, mortality etc. Sanning's most quoted source is, however, Gerald Reitlinger's book *The Final Solution*, written in the 1950's. (One could say with some justice that Reitlinger laid the foundation for Sanning's work.) The great majority of statistical data used by Sanning is taken from the *American Jewish Year Book* (various issues), the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* (1971) and the *Universal Jewish Encyclopedia* (1943). As far as I can judge, Sanning's sources appear to be the best ones obtainable.

It has been said of Sanning's work that "not one in a thousand undergraduates could find fault with it" and that "only a few more graduates would be competent to identify its flaws and to convincingly question its credibility." [1] If that be the case, I feel more or less obliged to comment. I have spent three decades working professionally with the same kind of demographic complexes and processes, and therefore I regard myself as one of the few who would be competent to identify at least the grosser flaws and mistakes in a work of this kind. After a careful reading of Sanning's book, however, I have found no mistake or misconstruction of a type that would change its conclusions to any appreciable degree. Nor am I aware of any other serious criticism of Sanning's results or methods in the eight years that have elapsed since his book first appeared in German (as *Die Auflösung des osteuropäischen Judentums*). As a general appraisal, I would say that as far as the book deals with Jewish population losses within the German sphere of influence, it is the most reliable investigation done in the entire post-war period. This does not mean, of course, that it is guaranteed to be faultless, nor that it answers the question of how many Jews died in the German concentration camps.

Although nobody has been able to discover any faults, the book may of course contain such. Therefore, other methods should be used to check the reliability of the significant figures. Fortunately, I possess statistical material that lends itself to a check of some of Sanning's results. Furthermore, Sanning's and

my own material, taken together and compared with still a few other pieces of statistical information, might enable us to form a fairly reliable answer to the question posed in the title of this article.

The statistical material at my disposal consists of data concerning 722 *identified* European Jews from the German sphere of influence. The biographies of all these 722 are to be found in the *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, and they can be regarded as a representative sample of Jews of a certain level of culture in the late 1930's. Persons of old age are overrepresented in the group, however, and none of the 722 was born later than 1909 (according to the principle of selection that I decided upon). This should be kept in mind, since it appears that emigration was much less frequent among those born before 1880 than among the younger people. And, of course, mortality was much higher among the older group than among the rest of the population. It is also significant that a great number of distinguished Jews had already emigrated before 1938 and were therefore unable to take part in the more general emigration that seems to have occurred in the years 1939 to 1941. Distinguished Jews presumably had more foreign contacts and perhaps realized the danger of impending persecutions earlier than others. Therefore, my group of identified Jews of 1938 probably includes a relatively high proportion of persons who were prone to stay where they were, even under adverse conditions. A statistical survey of the fates of all these 722 Jews has been published in *The Journal of Historical Review*, Vol. 10, No. 2 (Summer 1990).

Sanning has used the year 1939 as one of his "stop lines," and for this year he has found 5,044,000 Jews present in the area under consideration. [2] By means of a series of complex calculations he is able to demonstrate that no less than about 2,200,000 Jews emigrated from the area in the period between the German attacks on Poland and on the Soviet Union (that is, 1939-41). In other words, 44% of the Jewish population in what became the German sphere of influence would have left the danger zone before the real danger materialized. Although this figure took me by surprise, I cannot find that Sanning has erred on this point. Comparison with the group of 722 identified Jews shows that among them 33% (of those present in 1939) emigrated before the end of 1941. (See Table 1.)

The cause of the difference between 44% and 33% is easily explained by considering the special make-up of my sample group. For instance, if we look at the identified Jews born 1880-1909 and consider the whole period from 1938 to 1944, we find that no less than 51% emigrated. Those born after 1909 (that is, about half the population) may have been even more prone to emigrate. Besides, Jews who were not renowned or in the public sector certainly had possibilities (in many cases) to change their ethnic affiliation and (in some cases) even their names and identities. By such means ordinary Jews could slip away more easily than well-known people.

Evidently, we have to consider Sanning's number of 2,847,000 Jews present in the German sphere of influence in June 1941 as the best estimate so far (certainly with margins of error). This figure will therefore be used as the base for the following comparison. With the aid of Table 1, we are now going to compare the percentages of certain significant subgroups.

Fortunately for our purposes, the bureaucratic Germans carefully registered and numbered the detainees in the Auschwitz concentration camp and in the Theresienstadt ghetto. While the latter was solely inhabited by Jews, the former had a mixed clientele consisting of various persecuted groups of

people, such as Gypsies, conscientious objectors, homosexuals, vagrants, political adversaries and hard-boiled felons. Since it is commonly held that the Jews were by far the largest group, we will assume here that they made up 60% of all Auschwitz detainees. This granted, we find that 8.6% of all the available Jews (the "basic" group) were registered, sooner or later, in the Auschwitz camp. In many cases this happened after a previous stay at Theresienstadt. The corresponding figure for the group of identified Jews is 8.5%. Pending the arbitrariness of the above-mentioned figure of 60%, no statistically significant difference can possibly be exposed in this case. According to the *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, 65% of the Auschwitz detainees were eventually recorded as having died within the camp, and another 20% are supposed to have died after transfer to satellite camps or during the final evacuation of the camp proper (that is, Auschwitz and Birkenau). The total number of missing Auschwitz detainees would thus be 207,000, or 7.3% of the "basic" number. This may be compared with the confirmed proportion of 7.6% missing out of the "basic" number of identified Jews. (See Table 1.)

From the book on Theresienstadt by H.G. Adler we learn that 141,000 were registered as inhabitants, or internees, of this German-created Jewish town in Bohemia. [3] This number equals 5.0% of the "basic" number, which corresponds perfectly with the fact that 5.0% of the identified Jews (of 1941) were also brought to Theresienstadt. The majority of the internees of this ghetto, however, were sent to Auschwitz (and are thus included in the above mentioned number of registered prisoners). This fate befell only a fourth of the identified inhabitants of the ghetto probably because these contained a higher proportion of so-called "prominent" Jews who were exempt from being moved to other camps. (All the Danish Jews were for some reason placed in this category.) The group of identified Jews also suffered a much lower death rate than the rest (31% each as against 63% among the ghetto remainers in each case). It follows that the percentage of survivors was much higher in the case of the identified Jews than among the inhabitants in general.

There is hardly any reason to contest the accuracy of the camp registration numbers quoted above. If they are correct, it follows that the "basic" number of 2,847,000 Jews present in June 1941 must also be fairly accurate. This is so because we know from the sample of identified persons what percentages of camp detainees are to be expected, and we have found percentages that fit in with these expectations.

Those who died in Auschwitz and Theresienstadt represent a little less than half the total loss in all the German concentration camps as far as the identified Jews are concerned. As for the Jewish population in general, the total number of camp deaths would be contained within Sanning's category "Jews missing in the German sphere of influence." This number of "missing" turns out to be 304,000, according to Sanning's primary method of calculating. As a check, Sanning has used another method as well. This secondary calculation results in a number of 330,000 missing out of a "basic" number of 2,738,000 (within a somewhat narrower sphere of influence). The primary number of "missing" represents 10.7% of the "basic" number, the secondary 12.1% of the "basic" number. These percentages should be compared with 12.3% missing due to other causes than normal mortality among the group of identified Jews. At the first glance, this looks like a rather good agreement. But due to the coarse statistical methods used by Sanning, these figures can have "no claim to absolute certainty" - to use Sanning's own words. He says that the available data on population size, migration, flight and

deportation, fertility and mortality rates, mixed marriages and assimilation tendencies are often so vague that a slight variation in the calculation procedure might well change the result by several hundreds of thousands of persons in the "missing" category. Therefore, what Sanning really has achieved is only to show that the number of missing Jews at the end of the war in the German sphere must have been between, say, 150,000 and 500,000. The lower figure can be ruled out immediately on account of the number of registered deaths in Auschwitz and Theresienstadt. The best estimate seems to be the assumption that these deaths amounted to about 51% of all Jews missing from German concentration camps, in accordance with the proportion among the groups of identified Jews. This would mean approximately 470,000 missing altogether from the camps. Since about 50,000 would have died "naturally," according to the normal mortality rate, there would be some 420,000 "missing" from a statistical point of view. This is 14.7% of the "basic" number to be compared with 12.3% in the case of the identified Jews.

It may perhaps contribute to the check if something could be said about the number of survivors from the concentration camps. One man who should have known the number of Jewish detainees in the camps was SS leader Heinrich Himmler. Fortunately, a certain Jewish representative was in the position to interview him on this matter as late as April 1945. This was Mr. Norbert Masur from Sweden, who went to negotiate with Himmler about a possible liberation of imprisoned Jews. During these talks Himmler mentioned the number of Jews still alive in some of the camps: 25,000 in Theresienstadt, 20,000 in Ravensbrück, from 20,000 to 30,000 in Mauthausen, 50,000 in Bergen-Belsen and 6,000 in Buchenwald. Later information indicates that some of the figures were too high, and that the Buchenwald number was far too low. The sum was probably fairly correct. But Himmler intimated that 150,000 Auschwitz Jews should also be counted among the survivors. According to the SS leader, these would have been alive in the camp until its evacuation. This may be fairly true, but apparently Himmler had no count of survivors after the evacuation, and he seems to have had no idea of what had happened to the evacuees. We know from other sources that only a minority of them survived the transport in open railroad cars in the bitterly cold winter, perhaps about 30,000 to 50,000. Then there were many other camps with Jewish detainees, not mentioned by Himmler, and it seems reasonable to assume some 30,000 or 40,000 survivors among them. That would mean around about 200,000 Jewish survivors from all the German concentration camps. A total mortality of 70% among the Jewish detainees would follow from these assumptions. This is a very high figure from other points of view. The mortality in the corresponding group of identified Jews was "only" 75%, although they were much older than inmates in general and should have been much more prone to die under the conditions. Perhaps we have estimated somewhat too high a number of deaths and/or a little too low a number of survivors, after all.

In any case, the number of Jews missing in the German sphere turns out to be very far from the "established" figure of six million. Shouldn't we expect some cardinal error in the whole reasoning just because of this great discrepancy? Certainly, some further checking seems required. But first, let us remember that we have considered here only the number of Jews who died in the German concentration camps, not all the European Jews who died in the war. Among the 5,500,000 Jews in the Soviet sphere (in 1941) more than one million died, according to Sanning's investigation. These deaths

include both "normal" victims of the war and victims of German and Soviet persecution. Secondly, the Jewish "basic" population of about 2, 850, 000 couldn't possibly have suffered a loss of something like six million. This figure should have been discarded long ago, especially since Reitlinger proved it to be unrealistic nearly 40 years ago. The reasonable question to ask is rather this: In view of the proclaimed anti-Semitic policy of the National Socialists and Hitler's talk about *Ausrottung*, how could more than two million escape deportation? What about the famous German efficiency?

Part of the answer comes from Himmler himself, who said to Mr. Masur: "I have left 450,000 Jews in Hungary" - as if he had done it out of humanity. (The real reason probably was lack of transport facilities at the time when Hungary came under direct German rule.) Romania never came under direct German rule, and consequently very few Romanian Jews were deported to German camps. The Romanian government pursued an anti-Semitic policy of its own, and Hitler was satisfied with that. More than half a million of the "basic" number were Romanian Jews. Much the same conditions prevailed in Italy, France, Croatia and Slovakia, and the Gestapo had to be content, in most cases, with shipments of non-naturalized Jews from these countries. Naturalized Jews in Belgium, Bulgaria and Finland seem to have been entirely exempt from deportation. In Poland, hundreds of thousands of Jews were allowed to stay in the city ghettos (until they revolted as in Warsaw 1943). Most of the Jews in Denmark escaped the planned deportation by fleeing over the Sound to Sweden -- and the German Army and Navy did virtually nothing to prevent them.

The fate of the non-deported Jews was often very miserable, especially in the case of Poland, and it certainly deserves a special study.

Another problem that would deserve a special study from a statistical point of view is the alleged system of transporting old Jews incapable of work to camps in the East with the sole intention of killing them immediately upon arrival. It would be unavailing to look for such cases in the registers, since the allegation requires that the murder took place without any notice taken of the names and identities of the victims. All that can be said here is that the alleged practice could hardly have been responsible for any large number of deaths. If that had been the case, there would certainly have been many more than 32 missing after Auschwitz among all the identified Jews reported by the *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. And, since a quarter of the identified Jews sent to Auschwitz were aged 65-80, we would probably have seen several cases of "killed on arrival" in their biographical notices. Instead, we find two rather unexpected examples. The *Encyclopaedia Judaica* reports of Gisi Fleischmann (47) that she was "killed on arrival," and of Raymond Lambert (49), "gassed upon arrival." On the other hand, it says that, for example, Béla Bernstein (76) "died" in Auschwitz and Eduard Duckesz (76) "perished" within the camp. It is not even certain that the *Encyclopaedia* is to be relied on in the case of Fleischmann, since later information reports her as deported to Birkenau (Auschwitz) in August and murdered about 18 October (Martin Gilbert in his book *The Holocaust*, 1986).

Our general conclusion must be that the question posed in this article's title cannot be answered with any precision as long as we have recourse only to the above-mentioned sources. The general magnitude was certainly half a million, but the actual number of Jews who died in the German concentration camps might well have been as low as 300,000 or as high as 600,000. In order to establish a more

precise answer to the question, more sample investigations should be accomplished. Any Jewish society, club, school class or small community might constitute such a sample, if only all or most of its members could be traced through the war. The study of a sufficient number of such samples would probably answer the above question and a number of other questions as well.

I shall finish this article by referring to just one small sample group of deported Jews from the Holocaust literature:

- Albert Düssel taken to Auschwitz, later to Neuengamme, died there 1945
- Mrs "van Daan" taken to Auschwitz, later to Buchenwald, died there 1945
- Peter "van Daan" taken to Auschwitz, later to Mauthausen, died there 1945
- Margot Frank taken to Auschwitz, later to Belsen, died there 1945
- Anne Frank taken to Auschwitz, later to Belsen, died there 1945
- Mrs Frank taken to Auschwitz, later to Belsen, died there 1945
- Mr "van Daan" taken to Auschwitz, last seen there in 1945
- Mr Frank taken to Auschwitz, survived in camp hospital.

This gives some idea of what can be achieved by means of the study of samples of known individuals.

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Table 1

Statistical Data Concerning Jewish Population in German Controlled Area Compared to the Corresponding Figures For a Sample of Identified Jews in Same Area

TOTAL JEWISH POPULATION			IDENTIFIED PERSONS		
Category	Thousands	%	%	Number	Category
Present 1939 (Source: <i>Sanning</i>)	5,044			629	Present Jan. 1939 (Source: <i>Enc. Judaica</i>)
Emigrated 1939-41 (Source: <i>Sanning</i>)	-2,197			-206	Emigrated 1939-41 (Source: <i>Enc. Judaica</i>)
Present 1941	= 2,847	100	100	= 423	Present December 1941

Jews registered at Auschwitz (assuming that 60% of all registered were Jewish) (Source: <i>Enc. Judaica</i>)	244	8.5	8.6	36	Deported to Auschwitz (Source: <i>Enc. Judaica</i>)
Missing in May 1945 (85% of all according to <i>Enc. Judaica</i>)	-207	7.3	7.6	-32	Missing in May 1945 (Source: <i>Enc. Judaica</i>)
Survived Auschwitz	= 37	1.3	0.9	= 4	Survived Auschwitz
Registered at Theresienstadt (Source: <i>H.G. Adler</i>)	141	5.0	5.0	21	Deported to Theresienstadt (Source: <i>Enc. Judaica</i>)
Forwarded from Theresienstadt (Source: <i>H.G. Adler</i>)	-88	3.1	1.2	-5	Forwarded from Theresienstadt (Source: <i>Enc. Judaica</i>)
Died in Theresienstadt (Source: <i>H.G. Adler</i>)	-33.5	1.2	1.2	-5	Died in Theresienstadt (Source: <i>Enc. Judaica</i>)
Survived Theresienstadt	=19.5	0.7	2.6	=11	Survived Theresienstadt
			17.0	72	Missing after deport. to concentration camps (Source: <i>Enc. Judaica</i>)
Missing not due to emigration or normal mortality (Source: <i>Sanning</i>)	304	10.7	12.3	52	Missing not due to normal mortality (72-20)
Alive in conc. camps April 1945 according to Himmler (Source: <i>N. Masur</i>)	275	9.6	5.7	24	Alive in conc. camps May 1945 (Source: <i>Enc. Judaica</i>)

Note: All figures refer to Jews living in the countries under German control in June 1941.

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About the Author

Carl O. Nordling (1919-2007) was a Finnish-born architect, urban planner and historian. He graduated as an architect from the Helsinki University of Technology in 1939, and migrated to Sweden in 1944. As a statistician, he applied statistical methods to a number of scientific problems and published a large number of articles, mainly in his native Swedish. Internationally he is perhaps best known for papers he published in English-language peer-reviewed scientific journals.

How Many Jews Were Eliminated by the Nazis?

A Preliminary Survey Of The Question

By [Frank H. Hankins](#)

Published: 1983-04-01

This study is part of the history of World War Two revisionism. It was written by Prof. Frank H. Hankins in 1958 at the suggestion of Prof. Harry Elmer Barnes, Hankins's friend and colleague from Smith College days in the 1920s. Barnes – spurred to investigating the “Six Million” thesis as part of his revisionist program by his own long-held doubts and particularly by James J. Martin's seminal letter to him of July 13, 1955 – could have found no better qualified scholar than Hankins to work on this project. Besides being a renowned sociologist and historian (at one time president of the American Sociological Society and editor of the American Sociological Review), Hankins was an expert demographer with a world-wide reputation. He was a fellow and president (1945) of the American Population Association, a member of the American committee of the International Population Union, the National Committee for Planned Parenthood, the editorial board of Birth Control Review, and the Association for Research in Human Heredity. He was the author of Adolphe Quetelet as Statistician, The Racial Basis of Civilization (a liberal book of 1928 attacking the Nordic supremacist sentiments then in vogue), An Introduction to the Study of Society, and a contributor to many other books, including Biology in Human Affairs, Contemporary Social Theory, and History and Prospects of the Social Sciences.

Hankins thus brought to the study of Jewish population movements in the mid-twentieth century an expertise sorely needed in a field noted – then and now – for the inherent malleability of its base-data, the extreme ease with which that data might be obtained or interpreted in entirely different ways by different persons, professional or amateur, who would wish to have any advance-conclusion “confirmed.” No twentieth century subject within the study of population movements has seen more varied conclusions arrived at, nor more varied ways of arriving at those conclusions, than the subject of what happened to the Jews of Europe during World War Two. Hankins's effort was an attempt to review and explore this situation, approaching it objectively as a demographer, minus the standard starting-assumption that, six million (or more) Jews having perished, therefore any analysis of the problem must fit the data to this assumption rather than the other way around. It was a testament to the times in which he wrote that Hankins could not, because of this approach, affix in all wisdom his name to his study, and that it has remained unpublished – circulating only in photocopied manuscript form among a limited number of interested students – until now.

It is an early study, based on documentation available at the time. The mighty increase in source material and published analyses since then has not alleviated the basic problems inherent in any such study, problems which Prof. Hankins explicates at the outset. The whole essay may indeed be viewed as no more – nor less – than “a statement of a problem.” It is certainly not intended to be a “final word” – viz. its subtitle. The author was concerned with, first, showing how conjectural in 1958 was any

approach to the problem of determining how many Jews were “missing” by the end of the war and, second, demonstrating the factors that would have to be considered in finding the answer to another problem, namely, that of determining how many Jews whatever their number “missing” – actually died, and of these how many died as a result of deliberate Nazi extermination (as opposed to a host of other causes). Hankins was the first demographer to raise seriously these issues in a way which tended to cast doubt on the commonly-cited demographic bases of the “Six Million (exterminated)” thesis.

Though his private correspondence with Barnes of the period shows that Hankins was extremely skeptical of the entire “Six Million” story – the story of a deliberate extermination program, of “gas chambers” in “death camps,” and so forth – he deliberately refrained from couching his essay in terms of a general debate on that whole question. Rather he restricted himself purely to a study of the possible numbers involved, a critique of previous explanations and methods of arriving at conclusions. Hence the particular question-form in which the title of the essay is given.

Note should be taken of one item Hankins brings up which is, in fact, outdated. At one point in the essay he states that “Those who have led in the charge that the Nazis did exterminate 4–7 million Jews do not allege that the large-scale extermination plan was formulated until after the Casablanca Conference of January, 1943, which launched the Unconditional Surrender formula for ending the War ... But even those who support the extermination charges do not contend that the machinery for such extermination was well established before the late autumn of 1943.” Hankins was referring to standard sources which in 1958 alleged just this. Since then, of course, the recognized mainstream “line” of the “Holocaust” school as it has developed is that an extermination plan was decided on in 1941-42 (cf. Göring’s directive to Heydrich of 31 July 1941 and the Wannsee Conference of 20 January 1942), with the first “actions” as part of this plan occurring later in 1942. But Hankins’s citation of the earlier line was merely an aside, reflecting the established notion of the time, and does not affect his general conclusions.

The appearance after so many years of “How Many Jews Were Eliminated by the Nazis?” is especially noteworthy in view of the publication by the IHR in June 1983 of *The Dissolution of Eastern European Jewry* by Walter N. Sanning, with an Introduction by Dr. Arthur R. Butz. Sanning’s book is the result of years of intensive study utilizing the latest in technological research methods. It was actually written, its figures compiled and cross-checked, on a computer. It will be, in a word, the definitive study of the demographics of the Jewish population of Europe during World War Two, rendering all other studies of the particular question “Whatever happened to the ‘Six Million’?” obsolete or superfluous. Its conclusions will not comfort the “Holocaust” Establishment. It is fitting that the publication of what promises to be the “final word” for years to come on this subject from the revisionist point of view should be immediately preceded by the publication at last of Frank Hankins’s first foreshadowing of that word.

– Keith Stimely

Introductory Considerations

The usual estimates, generally based on Jewish figures or charges, range from about 4 million to 6 or even a possible 7 million. Every estimate is, however, little more than an informed guess. The extensive variations in estimates show that all include a wide margin of probable error. The more one studies the matter, the clearer it becomes that the larger the estimate the greater the probable error. In most of these there is the tacit but gratuitous assumption that any decrease in the numbers of Jews in a given area after 1939, some allowance being made for the shiftings of territories from one jurisdiction to another, gives an approximation to the number of Jews deliberately eliminated. Such decreases, however, actually included large numbers who escaped by various routes and devices. Large numbers were lost behind the Iron Curtain; thousands died from the same conditions that caused the abnormal increase in the wartime mortality of the civilian populations of all central Europe. There would seem to be no reasonable way to give the Jews special exemption from the general hardships of wartime, especially in occupied areas. Indeed, they were probably worse for the Jews. The correct estimate of those who perished because of Nazi persecution should only include: (1) those who were slaughtered by shootings, gas chambers and other violence, and (2) those who died of hardships during the numerous forced deportations, or in the concentration camps because of excessive labor, starvation or disease, which they would probably have escaped had they remained in the usual civilian status.

Some Difficulties in Getting Reliable Figures

The most obvious and troublesome difficulty is the scarcity of census materials. In some areas, the last prewar census was made in 1930, 1931, or 1933. For areas of special Jewish concentration there were: for Poland, a census, 9 December 1931 and an "official estimate," 1 January 1939; for Russia, a census in 1926, and January 1939, but neither included a question as to religion; for Rumania, a census of December 1930 and an "official estimate" of December 1938; also a "census" in April 1941; and for Hungary, a census of 31 December 1930 and an "official estimate" of December 1938. To these may be added the immediate postwar census of Poland of February 1946 which, like most of the other population countings of the immediate postwar years, was largely only a sampling and an estimate computation. This was made inevitable by the vast movements of population still going on to the end of 1946, and even later.

The result is that one finds very considerable differences among the estimates of the numbers of Jews in various areas in the critical year 1939. It should be recalled that, from 1939 on, there was an unprecedented upheaval of populations, both Jewish and Gentile, throughout central Europe, first ahead of the German armies as they swept eastward after September 1939, and especially after 22 June 1941, and then behind the Russian forces as they swept westward, beginning in 1943. As the Germans went east, large numbers followed, especially from Germany; as the Russians went west, large numbers sought to return to former homesteads. In these moving hordes of all nationalities, including Jews, large numbers died from the hardships of war; other millions of several nationalities, including Jews, were deported; still other millions throughout the area were killed in civilian bombings, or died in the armed forces. During this whole period, the records of births and deaths were incomplete and otherwise

defective.

It should be obvious that this situation makes all estimates of the numbers, both of total populations and especially of the numbers of Jews, at the best only informed guesses. It opens the way for tendentious calculations. A perusal of the literature shows that the large unknowns led to much carelessness in the use of figures. The same author, in a number of cases, gives different figures for the same item on different pages, as though a variation by some thousands could not add anything to the errors already involved. Every calculation has to have what the U.S. Bureau of the Census workers call a “residual” item, or a figure to strike a reasonable balance between the very probable numbers with which you start. For example, in 1939, the probable changes due to “normal” births and deaths, the probable number dying from various abnormal causes, and the probable number still surviving. This residual figure opens the way for all sorts of manipulations.

Thus, the Bureau of the Census (*The Population of Poland*, pp. 29 and 31) says, after noting that it is impossible to strike a true balance for the Polish changes, 1939-1945: “(Even after July, 1945) millions of displaced persons milled about... Across these currents of voluntary migration moved other millions permanently expelled from their homes etc.” and (p. 31) “War losses could have been anywhere from 2 million to 7 million persons. Either of the extreme figures seems unlikely, but the exact war losses cannot be determined precisely.” (For same quote, see page 187.)

These are some of the problems which face even the most honest and competent persons who seek to obtain reliable figures about the number of the Jews in Europe in 1939, the number who perished in some way during the war, how they perished, how many that remain unaccounted for really perished, and how many may now be living behind the Iron Curtain, in Israel, in the United States, and elsewhere. It is obvious that all these uncertainties which confront honest and objective students of the subject also provide almost unlimited opportunities for those who wish to juggle the figures, whether they seek to minimize or exaggerate the number of Jews who perished during the war.

Some Avenues of Escape for the Jews

Several studies make passing reference to the numerous Jews who escaped the Nazi round-ups by: (a) being secreted by non-Jewish friends; (b) using false identification papers; and (c) baptism into a Christian religious community. Those under (a) were probably not very numerous because the Nazi penalty was death for the entire family of the “good Samaritan.” Some find the numbers under (b) and (c) running into the thousands or tens of thousands. In census taking the individual classifies himself as of a certain nationality. This somewhat ambiguous term covers such alternatives as race, country of birth, country of residence, and country of citizenship. Jews could thus classify themselves as of Jewish or of some other nationality, according to their background, physical traits or language proficiency. Those born in Poland, but speaking German fluently and living in Germany, could classify themselves as Jewish, Polish or German, the latter on occasion requiring a new set of identification papers. A Jew born in Germany, living in Poland, and speaking Polish, had similar choices. This old method of escaping the harsher aspects of anti-Semitism seems to have been widely practiced by Jews under the pressure of the Nazis and the intense hostility in Poland and elsewhere, especially after 1933.

Some illustrations: The U.S. Census Bureau report on Poland, with reference to an additional 900,000 Poles unaccounted for in their calculations, says (p. 78) that “these may have been non-Poles reclassified as Poles and thus lost to their previous category.” There is no way of knowing how many of these were Jews, but they certainly had the strongest motivation to use this avenue of escape, and it is difficult to conceive of any other racial or nationality group that would thus shift their classification on a large scale. This same authority in its study of Czechoslovakia notes (p. 26 and Ftnt. p. 14) that the last prewar census of 1930 reported 354,000 Jews by religion but only 110,000 by nationality. Jacoby (pp. 308 and 310) gives comparable figures but with a larger difference. In this case, the small number classed as Jews by nationality was due to the large number classing themselves as German by nationality. Jews in the Soviet Satellites states (pp. 239-240) that “thousands of Jews in Poland went through the occupation masquerading as Poles”; at the war’s end some 20,000 Jews were estimated still to possess forged identification papers.

The number of Jews reported as Jews by religion is rather uniformly greater than the number so reported by nationality. This is partly due to the Jewish custom of reporting as Jews all members of the Jewish community, regardless of their religious orthodoxy. It is partly due to the associated fact that Hebraism is not a universal type of religion but is closely identified with the Jews as a racial or genetically related group. However, special wartime conditions made conversion to some branch of Christianity a logical avenue of escape from surrounding hostilities. For example: The Hungarian Statistical Review for 1944 estimated that the number of Christians of Jewish origin in Greater Hungary was about 100,000. (See *Jews in the Soviet Satellites*, pp. 184-5.) Kulischer notes (p. 199) that the number of Jews in Austria declined from 222,000 in 1923 to 180,000 in 1938, and adds that this was due in part to change of religion.

These avenues of escape may account for a considerable part of the reduction in the number of Jews reported as still in Europe. Official Jewish statistics, which are almost the only ones now available for postwar calculations, are likely to reflect the numbers living in organized communities or congregations. Many of these, as stable groups, were disorganized by various causes, and the members scattered more or less widely. If they have adopted a protective coloring (classification), they may not reappear until another day. Other statistics are based on the numbers of “professing” Jews, and these would at any time be only a part of the total number. It does not seem likely that we shall have clear guides to the number of “escapees” for a long time to come.

These are samples of what was a general practice which must have been widely utilized from 1933 onward. The hunted cannot be blamed for seeking out all avenues of escape.

Some thousands of Jews were killed in the fighting forces of the various nations, notably Poland and Russia. Just how many is conjectural. *Jews in the Soviet Satellites* (p. 242) says that thousands of young Jewish males were drafted into the Russian army and labor battalions. Also (p. 229), some 250,000 to 300,000 Jews were sent by the Russians to forced labor camps and settlements in northern and Asiatic Russia in the early 1940’s. And again (p. 226), 68,000 Jewish officers and enlisted men were in the Polish army. Lestschinsky (p. 9) estimates that 200,000 Jewish soldiers in the Red armies fell during the war. Also “About half a million Jews died in the Asiatic provinces where twice that

number were deported after evacuation from previous Polish and Rumanian regions as well as from the Soviet Ukraine and Soviet White Russia.” It is to be noted that some of the computations class all missing Jews as “killed” or “murdered” (notably Frumkin), making no allowance for those who died either in the fighting forces, or in air raids, or as a result of the increased hardships and special mortality of wartime.

Many Jews were either evacuated, as by the Russians, to safer areas, or migrated to refugee territory such as Switzerland, England, Turkey, Palestine, the United States and elsewhere. The numbers are uncertain, but that they were very large is evident from the scant data available. Hitler’s *Ten-Year War on the Jews* (p. 300) says: “Some 1,800,000 have been evacuated into the interior of the Soviet Union.” This figure for the period immediately following the outbreak of the war with Russia becomes only 1,200,000 five pages later in the summary table but no explanation for the change is given. Jews in the Soviet Satellites (p. 182) found in 1945 no less than 21,000 refugees, mostly from Germany, in the ghetto of Japanese Shanghai. It also notes (p. 183) that Spain and Portugal harbor about 8,000 refugees; (p. 183) 163,423 Jews entered the U.S., 1933-42; (pp. 183 and 190) there are 27,000 refugees in Switzerland, mostly from France and Italy; (pp. 190-1) 6,000 Jewish refugees are in Sweden, mainly Danish; 150,000 Rumanian Jews were living in Transnistria, behind the Dniester. The numbers migrating to Great Britain 1938-45 are placed at 300,000 with a similar number migrating to Palestine between 1933 and 1947. It should not be overlooked that even those who migrated from 1933 to 1939 might appear among the “losses,” since most calculations necessarily begin with censuses dating from the early 1930s.

Kulischer’s *Europe on the Move* (p. 192) notes that migration from Germany, Austria and Bohemia-Moravia amounted to 370,000 from 1933 to 1939-40. Of these, 200,000 went overseas and 50,000 to Switzerland, Great Britain and Scandinavia, 85,000 to France and the Low Countries, 10,000 elsewhere in western and southern Europe and only 25,000 eastward. Among them, about 250,000 were thus removed from Nazi reach. Elsewhere, the same author (p. 260) adds that, with the German advance eastward, the Russian “officials and a large proportion of the Jews were evacuated” (along with factories and factory workers). He estimates the total thus evacuated at 12,000,000 including more than 1,500,000 transferred or deported from former eastern Poland, the Baltic countries, northern Bukovina and Bessarabia.

Since these were thus moved “to save them from German atrocities,” it would not seem unreasonable to consider at least 2 million of them to have been Jews. Kulischer, however, considers the number to have been only about 1.2 millions. Of the millions of Jews uprooted by the war, he finds (p. 264) that only “about 1.5 million escaped Nazi rule, some 300,000 by emigration overseas and to the neutral countries, and the remainder through evacuation to interior USSR.” The figure here is crucial to any estimate of what happened to the 3.1 million Jews estimated for prewar Poland and the probable even larger number that lived in the Soviet Union. As the quote above from the Census Bureau study of Poland indicates, the “probable error” of estimates relating to the Polish population is colossal. An additional million Jews behind the Iron Curtain alters the picture for all Europe.

We can add to the above “Avenues of Escape” three areas of difficulty and probable sources of error in

the estimates.

Excess Mortality and Decreased Fertility

While the total population of Europe outside Russia remained almost the same in 1945 that it had been in 1939, the total excess of births over deaths almost exactly balancing the losses due to war, this was almost entirely due to the rise in fertility among the countries of western Europe. The opposite situation obtained in central Europe, the scene of the main war depredations. Here, there was an “excess mortality” above what would have occurred in peace times. There was no way for the Jews here to escape the usual hazards of war, such as deaths from air raids and other military attacks on the towns and cities. Nor could they escape the reduction in vitality and, hence, of resistance to usual diseases, due to the increased hardships which affected all other elements in the civilian populations. Their infant mortality also went up along with that of their fellow citizens.

Now, curious as it may seem, this “excess mortality” item is usually given separate computation for Jews and non-Jews. For the Jews it is quite unfairly added to the numbers “killed” or “murdered.” Thus, Frumkin’s summary table (p. 173) for “Total Europe” outside the 1939 Soviet Union (that is, including the Poles and Jews of the Ceded Polish Territory but excluding N. Bukovina, Bessarabia and part of Carpathia) gives the following figures:

Table 1: European War Losses

Source	Number
Military	5,824,000
Civilian excluding Jews	4,922,000
Jews killed	4,371,000
Total losses	15,117,000

It should be obvious that, among the Jews “killed” are listed all those who suffered from the increased mortality which they shared on an enlarged scale with other civilians. Since this figure gives the total reduction in the Jewish population of this area, it obviously includes also those Jews who should be listed under all the above items as well as the one that follows. The Jewish population, because it was so largely concentrated in the heart of the eastern war zone would, along with the rest of the population there, have suffered its proportionate diminution of numbers even if they had been treated exactly like all others. The “excess mortality” cannot be charged to Nazi “murders.” Frumkin thus, quite dishonestly, lists all Jews lost or unaccounted for during the war as “killed,” implying that they were deliberately exterminated by the Nazis, which is nonsense. More may have perished in other ways than lost their lives in all Nazi camps. And in the camps more may have died from exposure, disease, lack of medical care, and starvation than from deliberate extermination.

The importance of this item can be shown from Frumkin’s figures for Poland. He starts with a total population, including only the Poles and Jews in the Ceded Territory, of 28,400,000 of whom 3,500,000 are Jews. He estimates the civilians other than Jews who died from “excess mortality” at 2,500,000; and Jews “killed” at 3,400,000. If one subtracts the original number of Jews from the original total, he

gets 24,900,000 among whom there were 2,500,000 deaths from the extra hazards of wartimes. That equals 10 percent of the original population. The same proportion for the Jews would have been 350,000. These, to be sure, died, but they were not “killed” in Frumkin’s meaning.

In much the same category, mention should be made of the reduced fertility (i.e. births) of the Jewish population as a result of the forced migrations, under-nourishment, and other hardships and deprivations they experienced. This item is of secondary import; but one cannot list among the “killed” those who were never born. This reduced fertility naturally lessened the numbers surviving after 6 years of harassment, but all reductions in the numbers of Jews become “killed” in some of the calculations. Numbers that might have been were not there at the end of the upheaval; they were “missing” and “lost.” But all of them were not “killed” by the Nazis or anybody else.

Numerous and Extensive Population Shifts during the War

A supreme difficulty with all estimates arises from the repeated shiftings of populations and territories. A major illustration is the division of Poland in 1939. The main question here is not the number of Jews in the Polish territory ceded to Russia in 1939, although even here differences need not be neglected, but what happened to the Jews in the Ceded Territory. Some estimate that they were all caught in the Nazi net by the eastward advance of the German forces after 22 June 1941. Others estimate that from 1.2 to 1.8 million of Polish and other central European Jews migrated, were evacuated by the Russians, or were forcefully deported by them to areas behind the Russian lines. Moreover, the number of German, Polish and Czech Jews who had moved east ahead of the Germans on their first advance in September, 1939, is unknown, but guesses are made.

An equally striking case is supplied by Rumania.^[1] Parts of this country, estimated to have 900,000 Jews in 1939, were shifted back and forth between Russia and Rumania; other sections went to Hungary and back; still others to Bulgaria and back; the Germans controlled different parts for different periods. With every shift of political control there were varying shifts of populations, including Jews. At the same time, the Jews in self-defense were migrating in different directions and escaping their Jewishness by every device known. It is little wonder that the Rumanian figures, whatever they are, should be suspect. The Rumanian census of 1930, the last before the war, found a Jewish population of 756,930. This is the figure used by Sylvain (*Jews in the Soviet Satellites*, Table 1, p. 493) as the prewar population, instead of the number 900,000 which is found in most other references as the 1939 number. (In this table, incidentally, he gives the figure for Bukovina as 93,101, but this becomes 102,900 three pages later.) It is now necessary to keep track of the shifts of land and people. Bessarabia, previously part of Rumania, went to Russia in 1940, back to Rumania, 1941-44, and to Russia again in 1944. Much the same changes apply to Bukovina. Transylvania was divided, the southern portion going to Bulgaria in 1940 and returning after the war. Sylvain gives the combined areas of Bessarabia, all Bukovina and all of Transylvania a Jewish population of 381,562 for the prewar era in Table I, but (pp. 516-7) this figure becomes 457,000, excluding S. Bukovina, from whom there were only 100,000 survivors.

There are other glaring question marks which one must put alongside his text. In Table VII, giving the

Jewish population of Rumania for the present area (excluding S. Dobrudja, N. Bukovina and Bessarabia), he computed 478,042 in 1930; 466,128 in 1941 – the year of a census; and 300,000 in 1944. By 1947 their number in this “Rump Rumania” had risen to 428,000. He then allows 28,000 as the probable number of returnees from German and Hungarian camps, N. Bukovina, Bessarabia and Transnistria. Then comes this remarkable statement: “Thus around 100,000 persons out of this population... represent in fact what remained of the 457,000 Jews of Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transylvania.” (*Italics in original.*) Since the territories mentioned were excluded from Table VII, I cannot understand how he can conclude from it the numbers of Jews missing therefrom. Perhaps I do not understand his manipulations of the data.

In any case, it is interesting to note that the numbers given in Table VII for the present territory were much the same in 1930, 1941, 1942 and 1947. The difference between the first and last is about 50,000. This figure makes no allowance for the natural increase of numbers, but on the other hand neither does it make any allowance for the excess mortality of civilians, the thousands who are said to have fled to Turkey, the 150,000 noted above as having taken refuge behind the Dniester. As for the 381,562 Jews reported in the prewar census in Table I (not the 457,000 derived by some mysterious process) they were under German-Rumanian control from 1941 to 1944, when they once more slipped behind the Iron Curtain. What happened to them is as much an enigma as what happened elsewhere along the borders of the War Zone. The above examples are designed to show how the lack of reliable census materials makes it necessary for the computer to continually conjecture the numbers here and there, now and then. If he is inclined to over-estimate the missing in repeated guesses, he may end up with a compounding of exaggerations.

I see I have overlooked some other sources of possible error. First: the computers make different allowances for the number of deportees who died in the process of deportation, never less than 25%, usually 50% and in some cases as high as 80% or more. Since there were no actual counts in such cases, these estimates must be charged with a large probable error.

Secondly: the vast upheaval, with its migrations, deportations and evacuations, made some duplication in the count of those “lost” or “killed” quite easy. The evacuees behind the Iron Curtain, e.g., are considered among the latter, unless they returned, at least in large part. Those sent to the camps of Poland by the Germans could easily be counted as among the “losses” of the countries from which deported and charged again among those killed in Poland. That this is done in some instances seems indicated by the fact that out of the estimated original Polish Jewish population of 3.1 million in 1939, somewhat more than that are usually estimated to have been killed there.

Examples of Varying Estimates

1. How Many Jews Were There In Europe In 1939?

Because this is the basic figure from which any over-all estimate must start, variations in it are of primary significance. The following represent the estimates of the American Jewish Committee as given in the World Almanacs in various years:

Table 2: Jews in Europe 1933-1939

Year of Publication	Year of Statistics	Numbers	Numbers given under World Religions
1939	1933	9,494,363	9,494,363
1941	1939	8,939,608	not given
1945	1939?	9,372,666	8,939,608
1949	1939	9,739,200	not given
1949	1947	3,920,100	not given

One is bound to wonder at the reduction of nearly 555,000 between 1933 and 1939. Even more striking is the increase for the year 1939 in comparing the World Almanac issues of 1941 and 1949. This amounts to almost 800,000 (8,939,608 in the 1941 issue, and 9,739,200 in the 1949 issue). It is easy to see that this makes the loss much greater than if the numbers given in 1941 for the year 1939 were used as the basis of computation.

We may note a similar elevation of the base in the same organization's estimates of Jews in the World:

Table 3: Jews in the World 1933-1939

Year of Publication	Year of Statistics	Numbers
1939	1933	15,319,459
1941	1939	15,748,091
1945	1939	15,688,259
1949	1939	16,643,120

Here is an increase in the figure for 1939 of almost 955,000 as given in the 1949 issue. How account for such a huge elevation of the world total? Were more Jews discovered? Was a more careful count made? Or was it seen by that time that a larger base from which to compute the war losses would serve a useful purpose?

2. How Many Jews Were Eliminated In Europe By The War?

This is the leading question and one now impossible to answer with any assurance. However, it is pertinent to take a look at the variations in the estimates of various investigators.

A. Some Figures For Poland

1. Bureau of the Census, (page 2) – "War losses in postwar boundaries amounted to approximately 4 million persons, of whom 2 million were Jews executed by the Nazis." (See p. 3 above for quotation from pages 31 and 187.)
2. Frumkin, (page 119) – for approximately the same territory, 2.3 million.
3. Gottschalk and Duker, (page 11) – Poland, the Baltic States, Soviet White Russia and the Ukraine, "the greatest areas of Jewish concentration in Europe, became a vast death-chamber for about 5 million Jews."
4. Frumkin, (p. 119) – for Poland's Ceded (to Russia) Territory, with a prewar Jewish population of 1.2

million, the number of “killed” is estimated at 1.1 million. For all prewar Poland he thus computes a loss of 3.4 million.

5. Frumkin, (p. 182) – having estimated (p. 173) the Jews killed outside the Russian areas at 4,371,000, comments that, if the Ceded Territory is added “the total number of Jews murdered by the Germans amounted to some 5 million.” (Note that this would give only about 700,000 for the Ceded Territory, although the figure quoted just above is 1.1 million.)

B. Europe As A Whole

6. Frumkin, (p. 182) – following the above quote, goes on to say: “if the USSR territory occupied by the Germans during the war were likewise taken into account, the figure might easily be between 6 and 7 million.” (This of course excludes the USSR territory behind the Russian lines.) As a comment on the reliability of Frumkin’s methods and figures, the competent and objective Belgian statistician Maurice-Pierre Herremans estimated that only 25,000 of the prewar Jewish population of Belgium were “missing” from all causes at the end of the war, while Frumkin states that 27,000 of them were “killed,” mostly by the Nazis.

7. Kulischer, (p. 279) – puts the number of Jews “exterminated” at 5.5 million.[\[2\]](#)

8. Institute of Jewish Affairs, (World Almanac, 1952, p. 240) – estimates that 71% of Jews in Europe at the start of the war were lost, of whom 5.7 million were killed and 200,000 lost in battle. (This would give the 1939 Jewish population of Europe as 8,450,000.)

There are many other estimates made by Jews or based on Jewish figures, but most of these are either copied from statements of the Institute of Jewish Affairs or the World Jewish Congress or, like Fay’s statement in Current History of 6 million, round numbers loosely used without any investigation of the facts and reflecting the prevailing mood of the day. To quote them adds nothing to the picture.

9. As a commentary on the above estimates, most of them by Jewish writers, and nearly all based on Jewish figures, one may well point out that Gerald Reitlinger, in his SS: Alibi of a Nation (1956), a large and heavily documented work, estimated that the number of Jews actually deliberately exterminated by the Nazis in their death camps, euthanasia camps, gas chambers, and the like, was far less than 500,000. Reitlinger writes as a strong critic of the Nazis, so he is not seeking to defend or exonerate them.

General Conclusions

The foregoing pages should have made it clear that the answer to our title question is, for the time being, unanswerable in terms that satisfy any scientific standards. There are so many loopholes amid so few relatively sound figures that the calculator can set his own figure in advance and arrive there by estimates and guesses, all of which can be given a certain plausibility. Even the best studies, therefore, are little more than crazy quilts of conjectures made somewhat more substantial than a tissue of lies by scattered bits of fact.

Frumkin, former statistician for the United Nations, has made the most ambitious effort to estimate the

numbers of Jews missing (“killed” in his findings). He starts with a 1930-33 census, estimates the number attained in 1939 through an excess of births over deaths, and thus gets a base figure for the prewar year. He then estimates the changes due to “normal” births and deaths to 1945, the changes resulting from changes in territory, the war losses and the gains and losses for given areas due to population shifts, and thus gets an “adjusted” population for each area for 1945. He frequently notes that his figures are “elevated” or “represent an upper limit” but has the scientific honesty at least to indicate that most of them are “slightly” or “substantially” adjusted. He thus lends himself to the charge of piling Ossa on Pelion by adding one high estimate to one and then another and another.

His conclusions are severely criticized by the Bureau of the Census study of the Polish figures, mainly on the grounds that (1) they make no allowance in the case of the Jews for the excess mortality of all civilian populations in the war areas, and (2) no account is taken of the highly problematical number of Jews who left Poland and elsewhere in central and western Europe, and are still behind the Iron Curtain.

To show how one may manipulate the figures, taking only those that someone considers quite authentic or reasonably so, look at the following:[\[3\]](#)

Table 4: Manipulating figures for Jewish wartime casualties

1. Jews in Europe, including USSR and Turkey, 1939	8,940,000
2. Jews in the remainder of Asia	771,000
Total in Europe and Asia, 1939	9,711,000
3. Jews in Europe, including USSR and Turkey, 1946	3,920,000
Subtotal	5,791,000
4. Jews in the remainder of Asia, 1946	917,000
Subtotal	4,874,000
5. Migrants to areas outside Europe and Asia	300,000
Subtotal	4,574,000
6. Number dying in military forces, Poland and USSR	274,000
Subtotal	4,300,000
7. Probable underestimate of USSR areas	1,000,000
Subtotal	3,300,000
8. Possible underestimate for remainder of Asia	300,000
Total loss to Jews in Europe and Asia	3,000,000
9. Excess wartime mortality, like others	300,000
10. Killed by excess wartime persecution	2,700,000

The first four of the above figures are taken from estimates of the American Jewish Committee. The probable underestimate for the USSR and Turkey derives from the statement of the Bureau of the Census study of Poland (p. 189) that possibly as many as 2 million more Polish refugees were there than Frumkin allows for. Since the racial Poles would be far more likely to return to their own country than the Jews-Poles by residence – anti-Semitism being very strong in Poland after the war – it is quite likely that most of the underestimate would be composed of Jews.

Here is another possibility: Kulischer, as noted above (Europe on the Move, page 279) puts the total

Jews exterminated at 5.5 million, of whom “nearly 3 million” lived in Europe outside the present USSR territories. His total allows 2.5 million for the Soviet Union and is thus highly conjectural. Schwartz, whose study is the only extensive one of the USSR, computes the Jewish “losses” there as follows:

Table 5: Jewish wartime losses (Schwartz)

Region	Prewar	Loss
White Russia	375,000	300,000
Ukraine	1,533,000	900,000
RSFSR	250,000 to 275,000	100,000
	Total loss	1,300,000

Exclusive of 133,000 who died in the Russian armies, a figure which Lestschinsky puts at 200,000.

Since this “loss” includes deaths from all causes and this was the area of greatest population upheaval and civilian hardship, it is reasonable to allow 300,000 for all items of “excess mortality” from causes suffered by all residents. That would leave a net loss due to Nazi persecution of 1 million.

If we add this to Kulischer’s “nearly 3 million” we get a total for all Europe and all the Soviet Union of nearly 4 million or 1.5 million less than Kulischer’s total.[\[4\]](#)

The writer cannot claim in these pages to have done more than scratch the surface of the question. It is for the statistician a most frustrating problem, because of the numerous pitfalls. My aim has not been to seek a more decisive estimate than those made by others, who may have spent many months and consulted thousands of original documents. Rather it has been to show the transparently conjectural nature of the current estimates and to point out some of the probable sources of error, which are mainly lack of adequate and up-to-date population statistics, the manufacture of statistics where they are actually lacking, the manipulation and juggling of such statistics (both reliable and manufactured) as are used, to exaggerate the number of Jews in Europe and the world in 1939 and decrease the number known in 1945, and the general absence of students or studies that have no political, racial or religious axe to grind and are really seeking facts to promote truth and serve scientific purposes.

Many interesting aspects have been neglected. For example, Reitlinger in several passages notes the conflicts between Himmler, who was commissioned to find a “final solution” to the Jewish problem, and Göring who wanted Jewish workers for his munitions factories. On one occasion, Hitler himself intervened for a like reason, and Himmler then bragged of the large numbers preserved for such purposes. There are numerous cases authentically reported of Jews who were led to believe that they were headed for extermination camps but actually turned up at factories or in labor camps.

Another aspect to be considered is the large increase in numbers of Jews in Israel. That increase was about 400,000 from 1933 to 15 May 1948, when independent statehood was achieved. From then to February 1954 the population rose from 650,000 to 1,675,000. This and other items suggest that, during the immediate postwar years, a million or more Jews may have been among the displaced persons scattered all over the Eurasian map. As time passes, more of these come to statistical counting. At least, the vast increase in Israel has not been accompanied by concurrent diminutions in the settled populations elsewhere. The Jews can keep close account of their numbers where there are settled

communities but even they could not keep a close count during the recent Diaspora following 1939 and 1945.

Another point to be considered is that, even if it could be proved that vast numbers of Jews died in the Nazi concentration, euthanasia, and death camps, it would not follow that all, or possibly even a majority of these, were deliberately exterminated by the Nazis. There was a huge death rate in all of these camps due to disease. In one camp, at least, there was a serious typhus epidemic. Lack of drugs and medical treatment, coupled with general low vitality and lowered physical resistance to disease, made the death rate abnormally high. Many died from exposure, and others from hard labor. Starvation was common, especially toward the end of the war, when supplies ran low even for soldiers and civilians. It is useful to reflect that it is generally estimated that at least five million expellees from East Prussia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and eastern Germany perished mainly after the war was over, and it is generally conceded that relatively few of these were deliberately murdered. They died in large part from the horrible exposure and starvation during the process of expulsion. The Jews who moved back and forth during the war, either voluntarily or by forceful evacuation, before and following the movement of the armies, were subjected to just as harsh conditions as the expellees, in some cases to even worse situations. Until it is disproved by better Jewish and other studies than are currently available, one may express some confidence in Reitlinger's estimate that the number of Jews deliberately exterminated by the Nazis was considerably less than 500,000.

The soundest basis for scepticism regarding any such figure as 6 or even 4 million Jews exterminated by Hitler and the Nazis is that contributed by logistics rather than statistics. As you have seen, the latter are inadequate, manufactured, garbled, and consciously manipulated to establish a thesis and figure assumed in advance. Logistics is a well-established science, knows no political, racial or religious bias, and in this case relies upon a vast body of materials accumulated during the Second World War. Evidence in this field is as copious and precise for the years between 1939 and 1945 as it is sparse and fugitive for population changes and shifts during the same period.

Students of logistics who have given some attention to the charge that the Nazis, however evil-minded and however much they wished to do so, actually exterminated 4 to 7 million Jews in less than two years during a desperate two-front war which turned against Hitler at the very moment he is alleged to have set up his extermination program, contend that it would have been utterly impossible for them to have achieved anything like such a result. It would have required so much more effort and manpower and would have brought such confusion and added strain to the already overtaxed transportation facilities that the Nazis could not have waged even a reduced one-front conflict.

Those who have led in the charge that the Nazis did exterminate 4-7 million Jews do not allege that the large-scale extermination plan was formulated until after the Casablanca Conference of January, 1943, which launched the Unconditional Surrender formula for ending the war. Hitler realized the implied threat to him, blamed the Jews for the decision, and may have decided on more drastic treatment of them at this time. But even those who support the extermination charges do not contend that the machinery for such extermination was well established before the late autumn of 1943.

By 1944, Allied bombing in the West and Russian victories in the East rendered the German situation

much more desperate and placed ever greater strains on German war material, plant, manpower, and transportation. Hitler could not have diverted enough effort to the extermination of the Jews between November 1943, and May 1945, to have disposed of 6 million Jews without producing a virtual collapse of his whole war effort. Some students of logistics contend that such a breakdown would have resulted from the actual extermination of 3 million or considerably less. Further, as the tide turned against the Nazis, the Jews became ever more essential to the German war effort, and it would have placed a strain on even Hitler's folly to have wasted their urgently needed services in behalf of extermination based on hatred.

Other considerations to be taken into account are such things as the paucity of authentic evidence as to the nature and extent of the Nazi extermination facilities and operations. A number of the sources are obvious forgeries. The testimony of many of the Germans at Nuremberg and other trials was extracted after the most cruel and atrocious tortures. Some of these "witnesses," knowing that they were going to be hanged in any event, boasted of what they very possibly never did at all but at the moment wished they had done, or they boasted to inflate their own egos. The total of such boasts amounts to far more than all the Jews in the world in 1939. One such German "witness" boasted that the Nazis had exterminated 40 million Jews! The charges about vast Nazi extermination operations came very late, most of them after the war. The first statement of the claim that the Nazis exterminated 6 million Jews was made in the New Jewish Frontier in January, 1945.

The most competent Jewish account of Hitler's treatment of the Jews does not even mention the wholesale extermination program. Another leading Jewish historian of the subject even contends that Hitler deliberately forbade any extensive extermination of Jews in the latter part of the war, when it appeared that he was likely to lose the war, lest any such actions bring ruthless retaliation on the German people. The 6 million theme was picked up by President Truman early in his first administration, without anything but hearsay on his part, and has been so frequently repeated during the last decade that it is used almost automatically by journalists who have never made the slightest study of the subject. It has now become commonplace in journalistic lore.

It is quite possible that more thorough studies of population statistics, more evidence from actual witnesses, historical study of the origins and dissemination of the extermination charges, checking of the charges with what is actually known, and demonstration of deliberate fakery and falsehood, in other words, such techniques as Lord Ponsonby and J.M. Read applied to the atrocity myths of the First World War, may reduce the allegation of massive Nazi extermination of Jews to the same level of morbid imagination and irresponsible, if deliberate, mendacity that the alleged Belgian atrocities were reduced to in the years following 1918. Surely, the authenticity of the Nazi extermination program has never been vouched for by any person of the prestige and reputation for integrity enjoyed by James Bryce in 1915. Of course, no realistic and informed student of the Second World War doubts the actuality of incredibly inhumane atrocities during the conflict, atrocities on both sides carried out against Jews and Gentiles alike, especially in the guerrilla and partisan warfare behind the lines of battle. As one competent authority has well described the situation, the fictitious atrocities of the First World War became the actual atrocities of the Second.

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Footnotes

- [\[1\]](#) After finishing the manuscript I find in my notes that Frumkin (p. 170) puts the "Jews

killed” for the postwar area at 160,000. The “killed” for him, as already noted, includes all missing or lacking by his estimates. He admits that this figure “is substantially adjusted” (see his p. 12 footnote), that is, “represents a rough estimate with a wide margin of error.” Elsewhere (p. 131) he estimates those “killed” in Bessarabia, Bukovina and S. Dobrudja at 230,000, also subject to “adjustment.” For a good sample of the necessity of really juggling with figures in order to arrive at any estimate for such areas as Rumania see this author’s study, op. cit., pp. 129-134.]

[2] “... nearly 3 million were nationals or residents of European countries and territories lying now outside the Soviet Union.” (See No. 5 above)

[3] Caution: Do not take this table too seriously as it is intended merely to show the possibilities of manipulating data, every item of which seems within reason. Omitting items 7 and 8 gives a total killed of about 4 million.

[4] Caution: This estimate may be too large or too small because; the estimates of Schwartz for losses in Soviet territory are conjectural, and a much larger margin of error attaches to Kulischer’s. However, the 4 million estimate is likely to be far closer to the actual figure than the 5, 6 or 7 million of some studies. And, of course, 4 million may be grotesquely in excess of the actuality, since most of the figures which have to be used are those of Jewish students of the problem or are based on figures given out by Jews and Jewish organizations.

[5] This work is somewhat revealing, in that the careful calculations of the Belgian statistician find only 25,000 of the prewar Jewish population of Belgium “missing” while Frumkin finds 27,000 of them “killed.”

What happened to the Jews in Poland?

By [Carl O. Nordling](#)

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It belongs to general education to know that the National Socialist regime exterminated about six million Jews, about three million thereof being Polish Jews. The Holocaust supposedly implies that only a fraction of the German Jews and the French Jews were exterminated and less than half of the Hungarian Jews. In contrast to this, the Polish Jews are believed to have been wiped out almost completely. If this holds good, the fate of the Polish Jews would certainly constitute a veritable Holocaust. This applies even if it should turn out that the Jews from other European countries were not systematically murdered at all, but just persecuted and deported to places where many died. What happened to the Jews of Poland is crucial to our evaluation of the scope of the Holocaust. It is certainly worthwhile to look thoroughly into the problem. To start with, let us cover the "authorized" version.

In the 1961 version of his book *The Destruction of the European Jews*, Raul Hilberg states that 50,000 or 1.5% of the Jews of Poland survived the Holocaust.^[1] 24 years later, in the 1985 version of the same book, the same author states that the number of survivors was about 350,000 or 10% of the total.^[2] Naturally, one wonders how trustworthy such figures are if they can easily sevenfold within 24 years. Will the number of Jewish survivors keep changing in Hilberg's imagination?

Luckily, there are three other standard works in the field, the *Encyclopaedia Judaica*,^[3] the *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*^[4] and *Dimension des Völkermords*.^[5] Let us see what they say about the war time fate of the Jews in Poland.

According to the *Judaica*, there were 3,351,000 Jews in Poland in September 1939.^[6] From these, 55,509 are said to have been registered as survivors in June 1945. This number is said to comprise Jews having survived in Poland and Jews who returned from their wartime sojourn in the USSR. Another 13,000 Polish Jews are said to have survived as members of the Polish Army, and 1,000 would have survived posing as "Aryans" (and for some reason not counted among the 55,509). To these, the *Encyclopedia Judaica* generously adds 250,000 survivors in the USSR and 50,000 in camps in Germany, thus bringing the total up to 369,000 or 11% of those presumably present in 1939.

The *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust* gives a total of 380,000 survivors, 165,000 thereof having returned from the USSR and 75,500 having survived in Poland.^[7] These two groups, comprising altogether 240,500, are said to have registered in Poland in June 1946. The rest, 139,500, would presumably be Jews who survived abroad and stayed abroad after the war. Even those who returned to Poland seem to have been eager to shake the Polish dust off their shoes as soon as possible. The *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust* tells us that within the next year 160,500 of the registrees left Poland, leaving only 80,000 behind. Apparently, Poland was not a preferred place of abode for the Polish Jews when Poland had become practically "deutschenrein" (clear of Germans) and surely free of National Socialists.

Dimension gives the number of 2,700,000 Polish victims of the Holocaust. The number of Jews in hiding is said to have been 300,000 or 100,000 according to various researchers. *Dimension* further quotes a certain Shmuel Krakowski who estimates the total number of survivors at 80,000, including both "illegals" and camp internees who managed to survive. *Dimension* reduces the number of returned Jews from the USSR to 130,000, but states on the other hand that no less than 98,071 Jews were members of the *Unit of Polish Patriots* (within the Red Army). Many other diverging figures are mentioned, and finally Frank Golczewski, the author of the chapter on Poland, decides on 300,000 as the "realistic" number of survivors "regarding the Jews living within the borders of the Polish State after 1945" (whatever that may mean).

To sum up: The standard works provide no unambiguous information about how the Holocaust befell the Jews of Poland. Much is pure speculation, and in general it all depends on the veracity of a list on page 495 in *Dimension* telling us that 2,019,000 Polish Jews were exterminated in the camps of Kulmhof, Sobibór, Belzec, Treblinka, Auschwitz, and Majdanek (974,000 thereof in Treblinka alone). About 700,000 would have died in ghettos, in labor camps or would have been murdered by *Einsatzgruppen* or by ordinary criminals.

Thus, the figure of 2,700,000 victims seems to require that about two million of them were exterminated by the Germans. *Dimension* offers no proof, however, of even two thousand people, let alone two million, being actually put to death in the camps mentioned. And it is well known that the usual evidence for mass murder is totally missing in the areas where these camps were located. No mass graves, no heaps of human bones or human ashes are to be found there.

One gets a similar impression from a generally very well informed report by Eugene M. Kulischer of 1943: *The Displacement of Population in Europe*.^[8] This book contains detailed data about deportations of Polish Jews. The author quotes sources like *The Black Book of Poland* (1942), S. Segal, *The New Order in Poland* (1942), *Poland Fights* (1942), *Contemporary Jewish Record* (April 1943), and *Polish Review* (1943). Yet still, there is nothing in it that indicates knowledge of the murder of hundreds of thousands of Jews, which are said to have already been exterminated in Auschwitz, Belzec, Chelmno, and Treblinka by the end of 1942, according to *Dimension*.^[9]

Let us therefore disregard the figure of 2,019,000 exterminated Polish Jews and pretend temporarily that we know nothing about the number of extermination victims and gas chambers. Let us consider the most probable course of events without any preconceived ideas about the number of exterminated Jews.

The official version seems to be based on the assumption that the Polish Jews behaved like a flock of sheep readily led to the slaughterhouse. Let us assume instead that they were as bright and observant as people are in general, and that they took the obvious measures to protect themselves from menacing dangers.

Let us start from the last census in Poland before the war, in 1931. It registered 3.1 million Jews in Poland. We have every reason to assume that this number had fallen drastically by September 1939. Considering the situation in Poland in those years, a substantial Jewish emigration would have been the

natural outcome of the circumstances. Prior to 1933, large numbers of Polish Jews had emigrated to the United States, to Germany, and to France. Many Polish Jews had relatives in the USA which facilitated emigration. This ongoing emigration certainly received an impetus when Hitler assumed power in Germany (1933) and the Polish government endorsed (1937) Jabotinsky's plan to transfer 1.5 million East European Jews to Palestine within a decade (*Encyclopaedia Judaica*).

Finally, in October 1938, the Polish government issued a decree making Polish passports invalid for re-entry into Poland without official prolongation. The decree was primarily directed against Polish Jews living in Germany. The German government reacted to this by transporting the Polish Jews residing in Germany with special trains to the German-Polish border in order to enable those Jews to renew their passports before they expired. The Polish border troops, however, refused to let those Polish citizens enter Polish territory, even though their passports were still valid. With those thousands of Jews who found themselves in "nowhere" land between Germany and Poland for several days until Germany finally had to give in and re-admit the then stateless Jews, was the couple Grynspan, parents of Herschel Grynspan, who at that time lived in Paris. After he learned about the situation of his parents, he assassinated the German embassy secretary Ernst von Rath, who, as is well known, died as a result of the injuries on November 9th. From this event arose the so-called "Reichskristallnacht," the pogrom against the Jews.

Considering the official and general social anti-Semitism, which was raging in Poland during that period, which was comparable or even worse than the German version, it would not be surprising if the Jewish emigration from Poland was extremely intense at the end of the 30s right up to the outbreak of war. We have seen above that the Polish Jews shunned Poland even after these threats were removed. It is therefore very likely that the Polish Jewry lost some 350,000 through emigration (as well as some 100,000 through natural decrease) in the period 1933 to 1939. Zukowski refers to Polish studies showing that about 350,000 Jews had emigrated to overseas countries in the period 1918-1938.[\[10\]](#) Many emigrants probably left Poland during the very months preceding the German assault, as they had feared precisely this happening. Says e.g. Zygmunt Nissenbaum:[\[11\]](#)

"The outbreak of the war came as no surprise to us, we all had feared it for a long time..."

Then came the partition of Poland. About 1,830,000 Jews would have landed up on the German side according to Dabrowska, Waszak and Grynberg,[\[12\]](#) that is, if everybody had stayed where he was. Dr. Richard Korherr, however, stated in his famous Report[\[13\]](#) that the number of Polish Jews in German controlled area decreased by 763,000 through emigration and excess of deaths over births between 1939 and 1942. More recently it has been calculated that as many as 850,000 Jews escaped out of the German-to-be zone during the campaign and the next few months.[\[14\]](#) This figure, too, seems astonishingly high at first sight. But let us compare this with other similar events. For instance, no less than 1.5 million Belgians fled to France during the short Western campaign in 1940. And still later a whole 90% of all the Danish Jews fled *over the sea* when they realized that they were threatened. In contrast, there was no sea to prevent people from escaping to the eastern part of Poland, the territory that the Red Army occupied a couple of weeks later. Even Gentile Poles fled by the multitude.

We should expect the Polish Jews to have had an even better preparedness for flight than the Belgians and the Danish Jews. Also, the Germans wanted the Jews out of their zone just as they wanted them out of their zone in France a year later.^[15] It was only a year later, in the summer of 1940, that the Jews were forbidden to leave Poland.^[16] But even as late as in 1942, Jews are noted to have fled from Poland. A report from an SS man, dated Lodz, July 2, 1942, says that Jews on the countryside "are constantly trying to leave their home districts in order to cross the green border near by."^[17] One example is Prof. Herbert A. Strauss (*1918), who left German controlled territory one year after his deportation into the Warsaw ghetto.^[18]

If we stick to Sanning's figure of 850,000 Jewish refugees on the Soviet side, there would have been altogether about 1.8 million Polish Jews in Soviet custody in the spring of 1941. This corresponds to the estimates by Elizbieta Hornowa (1,694,000) and Eugene Kulisher (2,000,000).^[8] Other authors have mentioned figures from 500,000 to 1,200,000.^[19]

Those who managed to flee to some other country than the Soviet Union were the lucky ones. Most of the Jews, however, had bad luck, to say the least. During the first days of the attack many Jews died, together with lots of their Gentile countrymen. According to the *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, 32,000 Jews would have fallen in battle, fighting as soldiers of the Polish Army, while another 20,000 would have been killed in the bombing of Warsaw. These figures are inconceivably high. Most certainly they are greatly exaggerated. Considering the total number of Polish losses, it seems reasonable to assume some 10,000 Jewish soldiers and, let us say, a maximum of 2,000 civilian Jews fell victim to the military campaign in September 1939. (The civilian losses among Finland's 3.8 million population amounted to 600 persons killed – resulting from frequent bombing during the Winter War 1939-40 that lasted 105 days.)

After the losses and the exodus in 1939, there would have been left a hypothetical number of 838,000 Jews in the German part of Poland. What happened to them?

Let us make a spot check. For want of anything better, we may look at the 67 Polish Jews born 1860-1909 who were prominent enough to be mentioned in the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* as having been living in the German-occupied part of Poland in January 1940. We find that 13 of them (19%) managed to leave the country during 1940 and 1941. 54 stayed behind, and out of these 33% ended up in concentration camps, 4% in POW camps, 19% were murdered (outside the camps) and 44% escaped any type of German arrest and assault. Apparently, the German persecution of Jews in Poland was not particularly efficient. These 54 individuals represented the Jewish 'intelligentsia'. According to National Socialist ideology, the Jewish intelligentsia was regarded as the most harmful group of people. Certainly the National Socialists found it most urgent to make off with all Jewish professors, authors, political leaders and other such figures in occupied Poland, if they pursued such a policy. We may assume that they were a little bit more indulgent towards ordinary tailors, shoemakers, musicians, and shopkeepers. (Especially tailors and shoemakers were in great demand in wartime Germany.) On the other hand, emigration was more difficult to accomplish for an ordinary Jew than for a member of the intelligentsia.

Considering the fate of the 'VIP Jews' of Poland, it seems likely that about 400,000 out of the Polish

Jews ended up in German camps sooner or later, while about as many others (hypothetically 438,000) stayed in the ghettos or in hiding. Jews of the latter group would certainly not have been gassed to death, but otherwise they would have suffered many hardships. They would either have survived the war by the skin of their teeth or died from old age, epidemics, starvation, occasional murder, enemy bombing, or – in the case of Warsaw – been killed in action during an uprising.

It is well known that the Germans ordered the Polish Jews to concentrate in the city ghettos, to begin with. The largest of these was the Warsaw Ghetto. Since it is likely that a considerable part of Warsaw's 400,000 Jews had fled before and during the campaign, there may have been some 200,000 (or 300,000 at the most) living in the Ghetto. A considerable number of Polish Jews (61,000 according to *Encyclopaedia Judaica*) languished in POW camps for years, and we may therefore consider the number of Jewish internees in the civilian camps to have been about 340,000 (out of the 400,000 internees estimated above).

The death rate in wartime prison camps has proved to be remarkably high in many cases. After the civil war in Finland in 1918 the death rate among the imprisoned insurgents reached 11% during a single month. Of all the internees about 16% died before they were released although the mean duration of internment was only four months.^[20] The American POWs in North Korean camps suffered a death rate of 39%.^[21] The Red Army soldiers in Finnish POW camps during the Finno-Soviet war of 1941-44 suffered a death rate of 29%. Of the Finnish soldiers in Soviet prison camps only 30% returned after the war. Most of the remaining 70% probably died in the camps.^[22] No intentional killing has been suspected in either case. Considering these figures as well as the typhus epidemics and the scarcity of provisions towards the end of the war, it seems likely that the death rate among the imprisoned Polish Jews stayed within the range of 30-70%. For the sake of a provisional calculation, let us say 50%, or 200,000 (ordinary old age deaths exclusive). We may now summarize the above estimates as follows.

Deaths due to war:	12,000	±4,000
Deaths in POW camps:	30,000	±10,000
Fallen in uprising:	10,000	±5,000
Total of war victims:	52,000	±19,000
Deaths in concentration camps (excluding old age deaths):	170,000	±70,000
Criminal murder (e.g. by Pol. and Ger. anti-Semites):	18,000	±7,000
Total victims of persecution:	188,000	±77,000

The figure of 170,000 deaths in concentration camps may be compared with a certain sample of Jewish casualties available in Sweden. Outside the Stockholm synagogue there are a number of stone slabs engraved with the names of more than 5,000 Jews who perished under German occupation of their home country and whose relatives or friends are living in Sweden. Nearly 80% of these victims are Jews from Poland. The place of death is noted in most cases (76% of all). Out of the known places of death, 56.5% belong to the six so-called "extermination camps," chiefly Auschwitz (25.1%). J.-C. Pressac has found that 100 trains with Polish Jews were sent to Auschwitz.^[23] Such trains usually took

1,000 deportees each, and Pressac speculates that they may have taken up to 1,500 at the most. Let us therefore assume that some 125,000 Polish Jews were deported to Auschwitz. According to Pressac, 49,000 of these were registered in the camp. He assumes that the others were killed, but so far he has not offered any proof that it so happened. Anyway, let us assume that they all died. Since the mortality rate was high among the internees, about half of them may have died as well. Pressac's findings would thus mean that about 100,000 Polish Jews perished in Auschwitz.

Assuming that the deceased Jews listed on the Stockholm monument represent a random sample of Polish Jews, it would follow that about 225,000 Polish Jews perished in the six alleged "death camps" in Poland ($56.5/25.1 \times 100,000 = 225,000$).

It is obvious that a certain percentage of those who did not die from persecution must have died from normal, civilian causes. During the six years of war it would have been about 10% out of 610,000 making 60,000. At the same time birthrates must necessarily have fallen to a very low standard. Let us assume that 20,000 Jewish children were born in Poland during the entire war. Considering the crowding in the ghettos, the small food rations, and the various hardships of war in general, some additional 100,000 may have died from diseases related to these abnormal conditions. Therefore, without assuming any deaths by *organized* extermination, we find that a total of 400,000 ($\pm 150,000$) Jews may have died in the German parts of old Poland.

There would thus have been a hypothetical number of 470,000 survivors (including new-born babies). After what had happened to them, it seems likely that many of the survivors tried to leave Poland as soon as the war was over and border crossing became a possibility. It also seems likely that a considerable part of the survivors had survived by means of changing their names and appearances from Jewish to Gentile. Suppose that 15% of the survivors (*i.e.* 70,000) did not consider themselves as Jews any more. And suppose that 80% of those persisting as Jews (320,000) managed to leave Poland before June 1946. That would have left 80,000 resident Polish Jews to report themselves to the authorities in June 1946, which was what happened. Twice as many, 160,000, reported as refugees returning from the East.

Whatever the German policy may have been, it is a well-known fact that hundreds of thousands of internees survived the camps until May 1945. E.g. *The Oxford Companion to the Second World War* says that an estimated 300,000 Jews (Polish and other) "survived the camps and the death marches [from the camps]."[\[24\]](#) There is nothing telling against the possibility that 150,000 or even 200,000 Polish Jews may have survived the war in German camps.

There remain the 1,840,000 Jews who managed to stay or get outside German controlled territory. These Jews probably also suffered a high mortality rate, especially those who were under Soviet rule – probably the majority. It seems possible that a third or even half of these succumbed before the end of the war. Only a minority of the survivors are likely to have been able to return to Poland after the liberation, considering the many restrictions prevailing in the Soviet Union at that time, as well as a possible lack of information.

A fraction of the Jews under Soviet rule would of course have been overrun by the German Army. If

they belonged to any of the categories of party officials, peoples' commissars, civil servants or, irregular combatants, they could have been shot by the *Einsatzgruppen*, according to the orders given. Soviet civil servants were to be shot only if they were Jewish, but the other categories were blacklisted irrespective of race. It is impossible to estimate the number of persons who met their fate in front of the *Einsatzgruppen* rifles. Probably only a small fraction of those killed behind the eastern front were Polish Jews.

Thus, there could well have been some 1.4 million survivors compared to the 380,000 of the 'authorized' version. That is to say that there may have been about one million unreported survivors alongside with the 380,000 reported ones.

The most probable total number of victims of the *German* persecution seems to be of the magnitude of 200,000, give or take. A fraction of these were certainly killed by Germans, but there is no evidence indicating that this was done as a part of an extermination program. About one million Polish Jews probably died in places other than the German concentration camps and firing squad grounds. These deaths are regrettable consequences of the war and of anti-Jewish politics prevailing on both sides of the eastern front, but they cannot really be said to constitute genocide in the proper sense of the term.

Although Polish Jewry suffered enormous losses both in number and in social and personal values, the demographic outcome does not indicate an intentional extermination running into millions. The Polish Jewry was dissolved as an ethnic entity, but this is not what people generally have in mind when the word "genocide" is used. (*Ethnoclad* would perhaps be a proper term for this crime, from Greek *ethnos*, people, and Latin *cladis*, ruin, disaster.)

As far as human losses are concerned the Polish Jews may be compared with the age group of Russian males born between 1909 and 1923, or with the population of Leningrad. These two groups lost about one third of their numbers. As for the ethnic destruction, the fate of the Polish Jewry may be compared with that of the ethnic entities of Germans existing east of Germany's new frontier in 1945. This would certainly share the name of *ethnoclad* if such a term were applied. A heavy burden of guilt falls on those responsible for *all* these catastrophes, but at least in the case of the Polish Jews we have no evidence of an intentional large-scale extermination.

Notes

- [1] Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, Quadrangle Books, Chicago 1961 pp. 670, 767.
- [2] Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, New York, Holmes and Meier, 1985, pp. 1212, 1220.
- [3] *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, Jerusalem 1971.
- [4] Y. Gutman (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*, Macmillan, New York 1990.
- [5] W. Benz (ed.), *Dimension des Völkermords*, Oldenbourg, Munich 1991.
- [6] *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, Jerusalem 1971, vol. 13, p. 771.
- [7] Y. Gutman (ed.), *op. cit.* (note 4), vol. 3, p. 1174.

- [8] Eugene M. Kulischer, *The Displacement of Population in Europe*. Published by the International Labour Office, Montreal 1943.
- [9] W. Benz (ed.), *op. cit.* (note 5), pp. 462-469.
- [10] Arkadiusz Zukowski, "Emigration of Polish Jews to South Africa during the Second Polish Republic 1918-1939," *Scandinavian Jewish Studies*, vol. 17, no. 1-2, p. 61.
- [11] Zygmunt Nissenbaum »*I was in the Umschlagplatz*," *Dialectics and Humanism*, 1 (1989), p. 129.
- [12] Quoted in W. Benz (ed.), *op. cit.* (note 5), p. 419.
- [13] Poliakov & Wulf, *Das Dritte Reich und die Juden*, Berlin 1955, p. 243-248.
- [14] Walter Sanning, *Die Auflösung des osteuropäischen Judentums*, Grabert, Tübingen 1983, p. 44.
- [15] Rudolf Aschenauer (ed.), *Ich, Adolf Eichmann*, Druffel, Leoni 1980 p. 315.
- [16] Y. Gutman (ed.), *op. cit.* (note 4), p. 1156.
- [17] Joseph Wulf, *Aus dem Lexikon der Mörder*, Gütersloh 1963, p. 25.
- [18] *International Biographical Dictionary of Central European Emigrés 1933-1945*, vol. II, p. 1138.
- [19] W. Benz (ed.), *op. cit.* (note 5), p. 442.
- [20] J. Paavolainen, *Röd och vit terror*. Stockholm 1986, pp. 182f.
- [21] *Ibid.*, p. 183.
- [22] *Uppslagsverket Finland*, vol. 2, Helsingfors 1983, p. 132.
- [23] J.-C. Pressac, *Die Krematorien von Auschwitz*, Piper, Munich 1994, pp. 196f.
- [24] Oxford 1995, p. 371.

Polish Population Losses during World War Two

By Dr. Otward Müller

The following claims are continually put forth by Polish personalities: "Six million Poles lost their lives during the Second World War, a fifth of the entire population"; or "Three million Christian Poles [...] were victims of the Nazi terror." This article shows that statements of this sort are not compatible with the easily accessible population statistics of the pre- and post-war Poles. The conclusion is therefore that these loss figures are extremely exaggerated.

1. Introduction

In June 1983, Pope John Paul II visited Poland for the second time. The US press reported the following about this event from the city of Zschenstochau:[\[1\]](#)

"The Pope was in a somber mood and seemed to be close to tears when he recalled the Polish losses of 6 million people during the Second World War."

In his article entitled *Poland's Enduring Faith*, James Reston wrote:[\[2\]](#)

"The Pope stood up for the liberty and independence of Poland. He never mentioned the Soviet Union, but he explained that Poland had paid for its freedom and independence with six million of its citizens, who had sacrificed their lives at the various fronts of the war, in prisons and concentration camps."

The Pope has already made similar claims on other occasions. The Catholic weekly *The Wanderer* published an article on September 24, 1981, with the title "Pope says price of Poland's liberty was six million dead." This RNS report from Castle Gandolfo begins with the following sentence:

"In remarks apparently directed toward the Soviet Union, Pope John Paul II said that Poland had paid the price for its independence with the blood of six million Poles who had died in the Second World War."

During his first visit to his homeland in 1979, the Pope also visited Auschwitz. On June 24, 1979, the weekly *National Catholic Register* published the official English text of the sermon which the Pope gave during a mass in Birkenau. According to this text, he made the following statements:

"[...] I would like to pause with you over the inscription in Hebrew. This inscription awakens in us the memory of those people whose sons and daughters were intended for mass extermination. [...] No one is permitted to pass by this inscription unmoved. And finally, the last inscription, which is in Polish. Six million Poles, one-fifth of the entire population, lost their lives during the Second World War."

The last claim clearly assumes that, in addition to the losses of the Polish Jews, six million Christian Poles died. At the very least, this is the impression which the reader not familiar with the complexity of the population statistics in pre-war Eastern Europe must obtain from this statement by the Pope.

Naturally the Polish Pontiff is not imparting to us anything new. He is merely repeating, in a very effective manner, what the Communist government in Warsaw has claimed since the end of the Second World War. Even critical historians such as the British A.J.P. Taylor appear to credit these numbers. In his book *The Origins of the Second World War*, he writes:[3]

"Six and a half million Poles were killed."

German post-war politicians did not hesitate to accept these kinds of figures as 'historical facts' without putting themselves to the trouble of proving such accusations. West German President Gustav Heinemann, for example, stated on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War:[4]

"But Poland had a blood toll of six million. [...] These numbers of the dead include six million Poles."

Even encyclopedias cite this figure. Even today, these figures are still propagated, for example in the Church periodical *St. Anthony Messenger* of December 1998. They have already become 'common knowledge'. [5]

The author of this article is of the conviction that these casualty figures need to be examined for their content of truth. This is necessary because professional historians, especially in Germany, are not dealing with this unpleasant topic. This article, therefore, poses the question:

Did six million Poles really die during World War Two?

2. Definition of the term "Pole"

First of all, the term "Pole" must be defined. Who is a "Pole"?

Should, for example, a Polish Jew, who lived in Israel after the war-perhaps the former Minister President Menachem Begin-be counted as a "Pole" who was murdered by the National Socialists? He was, after all, no longer in Poland after the war. Or should a German soldier from Brelau, Danzig, Königsberg, Stettin or Oppeln, who was killed during the war as a member of the Wehrmacht, now be counted as a "Pole" exterminated by the National Socialists, merely because these cities were annexed to Poland after the war? What about the case of a Ukrainian who was declared on the spot to be a Polish citizen after the Polish incursive raids against Russia shortly after the end of the First World War, but who received Soviet nationality in October 1939? Is he a dead "Pole"? These few instances make it clear that the issue to be dealt with here is highly complex. An exhaustive investigation would rightly fill a thick book. To simplify our subject for this relatively short examination, a Pole will be defined as



a person who is of "Polish nationality" in the sense of ethnic membership. In other words: this study attempts to record the fate of ethnic, Christian Poles.

The statements cited in the introduction are clearly formulated in such a manner that the average newspaper reader would believe the six-million-loss figure refers to ethnic Christian Poles. Yet, on the other hand, it ought to be recognized that there is a tendency, for example, in Polish propaganda to claim the losses of Polish Jews simultaneously as Polish losses. Thus, one can read in one of the official histories of Poland prepared by the Polish embassy in Washington, D.C., that Poland had endured heavy losses during the war, "including the total destruction of cities like Gdansk, Szczecin and Wroclaw." The destruction of the German cities of Danzig, Stettin and Breslau are therefore claimed here as "Polish losses." This is a plain example of the methodology of Polish propaganda. Historical justice, however, requires that Poland does not claim German and Jewish losses as "Polish losses."

3. The Pre-War Population of Poland

Pre-war Poland, with its 37.339 million inhabitants was a state with minorities of many nationalities. Among them were 24.388 million ethnically Poles, mostly Catholics. The remaining 10.951 million consisted of non-Polish nationalities who merely had Polish citizenship. These figures are given by Edward J. Rozek in his book *Allied Wartime Diplomacy-A Pattern of Poland*.[\[6\]](#) At the time of the publication of this book, Dr. Rosek was Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Colorado in Boulder. On page 37 of his book, he lists the composition of the non-Polish population for the year 1939, in particular the Eastern portion of pre-war Poland:

Ukrainians: 4.529 Million
White Russians: 1.123 Million
Polesians: 0.822 Million
Russians: 0.134 Million
Lithuanians: 0.084 Million
Czechs: 0.035 Million

In addition, there were also:

Jews: 3.000 Million
Germans: 1.041 Million

The number of Jews living in Poland in 1939 was taken from the *Jewish Chronicle*:[\[7\]](#)

"Once three million strong, Poland's Jewish population today has shrunk to a dwindling remnant of 20.000"

Finally, the last figures for the Germans in pre-war Poland were taken from an excellent treatment of the same topic.[\[8\]](#) The question confronting us now is: What happened to these people after the Second World War? The main focus of this investigation is the fate of the 24.388 Christian Poles.

It is an incontestable historical fact that the Ukrainians, White Russians, Polesians, Lithuanians and 30-

40% of Poland's Jews, as well as some millions of ethnic Poles became Soviet citizens after September/October 1939. (The Lithuanians actually first became so in the year 1940.) After that time, these people no longer lived under Polish sovereignty. Their war losses must in reality be attributed to those of the Soviet Union and not to those of Poland, whatever may have happened to these people during the war. Were it otherwise, these losses would surface as doubled in the loss statistics of the World War. However, one would except from this the approximately 4.3 million ethnic Poles living east of the Curzon Line.[\[6\]](#)

The approximately one million Germans (ethnic Germans) became German nationals after September 1939.

4. The Post-War Population of Poland

What happened after the war? The Soviet Union kept the territories which they had conquered since 1939. One third of the newly created Polish state had been German soil. The German populace of these eastern provinces of Germany were driven out of their home, in which their forefathers had lived long before the discovery of America by Columbus.

On February 14, 1946, and on December 3, 1950, censuses were conducted in Poland. The results of the first census, however, are worthless for the purposes of this investigation, since the expulsion of the Germans was then still in full swing. In addition, the immigration of the Poles from the areas conquered by the Soviet Union had not yet ended.

According to the census of December 1950, after the greatest ethnic cleansing in history had just about been concluded, living in post-war Poland, which had been created in Yalta, there were:

24.6137 Million Poles, or
24.533 Million Poles

The first figure is given by Reichling,[\[9\]](#) the second by Barnett.[\[10\]](#) These numbers are slightly less than those given by *Information Please Almanac* for 1949 (p. 50) gave for the year 1947: 24.775 million. The difference may be explained by the fact that in the years 1948-1950 approximately a quarter million Germans were expelled.[\[11\]](#) The ethnic composition of this population is described in *Collier's Encyclopedia* as follows:[\[12\]](#)

"Although a great number of minorities lived in pre-war Poland, who altogether made up one third of the total population, post-war Poland became a homogeneous country: 98% of the population are ethnic Poles."

According to Reichling, on December 3, 1950, approximately 1.7 million Germans were still living in Poland, *i.e.*, persons who until 1945 had possessed German nationality. However, this number must be subtracted from the total number, if one wishes to determine how many Christian Poles survived the Second World War.

But what happened to the ethnic Poles who, according to Rozek,[\[6\]](#)re living east of the Curzon Line in 1939, *i.e.*, east of the post-war border between Poland and the Soviet Union, and therefore in areas

annexed by Stalin? Up until June of 1948, the Soviets permitted only about 1.5038 million persons of Polish origin to emigrate to Poland. Even after the end of the war, approximately 2.8 million Poles continued to live in areas of pre-war Poland which since that time had come to belong to the Soviet Union.[\[12\]](#)

During the war, many Poles fled to the West, *i.e.*, to France, England, and to the USA. At least half a million Poles, mostly members of the army of the Polish government-in-exile, who fought on the side of the Western Allies, refused to return to their Communist-ruled fatherland after the end of the war.
[\[12\]](#)

Breaking down this segment results in the following list:

Population of Poland in December 1950 24.6137 Mio.

minus Germans remaining -1.7 Mio.

plus ethnic Poles in the Soviet Union +2.8 Mio.

plus permanently emigrated ethnic Poles + 0.5 Mio.

Ethnic Poles who survived the Second World War

including the natural population growth

in the period 1939-1950: 26.2137 Mio.

This post-war census count of 26.2 million ethnic-Christian Poles must be compared with the corresponding number from the year 1939, *i.e.*, 24.388 million.[\[6\]](#) The conclusion ought to be plain: In the year 1950, the number of ethnic Poles was about 1.826 million greater than before the war. Easily accessible population statistics of the pre- and post-war period clearly show that there is *no proof* that "six million Christian Poles were killed during the war." Their true numbers lost probably amount to the scale of a few hundred thousand at most.

The result of this statistical examination fully confirms the more general determination made by Barnett in his book *Poland* on page 43:

"Despite the enormous effect of the Second World War, the structure vis-à-vis age and sex of the population remained rather the same as it was in 1939."

The article from the *New York Times* by J. Reston, mentioned in the introduction, ends with the following findings:

"In spite of all the suffering and death, they [the Poles] are now a million more than before the bloodbath of the last war. Their beautiful children can be seen here in the streets, and they were clearly the addressees of the Pope's message."

In actuality, the number of Christian Poles increased not by a million, but rather jumped from 24.388 in 1939 to 36.3 million in 1982![\[13\]](#) And this increase of 12 million does not even include those Poles who live in the Soviet Union or who emigrated to the West. Therein lies further proof for the fact that the biological substance of the Polish people survived the Second World War very well indeed-far better than that of Germany. Such a phenomenal population growth-at least for European conditions-would have been impossible if "six million Poles" or even only three million had been "victims of the Nazi terror."

If one now dares to doubt that "six million Poles died," it will be suggested by, for example, the Polish-American Congress Inc., that one had misunderstood what the Pope was saying, and that "three million Christian Poles as well as 3 million Jews, who were all citizens of Poland, were

victims of the Nazi terror."[\[14\]](#) The fact that today many Jews originally from Poland are living in Israel, America, and Western Europe proves that even the second figure is exaggerated. It is also interesting that Polish losses due to measures taken by the Soviet Union are hardly ever mentioned.

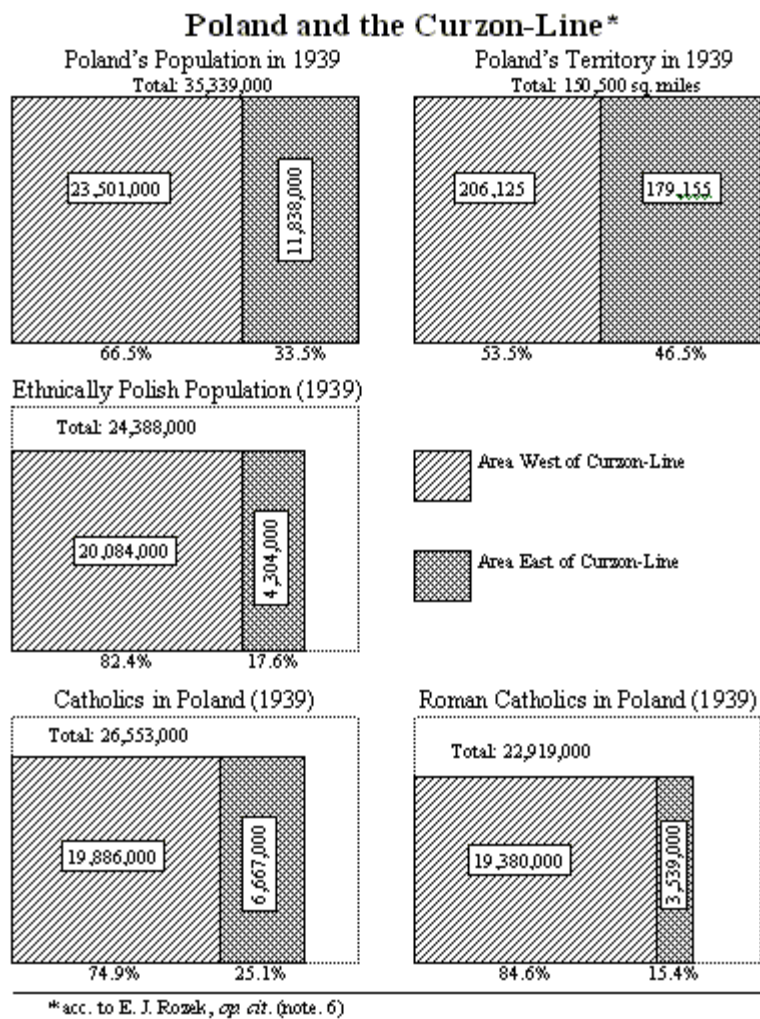
Up to the year 1998, the Polish population climbed to 38.7 million, by the way, without immigration of millions of "asylum-seekers," "guest workers," "refugees" etc.[\[15\]](#)

5. Natural Population Growth: A further Argument

According to Barnett,[\[16\]](#) the natural rate of growth of the Polish population in the last year of peace was slightly over one per cent. In the year 1983, the rate of increase of the Polish population was about 0.9%.[\[13\]](#)

It is obvious that this rate of increase was smaller during the war but afterwards it climbed again, especially since approximately 694,000 Polish soldiers at least initially were held as prisoners of war by the Germans, and 217,000 by the Soviets.

After the end of the war there was a baby boom in Poland. Therefore, an average one per cent rate of growth appears to be acceptable. Now let us consider the time span between 1939/40 and 1955, i.e. 15 years. Two cases are considered:



Case A: Relatively small losses

Case B: An accepted war loss of 3.0 million.

In 1955, the population of Poland amounted to 27.533 million:[\[10\]](#)

Population of Poland 1955 27.554 Mil.

minus Germans remaining -1.6 Mil.

plus ethnic Poles in the Soviet Union +2.0 Mil.

plus permanently emigrated ethnic Poles +0.5 Mil.

Total: 28.444 Mil.

Case A:

Ethnic Poles 1939:[\[6\]](#) = 24.388 Mil.

1% factor of increase/year

from 1940-1955 (15 years) $M = (1.01)^{15} = 1.1610$

Poles 1955 $M \times N = \underline{28.314 \text{ Mil.}}$

Conclusion: The losses of the Poles in the Second World War were relatively small. Their number would even have been about the same had there been no war.

Case B: Accepting a war loss figure of 3 million

Ethnic Poles 1939:[\[6\]](#).388 Mil.

Alleged extermination of Christian

Poles in the period of 1939-1945 -3.000 Mil.

Poles 1945: $P = 21.388 \text{ Mil.}$

1% factor of increase/year

from 1945-1955 (10 years) $M = (1.01)^{10} = 1.1046$

Poles 1955 $M \times P = 23.626 \text{ Mil.}$

Conclusion: If claims by Polish propaganda were correct, that 3 million Christian Poles were killed during the Second World War, the number of Poles in the year 1955, calculated on the basis of pre-war data, should be close to 23.626 million. But in 1955, there were actually 28.444 million, which corresponds to Case A. From this emerges the following good news: During the Second World War, three million Poles were *not* murdered by the "Nazis" or by anyone else.

In Case A the number of Poles remaining in the Soviet Union were assumed to be merely 2 million, in order to avoid the objection that I was "exaggerating" the starting number to begin with. As reference for this number, I give the *Encyclopedia Americana*, which states:[\[17\]](#)

"A large number of Poles-probably more than 2.000 million-did not succeed in crossing over the border to post-war Poland, and were incorporated into the eastern side of the Polish-Soviet border."

One could also find other sources for this number.

One issue is still open and awaits an answer: why should the Catholic and the Communist Poland exaggerate its losses in this way? The answer to this is simple: the Poles wish to 'justify' their genocide of the German people committed after 1945 in the Eastern provinces of Germany. They are trying to justify the unjustifiable. In this sad affair, Polish Communists and Catholics, atheists and Christians are of the same feather.

The claim put out by the *Polish-American Review*, that "Poles suffered the greatest losses of human life of all the countries of the Second World War,"[\[18\]](#) is simply *not true*.

6. An Interesting Table

Barnett has published a very interesting table entitled "Population of Poland," which is frequently quoted. In this table, the number of the respective populations of the individual Voivod districts of post-war Poland is given. This means that the regions which belonged to Poland between the world wars, but which were conquered by the Soviet Union in 1945, are not given; yet the eastern provinces of Germany annexed by Poland are. This table now compares the population of this region in the year 1931[\[19\]](#) with that in the years 1946, 1950 and 1955. The total population is stated as follows:

1931 1946 Difference

29.892 Mil. 23.625 Mil. 6.267 Mil.

This corresponds to a relative change of -21%, a "fifth of the entire population" or a loss of 6.267 million people. But the number of 1931 contains the districts of Allenstein (Olsztyn, East Prussia), Danzig (Gdansk, West Prussia), Köslin (Koszalin, Pommerania), Stettin (Szczecin, Pommerania), Grünberg (Zielona Gora, Silesia), Breslau (Wroclaw, Silesia) und Oppeln (Opole, Silesia), which were all part of Germany in 1931 with an overwhelming German majority in population (95-100%).

According to Reichling, in 1944, 11 million Germans were living in the region which would later be a part of post-war Poland.[\[20\]](#) After the majority of this population had been killed or brutally expelled by the victors of the Second World War, a process which had no way complete in 1946, these areas naturally had to record an enormous population 'loss.'[\[21\]](#) These facts, however, are nowhere rendered in this table.

The following suspicion thus arises: Is it perhaps possible that the Poles are counting those Germans as "Poles exterminated by the Nazis," whom they killed in the campaign of their genocide in Eastern Germany or hunted out of their homes? This is only a suspicion. After all, how the Poles arrived at their 6- or even 3-million-figure has not been made known up to this point. But wherever the truth may lie: the striking similarity of the 'losses' in this widely used and known table on the one hand and the officially claimed losses on the other hand is at the least surprising and amazing.

7. "Polish" Ukrainians

The population of pre-war Poland encompassed many Ukrainians, White Russians, Lithuanians, Russians, and other nationalities. The legitimate question is, therefore, how these people have become 'Poles.' The answer to this is interesting, but unfortunately little known. After 150 years of non-existence as a state, the independent state of Poland was founded anew in 1916 as a monarchy by Germany and Poland. After the defeat of Germany, however, the monarchy fell and was replaced by a military dictatorship, which immediately turned aggressively against its neighbors. Against the conditions of the armistice of November 1918, but with the support of the victorious Western powers and of the League of Nations, Poland conquered areas in Upper Silesia, West- and East Prussia from Germany whose population had a strong German majority. In so doing, Poland and the supporting League of Nation breached the conditions of the armistice and the recently codified and recognized right of self-determination. Not satisfied with these enormous territorial gains, Poland subsequently turned against the Soviet Union, which at that time was still struggling through its civil war. On April 28, 1920, the young Polish army under the leadership of the Polish dictator Pilsudski invaded the Ukraine. On May 6, 1920, the Polish army reached Kiev. This first war of aggression after the end of the First World War finally ended on March 18, 1921, with the peace treaty of Riga, signed by Poland and the Soviet Union. This determined that the Soviet Union ceded large territories from parts of Lithuania, White Russia, and the Ukraine to Poland. Millions of Ukrainians, White Russians, Lithuanians, and Russians thus became 'Poles.' It was a matter of course that Moscow would not put up for long with this defeat inflicted upon it by the Poles. The Poles then laid the foundation for the later Hitler-Stalin Pact of August 1939.

C. R. Barnett: Table 1. Population of Poland

	In Thousands				In Percent		
					1931	1946	1950
					to	to	to
Wojwodschaft(a)	1931	1946	1950	1955	1946	1950	1955
Warsaw (incl. city)	3,552	2,662	2,809	3,245	-25.1	5.5	15.5

Bydgoszcz	1,566	1,457	1,470	1,597	- 7.0	0.9	8.6
Poznan	2,311	2,086	2,109	2,304	- 9.7	1.1	9.2
Lodz (incl. city)	2,385	2,015	2,047	2,210	-15.5	1.6	8.0
Kielce	1,858	1,702	1,659	1,763	8.4	- 2.6	6.3
Lublin	2,069	1,753	1,640	1,719	-15.3	- 6.5	4.8
Bialystok	1,194	944	952	1,040	-20.9	0.8	9.2
Olsztyn	1,030	442	675	811	-57.1	52.8	20.1
Gdansk	1,065	732	891	1,082	-31.3	21.6	21.4
Koszalin	789	585	514	632	-25.8	-12.1	23.0
Szczecin	941	308	508	661	-67.3	65.1	30.1
Zielona Gora	884	347	560	678	-60.7	61.4	21.1
Wroclaw	2,604	1,769	1,735	1,986	-32.1	- 1.9	14.5
Opole	1,040	792	811	887	-23.8	2.3	9.4
Katowice	2,608	2,363	2,635	3,040	- 9.4	11.5	15.4
Cracow	2,195	2,133	2,147	2,359	- 2.8	0.7	9.9
Rzeszow	1,801	1,535	1,371	1,530	-14.7	-10.7	11.6

Total Population	29,892	23,625	24,533	27,544	-21.0	3.8	12.3
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(a) Pre-war borders adjusted to 1950; pre-war borders of the provinces as in the year given.
Source: Acc. to: Mauldin, W. Parker and Akers, Donald S., *The Population of Poland*, p. 122, and from Polska Rzeczypoupolita Ludowa, Główny Urząd Statystyczny, *Rocznik Statystyczny 1956* (Polish Peoples Republic: Statistical Main Office, Statistical Yearbook 1956). p. 44.

8. Summary and Conclusion

Polish claims that "Six million Poles [...] a fifth of the entire population" were killed during the Second World War or became "victims of Nazi terror," have never been supported by facts by the Polish government. The same is true for the claim that "3 million Christian Poles" died.

The comparison between the pre- and post-war population statistics performed in this study shows that, on the contrary, the losses of the ethnic Christian Poles are relatively small. The 6- or 3-million-figures are exaggerations of propaganda which have spread worldwide, in order to 'justify' Poland's post-war policy of genocide of the German people, *i.e.*, of the expulsion of the Eastern Germans with wholesale mass murder and the annexation of East Germany.

The actual losses are probably in the order of one tenth of the figures claimed.

The population figures used in this investigation can be checked by any interested person in well-stocked university libraries.

Naturally, the Polish government and the representatives of Polish interests have the right to exert their efforts on behalf of Polish interests. But by so doing, they should not claim Jewish, German, Ukrainian, and White Russian losses as Polish losses.

In view of this result, I propose as conclusion that all casualty figures of the Second World War be checked and scientifically investigated by an international commission of experts from neutral historians and demographers.

Further Reading

Next to the works listed in the Notes, I recommend as literature for further study:

- Albin Eissner, "Personelle Kriegsverluste des polnischen Volkes," *Außenpolitik (Foreign Policy)*, 14(1) (1963), pp. 44-52
- Stanislaus Sopicki, *Mehr Genauigkeit in den Zahlen!* (More Exactitude in Numbers!), in: *Wiadomosci*, Vol. XXV, No. 1247, Feb. 22, 1970; Ger.: Institut für Osteuropakunde, Universität Mainz, Nov. 27, 1970

Notes

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- [1] Sunday *Times Union*, Albany, N.Y., Combined Wire Service, June 19, 1983, p. A12. Re-translated from German.
- [2] *New York Times*, June 19, 1983, p. E19. Re-translated from German.
- [3] Premier Books, 1965, p. 292. Re-translated from German.
- [4] *The German Tribune*, Sept. 16, 1969, No. 388, p. 4.
- [5] E. Dybicz, "Crosses at Auschwitz Appropriate", *St. Anthony Messenger* (circulation: 315.000), December 1998, p. 3-4: "In six years of war, Poland lost over six million of its citizens, 22 per cent of its entire population."
- [6] John Wiley & Sons, New York 1958, p. 348.
- [7] London, edition of March 22, 1968, p. 7, re-translated from German. I am aware of the problem of this number, probably excessive by several hundred thousand Jews, but I forgo making any needed corrections here, since this would not basically influence the result of my study; cf. W. N. Sanning, *Die Auflösung des osteuropäischen Judentums* Grabert, Tübingen, p. 16-22; Engl: *The Dissolution of East European Jewry*, Institute for Historical Review, Costa Mesa 1983.
- [8] "Die polnischen Kriegsverluste 1939-1945" (Polish War Losses), *Zeitschrift für Politik* (Cologne) 25(3) (1978), p. 279-296.
- [9] Gerhard Reichling, *Deutsche und Polen - 1945 bis 1970 im Spiegel der polnischen amtlichen Statistik* (Germans and Poles-1945 to 1970 as reflected in official Polish statistics), Kulturstiftung der deutschen Vertriebenen (Cultural Institute of German Expellees), issue 1, Verlag Osmipress, Bonn 1979, p. 21.
- [10] Clifford R. Barnett, *Poland: Its Society, Its Culture, Its People*, Hraf Press, New Haven, Conn., 1958, Table 1
- [11] G. Reichling, *op. cit.* (Note 9), p. 23
- [12] Vol. 19, 1979, p. 181; re-translated from German.
- [13] *Information Please Almanac*, 1983, p. 246.
- [14] *Times Union*, July 17, 1983.
- [15] *The World Almanac*, 1998, p. 810.
- [16] C.R. Barnett, *op. cit.* (note 10), p. 42.
- [17] 13th Edition, 1968, p. 287; re-translated from German.
- [18] Edition of March/April/May 1983; re-translated from German.
- [19] The last official population count in Poland took place in 1931.
- [20] G. Reichling, *op. cit.* (note 9), p. 43.
- [21] Cf. Alfred de Zayas, *The German Expellees: Victims in War and Peace*, St. Martin's Press, New York 1993; Cf. also in German *Anmerkungen zur Vertreibung*, (Notes on

the Expulsion) Kohlhammer, Stuttgart 1986.

Where Did They Go?

The origins of the mythical Six Million figure

The mythical Six Million figure naturally collapses with the gas chambers and gas vans, since we now must subtract 2.7 to 5.37 million gassing victims, according to which historian we read (1). Let us look at the history of the origin of the Six Million figure.

First of all, the Six Million figure is based on the confessions of two National Socialists of only minor importance, namely Dieter Wisliceny and Wilhelm Höttl. Wisliceny, Gestapo leader of Bratislava, gave his confession first at Nuremberg and then again in Communist Czechoslovakian imprisonment. The value of such confessions is nil.

Wilhelm Höttl was a collaborator of Adolf Eichmann in the section for the Jewish Question of the RSHA (Reichs Main Security Office). He pretended to have heard the six million figure from Adolf Eichmann (2). The latter then disappeared, and Höttl took the opportunity to place himself in a favourable light by accusing Germany in any manner desired. This was rewarded, since he was never again bothered. Eichmann was kidnapped from Argentine exile in 1960 in violation of international law, and an ordinary bureaucrat was transformed into a "monster of the century" in a show trial played out before the entire world. Eichmann was executed, i.e., murdered, in 1962.

If we go back to 1942, we discover the remarkable fact that the Zionist activist Nahum Goldman, later President of the Jewish World Congress, had already reported, in May of that year, at an event in the Biltmore Hotel in New York, that, of eight million Jews in Hitler's tyranny, only two to three million had survived (4). But the Holocaust was allegedly only just beginning. How did Goldman know the exact number of Jews to be killed in the future?

Our astonishment takes on huge proportions when we find an article from the 31 October 1919 in the US Jewish newspaper *The American Hebrew* (Fig. XXX).

The article mentions a "Holocaust" (sic!) of "Six Million Jewish men, women, and children". How and where this Holocaust is supposed to have taken place, is not even apparent from this feeble-minded drivel, but the Six Million figure appears no fewer than seven times!

At this point, if not before, the suspicion becomes a certainty: Six is the holy figure of Judaism, and the Six Million figure is, therefore, a delusion probably derived from the Talmud.

Wolfgang Benz and Walter Sanning

If we keep in mind the overwhelming importance played by the Six Million figure in the propaganda of the past five decades, it is surprising that one single remotely scientific attempt has ever been made to support it. In 1991, a large book appeared under the name of *Dimension des Völkermords*, edited by a

collective of authors under the leadership of the professional anti-anti-Semite Wolfgang Benz (head of the Institute for Research on Anti-Semitism in Berlin), according to which between 5.29 and 6.01 million Jews were killed in the Third Reich (5). In his study *Die Auflösung* (6) published eight years before, the German-American Walter Sanning came to the conclusion that there were never more than a few hundred thousand Jews were ever in German-controlled Europe.

Since the books of Benz and Sanning, as well as an accurate comparison of both works by Germar Rudolf (7), are available to everyone, we will satisfy ourselves with only a few sentences on this topic here.

In order to arrive at the figure of Six Million dead Jews, Benz and his team indulge in all sorts of manipulations, such as double counting, resulting from the shifting of territories during the Second World War. Rudolf shows that Benz is guilty of counting 533,193 people twice. In addition, the Polish Jewish victims of Stalinist purges and deportations are calmly added to the German side of the ledger. The number of Polish Jews at the beginning of the war is exaggerated by 700,000. In addition, which is worse, Benz acts as if no Jewish emigration ever took place: every Jew who no longer lived in the same place after the war, is simply counted as "exterminated"! If this were true, a book like Exodus by Leon Uris could never have been written.

In contrast to Benz, Sanning pays Jewish emigration the attention it deserves. His book, based almost entirely on Jewish and Allied sources, shows that approximately 1.5 million Jews emigrated to the USA, to South America, Australia, etc. after 1945.

Of course, these one and a half million post-war emigrants do not yet solve the statistical problem. The solution to the riddle is to be found in the USSR. According to the census of 17 January 1939, the Soviet empire had 3.02 million Jews. The first post-war census, in 1959, showed only 2.267 million, but the Zionists all agree that this figure is unrealistically low. First, every Soviet citizen could list his nationality as he wished; wholly or partially assimilated Jews often called themselves simply "Russians", and secondly, the Soviet regime had an obvious motive to support the Holocaust story by deliberately reducing post-war Jewish population figures. On 1 July 1990, i.e., long after the beginning of the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to the West, the *New York Post*, referring to Israeli specialists, spoke of over 5 million Jews living in the Soviet Union. In view of the fact that natural increase on this scale for this particular population group would have been impossible due to its progressive trend towards assimilation and the very low Jewish birth rate, there must have been nearly 6 million Jews in the USSR before the emigration, i.e., almost three million "too many".

What happened? In 1939, after the division of Poland, a huge flood of Polish Jewish refugees moved West to East. After the beginning of the German-Russian campaign, most of the Soviet Jews, at least 80% of them according to Sanning, were evacuated, and the German troops never even came into contact with them. In December 1942, a David Bergelson, Secretary of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committees, reported in Moscow (8):

"The evacuation has rescued the great majority of Jews from the Ukraine, White Russia, Lithuania, and Latvia. According to information from Vitebsk, Riga, and other large cities,

which were captured by the fascists, only a few Jews remained there, when the Germans invaded."

Thus, a large part of Polish as well as Baltic Jewry were absorbed by the USSR. Nevertheless, a British-American Commission reported in February 1946, when hundreds of thousands of Polish Jews had already moved west, that 800,000 Jews were still living in Poland. (9).

So much for the myth of the "extermination of Polish Jewry" in the "extermination camps".

The exemplary case of one "gassing victim": Jenny Spritzer

In his *Mémorial de la Déportation des Juifs de France*, Serge Klarsfeld calculates that 75,721 Jews were deported from France. To our knowledge, this figure is not disputed by anyone. According to Klarsfeld, no more than 2,500 of them survived the war (10). He found 2,200 such survivors in France, Belgium and elsewhere, 805 of whom reported to the French Ministry of War Veterans at the end of 1945 and were officially declared "survivors"; he rounds the number off at 2,500.

The following, of course, are simply forgotten:

- Jews who only returned to France after 1945, and, for that reason, could not report to the French Ministry of War Veterans at the end of 1945, and, for that very same reason, do not appear on the "official survivor" list;
- Jews who returned before the end of 1945, but did not report to the French Ministry of War because they were in no way required to do so;
- Jews who simply never returned to France. This category must be by far the largest. The overwhelming majority of Jews deported from France -- approximately 80% -- held foreign passports or were stateless persons with no ties to France. Faced with the possibility of emigration overseas, most of them naturally preferred the latter to return to a war-torn country. A book on Bergen-Belsen -- a camp which was used as a reception camp for displaced persons after the war -- states that the Jews, who represented the great majority of these displaced persons, almost always wanted to emigrate to Palestine or another non-European country (11).

An exemplary case:

In his *Mémorial*, Klarsfeld writes that he found only 14 survivors of transport 8, and that all the survivors were men (12). As a result, Klarsfeld assumes that all the other members of this transport were gassed. But as shown by the Spanish revisionist Enrique Aynat, there was also a woman among the survivors, a Jewess named Jenny Spritzer (13). Spritzer was a native of Austria. Before the war, she emigrated to Holland. When the Germans invaded Holland, she fled to Belgium and then emigrated to France. In 1942, she was arrested in France while preparing to travel on to Spain, and was deported to Auschwitz. After the war, she emigrated to Switzerland and wrote her memoirs, slathering away about three to four million Auschwitz victims, flames shooting out of crematoria chimneys, and gas streaming out of shower heads

As may be observed from the example of Jenny Spritzer, the fact that Jews deported by the Germans

did not necessarily return to their former place of residence, doesn't necessarily prove that they were killed. Most of the Jews returning from German camps or settlement areas in the East preferred the USA or Israel to their former countries, and were then entered into the statistics as "gassing victims" or "exterminated Jews".

Carl Nordling's research

The Swedish Professor Carl Nordling compared the fate of a total of 722 Jews, mentioned in the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, who lived in areas of German controlled Europe (15). Of these Jews, 44% emigrated before the end of 1941, 13% died, 35% remained unaffected by deportation or internment; the rest were deported or interned, but survived.

If we assume 4.5 million Jews living in German-controlled Europe -- a majority of the Polish Jews fled to the Soviet Union after the German attack on Poland 1939 -- and a death rate of 13%, this means 600,000 victims. Sanning concludes a figure of approximately half a million, the English revisionist Stephen Challen 750,000 (16). The parts of the mosaic thus fit together into a more or less complete picture.

300,000 "Holocaust survivors" in Israel in 1996

Based on German actuarial statistics (i.e., a table from the *Lexikon Institut Bertelsmann, Ich sag dir alles*, Guetersloh 1968), it is possible to determine just how many people from a population group of all age groups (under conditions comparable to those of the Bundesrepublik) must have been alive in 1945 if 750,000 of them are still alive 51 years later. Gernar Rudolf has done this in a still unpublished article (17). As his starting point, he used the Amcha Report, prepared by an Israeli foundation for the psychosocial care of Holocaust survivors, in which Amcha asked all German mayors, in a circular letter on 22 August 1996, for a contribution for 300,000 surviving holocaust survivors.

Since only approximately 40% of the Jews who emigrated from Europe in 1945 or later chose Israel as their new home, and since many Jews remained in Europe, the world-wide "survivor" figure must be at least twice as high. Based on the statistics mentioned above, it may be calculated that there were 3,500,000 surviving Jews in former-German controlled Europe. Since according to Sannings' most meticulous calculations, only 4,500,000 Jews could have been living in the territories in question at the time of the greatest territorial expansion of the Third Reich, the Amcha Report is further proof that the number of Jewish victims might have amounted to one million at most, but most probably very much less.

Thus we arrive at the conclusion that between half a million and one million Jews lost their lives during World War II. This conclusion is supported by four different studies -- the Sannings study, Challens' research, the Nordling statistics, and the Amcha report.

Questions still open

There is still a lot of work to do in the field of Jewish population shifts during World War II and afterwards. For example, the question of how many Jews were deported via Auschwitz and other transit camps to the transit camps in the occupied Eastern territories, and what happened to the survivors after

the war, remain unanswered.

That the Germans deported Jews to the territories in the East was known to the Western allies by 1943 at the latest. In that year, the US demographer Eugene Kulischer wrote a book about population shifts in Europe since the beginning of the war (18), in which he emphasized that the ghettos and work camps of the East were being increasingly used as destinations for Jews from Western Europe including Poland.

Thus, the Jews transferred from the Warsaw Ghetto in the spring of 1942 were being sent "to work camps on the Russian front, to work in the swamps near Pinsk or to the ghettos of the Baltic, White Russian, or the Ukraine" (19). Well-informed observers among the Allies never accepted the fairy tale of the extermination of the Jews in "extermination camps" in the East; on the contrary, they were very quick to recognize the true nature of the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question".

The details, of course, remain largely in the dark.

After the valuable studies by Steffen Werner, Enrique Aynat, and Jean-Marie Boisdefeu (20), a broad field remains open for the revisionists. No court historian will ever do this work. No one knows where the documents are, if they still exist, or even whether they were destroyed by the victorious Allies after the war.

Notes:

- 1) The first figure is mentioned by Hilberg, the second by Davidowicz.
- 2) Nuremberg trial transcript IMT XI p. 255 ff, 285 (German transcript), as well as Nuremberg trial document volumes IMT XXXI p. 85 ff.
- 3) On the Eichmann trial, see Paul Rassinier's Was ist Wahrheit?, Druffel, Leoni, 1980.
- 4) Martin Gilbert, p. 398.
- 5) Wolfgang Benz, Dimensionen des Voelkermords, R. Oldenburg, 1991.
- 6) Walter Sanning, Die Aufloesung, Grabert, 1983.
- 7) Germar Rudolf in Gauss, Grundlagen...
- 8) Sanning, p. 114
- 9) "Keesings Archiv der Gegenwart", 16/17. Jarhgang, Rheinisch-Westfaelisches Verlagskontor, Essen, 1948, p. 651, report of 15 February 1946.
- 10) Serge Klarsfeld, Vichy-Auschwitz, Delphi Politik, Hamburg 1989, p. 331.
- 11) Paul Kemp, "The Liberation of Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp in April 1945", Imperial War Museum Review, no. 5 (1990), p. 28-41.
- 12) Serge Klarsfeld, Mémorial de la Déportation des Juifs de France, Transport 8 (publication without

page numbers).

13) Enrique Aynat, Estudios sobre el Holocausto, Graficas Hurtado, Valencia, 1994, p. 65/66.

14) Jenny Spritzer, Ich war no. 10291.

15) R.H.R. no. 2, 1990, p. 50 ff.

16) Stephen Challen, Richard Korherr and his Reports, Cromwell Press, 1993.

17) The article is to be published in 1997 in the Vierteljahreszeitschrift für freie Geschichtsforschung.

18) Eugene Kulischer, The Displacement of Population in Europe, International Labour Office, Montreal, 1943.

19) Kulischer, p. 110/111.

20) Jean-Marie Boisdefeu, La controverse sur l'extermination des juifs par les allemands, Au Roseau Pensant, Brussels, Part 2, 1996

Well, where are they then?

By Wilfried Heink

Revisionists are continually asked the above question, the implication being that if the Jews were not murdered, where are they then? In this essay I will try to demonstrate that it is near impossible to give a satisfactory answer to the above question. The numbers of Jews killed, as presented by the historians who believe in “The Holocaust”, are based on transport lists, telegrams, counting of rail cars, etc., etc. This is not an exact science. In fact, the data provided of Jews being deported is no evidence that they were murdered. The numbers game is tricky for another reason: we have no precise figures of how many Jews were under the control of the Germans, how many survived, how many were able to flee or survive somehow, and to migrate from Europe before or after the war. This then is the topic of the present essay. I will merely present the numbers as they are available, without much of commentary. Admittedly, this is also not exact science, but because of the many unknowns, mentioned above, it is near impossible to come up with accurate figures.

The Numbers of Jews Evacuated by the Soviets

Professor Werner Maser writes:[1]

“How the Jews able to flee into the USSR fared was known to the Allies in 1948 at the latest, but this has escaped most researchers on the Holocaust. That Stalin blamed the Germans for the loss of the almost 2 million Jews who could not return to their place of origin, because they had lost their lives, was of no concern to them.”

Maser provides no direct source for the claimed 2 million figure. We may compare it with another claimed figure, reported on September 25, 1954 by the Hamburg daily *Die Welt*:

“In a meeting of the investigation committee of the House of Representatives, the head of the Jewish League, Rabbi Benjamin Schultz, stated that 3,390,000 Jews disappeared without a trace on Soviet territory during World War II.”

There is no doubt that anti-Semitism was present in the USSR, especially during the war. I will return later to this issue.

Maser continues:[2]

“Jewish refugees who were able to escape into the unoccupied territories of the USSR, were arrested by the Soviets or forced into slave labor.[3] 40% of those able to flee from Poland, the Baltic States and Romania were Jews. Most of them fled to the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan. Of these Jews 20-30% died.[4] A Joint Bulletin report noted that 200 000 to 300 000 Jews from Poland alone had died.[5] The American Jewish Yearbook of 1948/1949 has it at 500 000.[6]”

The number of Jews able to flee – or evacuated by the Soviets – are recorded in relative conformity [7] (as opposed to the numbers of Jews murdered): Raul Hilberg 1.5 million [8], Yitzak Arad 1 to 1.1

million [9], Solomon Michoels (of the Jewish Antifascist Committee (JAC)) 2 million [10], Yisrael Gutmann and Michael Berenbaum estimate 1.5 million.[11]

I will now turn to the well-known Russian author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. In his book *Die Juden in der Sowjetunion* [12] (The Jews in the Soviet Union; unfortunately I have only available to me the German edition of this work) we read the following on page 359-360:

“However, many Jews were saved through the evacuation of 1941-42. A number of Jewish sources from the war and postwar years leave no doubt that these evacuations were carried out with the necessary decisiveness. For example one reads in the anthology *The Jewish World*[13] from 1944 that: ‘The Soviet government knew perfectly well that the Jews were the most threatened part of the population, and thousands of trains were made ready for their evacuation, despite the Red Army’s pressing need for transports. [...]. In many cities (...) the Jews were the first to be evacuated.’ The quoted author, however, holds ‘the claim of the Jewish writer David Bergelson, according to whom [in total] 80% of the Jews were successfully evacuated, to be exaggerated.’[14] 70 000 Jews lived in Chernigov before the war, 10 000 were left when the Germans arrived. [...]. In Dnipropetrovsk only 30 000 of the 100 000 Jews were left at the time Germans marched into the city. In Shitomir, 44 000 of the 50 000 Jews were able to flee.[15] E. M. Kulischer writes in summer of 1946 in the report of the HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) that: ‘Without a doubt the Soviet government took special measures to evacuate the Jewish population or aid them in their escape. Together with government employees and industrial workers and employees the Jews were prioritized [in connection with the evacuation]. [...]. The Soviet government provided thousands of trains especially for the evacuation of the Jews.’[16] To shelter the Jews from bombings, the Kolkhozes had to make available thousands of horse-drawn wagons to transport the Jews to secure train stations. In an article entitled ‘How the Jews of Soviet Russia were evacuated during the war’, B.Z. Goldberg, brother-in-law of Scholem Alejchem and correspondent of the Jewish New York paper *Der Tog*, writes on February 21, 1947, following a visit to the Soviet Union in the winter of 1946-47, that when he inquired about this issue in the Ukraine, Jews and Christians, soldiers and evacuees, all answered, that the policy of the government consisted in giving priority to the Jews during the evacuation, in order to send away as many of them as possible, so that the Nazis would not be able to exterminate them.’[17] Further, the former Soviet partisan Moshe Kaganovich confirms in his memoirs, published abroad in 1948, that the Soviet government put all available transport vehicles at the disposal of the evacuation, besides trains also horse-drawn carriages, and ordered that ‘first and foremost the citizens of Jewish nationality’ should be evacuated ‘from the territories threatened by the enemy.’[18]”

Solzhenitsyn writes that Solomon Schwarz, as well as other researchers later, disputed “not only the Soviet evacuation of Jews as such but also the existence of an order to that effect.”[19] Solzhenitsyn, however, states that his data are taken from material published following the war and also later, including the writings of demographer M. Kupowezkij. Solzhenitsyn provides more details, but this will suffice to show that numbers of Jews were indeed evacuated by the Soviets.

Another source of interest is the (Jewish) demographer Prof. Eugene M. Kulischer, who wrote in 1943 that:

“After the outbreak of the war the expulsion of Jews began at first in a somewhat

unorganized fashion, its object being to place the Jews outside the limits of German rule. In September 1939 Polish Jews fled in masses from the invading armies, pushing further and further east in an attempt to escape to Soviet-occupied territory. In this they succeeded, owing to the attitude of the Soviet authorities during the first two months of the Soviet occupation of Poland. The Germans often tried to encourage this flight; many cases were reported of Jews literally driven at the point of guns and bayonets to the demarcation line and into the frontier rivers. Many were openly admitted by the Soviet authorities; many others managed to cross the border secretly. The number of Jews who fled into the eastern Polish provinces (both before they were occupied by the Soviet Union and after) is estimated by the Institute of Jewish Affairs at 200,000 at least (...)”[20]

Later in the same study Kulischer writes:

“In the winter of 1939-40, and again in June 1940, a number of refugees were deported by the Soviet authorities to the eastern part of the Soviet Union[...]The main movement from Soviet-occupied Poland to the east began in June 1941, immediately before the German invasion, and increased in volume after the invasion had begun. Hundreds of thousands of people were either forcibly removed or evacuated to inner and Asiatic Russia. Others fled as best they could from the invading German army. According to a Statement issued by the Polish Foreign Minister on 7 May 1942, one and a half million persons were transferred. The Joint Distribution Committee estimates the total number of evacuees from Soviet-occupied Polish territory at two million, of whom 600,000 were Jews (...)”[21]

In an article by David Bergelson of December 5, 1942 in *Eynikayt* (Unity) a Yiddish-language Moscow news paper, we read that through evacuation 84% (about 1.1 million) of the Jews from Ukraine, White Russia, Lithuania and Latvia were saved from the Germans.[22] Rabbi Mordechai Murok, the Latvian envoy to the Jewish World Congress, declared in a New York press conference of February 29, 1946, that hundreds of thousands of Polish- and other Jews were able to find a safe haven in the USSR.[23]

While we are at Poland, we have the following information from the Historian Hermann Graml:

“The wave of emigrations of German Jews formed only part – and not the biggest – of a general Jewish emigration from middle-, east-, and southeastern Europe. From Poland, starting in 1933, 100 000 Jews a year emigrated (from Germany 25,000 to 28,000), partly due to the increasing anti-Semitic attitude of the Polish government, and also due to the steadily worsening economic conditions for the Polish Jews. Similar tendencies were seen in Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and, to a lesser degree, in Hungary.”[24]

If, from Poland alone, 100,000 Jews emigrated per year during the six-year period of 1933-1939, this would equal 600 000 Jews leaving before the war broke out. Add to this the 600 000 mentioned by Kulischer who were removed by the Soviets and we have 1.2 million Polish Jews that were never available to the Germans. And those are the official figures – we have no way of telling how many escaped on their own. The historian Martin Broszat also tells us that 300 000 Romanian Jews were spared the worst.[25]

As for numbers of Jewish émigrés from countries other than Poland, we basically have nothing. We do however have some information about the number of European Jews migrating to countries that never came under German dominion. The *Aufbau* published an article on August 13, 1948 by Bruno Blau, in

which the author states that from 1933 to 1945 a total of about 1 million Jews emigrated to England, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, USA, South America, Australia, China (Shanghai), India, Africa and Palestine.[26]

The Study of Solomon M. Schwarz

We will now turn to Solomon M. Schwarz and his study *The Jews in the Soviet Union*, published in 1951. In the “Author’s Note” Schwarz writes (p.ix):

“My endeavor has been to base the two studies making up the present work as much as possible on Soviet sources — newspapers, periodicals, books, and other publications in Russian and Yiddish. But since Soviet publications are subject at every point to official control, and since independent evidence is scarce, getting at the truth requires an intricate process of reconstruction from fragmentary data and indirect clues [...].”

Since the author himself admits that caution is advised when considering official Soviet sources and that he has “pieced together a picture”, one needs to also exercise caution when reading Schwarz, for who is to say that he assembled his information without prejudice, that he did not have an agenda. He does, however, also rely on material provided by other sources, and not just Soviet publications.

Let’s look at Chapter XIV of Schwarz’s book, titled “The War and After”. It starts out with the following passage (p.195):

“The outbreak of the Second World War found the dislocation of the Jewish population of the Soviet Union progressing at full speed. The migratory movement depleted the Jewish communities in the areas of the former Pale of Residence [27] and carried increasing numbers of Jews to regions where only a few had lived in pre-revolutionary times [...] Almost two-fifth of the total Jewish population had moved out of the Pale.”

No numbers are provided, but we are nevertheless told that large number of Jews either had moved out of harm’s way, or were evacuated by the authorities. Now to some numbers (p.229):

“Postwar efforts to make the public believe that large parts of the Jewish population had been rescued go back to 1945. Seeking to refute the pessimistic view expressed in the New York ‘Forward’, Itsik Fefer, in a message [28] to the American Committee of Jewish Writers, Artists and Scientists in October 1945, stated that Odessa again had a Jewish population of 45,000; Kiev 50,000; Berdichev 10,000, etc.”

Schwarz then tries hard to file a disclaimer, quoting from *Eynikayt* of March 5, 1946:

“But a few month earlier *Eynikayt* had recorded only ‘about 10 000’ Jews in Kiev, and half a year later it found only 6 000 Jews in Berdichev.”[29]

This only to goes to show that “The Holocaust” was still in the making in 1945, and that even Jews like Fefer were not in tune yet.

Schwarz goes to great length to deny that any organized evacuation ever took place, based on the argument that no order was ever found. He writes on pp. 220-222:

“During the war exaggerated rumors about the evacuation of civilians from Nazi-held areas were circulated inside and outside the Soviet Union. The view prevailed in the American press that the Soviet government, in addition to evacuating the personnel of government services, industrial establishments, etc., had taken effective steps to save the Jewish population in particular from the danger that threatened. Similar notions found their way into serious studies by authors free of pro-Soviet illusions. As late as 1948, Eugene M. Kulischer stated:

‘In fact, the government took care to prevent a general population displacement, which would have obstructed the highways, and, furthermore, resulted in a mass influx to an area unable to house and feed them. Only a small part of the rural population was evacuated. In urban centers factories were removed, together with skilled and many other workers. Besides, officials and a large proportion of the Jews were evacuated to save them from German atrocities.’[30]

Yet the Soviet sources available outside of the Soviet Union did not mention any governmental decrees or directives relative to evacuation, nor were there any statements by Soviet leaders on the nature and scope of the evacuation program. The only exception was a radio broadcast by Stalin on July 3, 1941, in which he proclaimed the strategy of ‘scorched earth’ (without, however, using that term):

‘When detachments of the Red Army are forced to retreat, it is essential that all railroad rolling stock be driven off, that not a single locomotive or railroad car be left to the enemy, and that the adversary find not a kilogram of bread or a liter of fuel. The *kolkhoz* farmers must drive away all their cattle and deliver their grain for safekeeping to government authorities, who will transport it to districts behind the lines. All valuable property, including non-ferrous metals, grain, and fuel, that cannot be removed, must be destroyed without exception’.[31]

Actually, the term ‘scorched earth’ does not properly describe the meaning of this policy. To judge from descriptions of evacuation in the newspapers and works of fiction, what the Soviet authorities aimed at was not so much wholesale destruction as the removal of anything that the enemy could have used—first of all factories producing goods essential to the war effort, and their indispensable personnel. Men capable of bearing arms were also to be evacuated. In this plan there was no place for the evacuation of Jews as such. In all the Jewish literature on the war there is only the one reference by Moshe Kaganovich to a decree by the Soviet government ordering the evacuation of the Jewish civilian population. [32] But there is no trace of such a decree either in *Izvestiya* or in any other Soviet publication, and it can be assumed that the author was merely repeating one of the many rumors current in the years of the war. None of the Communist writers who so eagerly seized on the émigré Kaganovich’s laconic statement could quote from the decree or indicate where and when it was issued; his book remains their only authority.

The true picture of evacuation has to be pieced together from the various accounts of eyewitnesses. Everywhere there seems to have been a great deal of confusion in the evacuation. No uniform procedures had been worked out. In provinces nearest the western border, which were invaded in the early days or weeks of the German-Soviet war, operations were chaotic and on a very limited scale. The farther the province from the border, the more organized the procedure of evacuation and the more people were saved.”

Schwarz thus dismisses the written accounts (and we note here in passing that Kulischer seems to have wavered some in 1948) and instead tells us to rely on eyewitnesses, even though “everywhere there seems to have been a great deal of confusion in the evacuation”. Nevertheless Schwarz has to admit that evacuations did indeed take place, thus confirming what Solzhenitsyn writes and what Kulischer had written in 1943. On p. 232 Schwarz writes:

“The Jewish evacuees and refugees began their trek back home even before the end of the war; once the war had ended, the tide swelled.”

On the following page (p. 233) we read:

“Before the termination of hostilities and for several months thereafter, return to the liberated regions was, as a rule, permitted only upon a special call from the local authorities.[33][...]

Generally return without special permission was not authorized until August 1945; from then on, organized re-evacuation was carried through by special trains. Its start was reported late in August from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. A correspondent from Tashkent wrote:

‘These last days the mass re-evacuation of Uzbekistan’s Jewish population has begun. In addition to those hundreds and thousands who move westward with the regular railroad traffic, special trains for the re-evacuated are now being dispatched from time to time.’[34]

This Tashkent correspondent witnessed the departure of a special train that took 2,500 Jews from Tashkent to the Ukraine and White Russia; several more special trains were scheduled for the following weeks. Similar reports abounded. Public interest was focused on re-evacuation, and for a while the fact went unnoticed that a large part of the evacuees and refugees remained behind. Attention was drawn to this in July 1945 by the Kazakhstan correspondent of *Eynikayt*, who pointed out that while the majority had left or were about to leave, ‘part of the Jews undoubtedly will remain as permanent residents in Kazakhstan,’ where they had ‘found their second home’.[35] In November a report from the Urals said that ‘quite a number of Jews are going to stay here forever’.[36] Similar news came in December from the Turkmen Republic:

‘Evacuation brought a substantial Jewish population here that has settled in all parts of the Republic... Jews from the Ukraine, Bessarabia, and the Crimea have been working here. A large part of them have already gone home, but many have remained for good. Jews are now a considerable percentage in Turkmen industry, on collective farms, in the government Services of the Republic and of the individual provinces. You will find them in the Workshops of the industrial combines, at the oil wells, in the People’s Commissariats of the Republic, in government and party offices.’[37]

In 1946 such reports became more frequent. So far as one can judge, the Moscow correspondent of *Morgn Frayhayt* was fully justified in writing:

‘The great and overwhelming majority of Jews evacuated to Central Asia, Siberia, and the Urals have returned to the cities and towns of the Ukraine, White Russia, Moldavia,

Lithuania, and Latvia. But many thousands of Jews have grown such deep roots in their new homes that they never even think of leaving. Here they have become true residents, passionately attached to their new homes.’[38]

The correspondent listed a number of the new centers of Jewish population, such as Alma-Ata, Dzhambul, Chkalov (formerly Orenburg), Sverdlovsk (formerly Yekaterinburg), Chelyabinsk, Molotov (formerly Perm), Krasnoyarsk, Tomsk, Irkutsk, etc. The total number of Jews who settled in these remote regions cannot be determined. There are perhaps a hundred thousand of them, or even more.[39]”

Up to 300 000 Jews remained behind, although Schwarz disputes this figure (see footnote 37). If we take an average of 1.5 million evacuated (the average taken from the numbers provided by Maser, see footnotes), this would mean that approximately 25% remained behind, which is not out of the question. As those who returned faced hardships – something detailed by both Schwarz and Solzhenitsyn – a lot of them decided to move on “to Palestine or America”. [40] As Maser suggests, all of those “missing” were/are no doubt counted as murdered by the Germans.

Schwarz also writes about the antisemitism in the Soviet Union during the war and after, where “Kill the Kikes, save Russia”, or “Kill the Kikes, save White Russia” were used as slogans.[41] How many Jews were actually killed we don’t know. But not just Russians were antisemites, so were Ukrainians, Poles, Lithuanians, etc. About the latter two ethnicities Leon Kahn, née Leibke Kaganowicz, writes:

“From what we could see, there was one group of partisans who sometimes fought on the side of the Germans. They were Polish farmers by day and partisans by night, and they carried out the orders of the exiled Polish government living in London. We understood that these orders specifically stated that, in addition to ridding themselves of their German conquerors, all Poles were to see to it that no Jews remained in Poland after the war. Their slogan was *Polska Bez Zydow* or “Poland without Jews.” These were the men of the Armia Krajowa or “Home Army,” known to us as the AK. It seemed to us that the AK had a special status with the Germans because they carried on the work of exterminating the Jews and Communists. From 1942 to 1944 they concentrated on seeking out the hiding places of the Jews and the Communists and butchering those who had successfully hidden from the Germans.”[42]

And about the Lithuanians:

“We couldn’t simply take the law into our own hands anymore because the Russians had sent a patrol of a hundred ‘Green Hat’ border guards to Varena to help quell the Lithuanian partisans. These partisans had never operated during the German occupation but sprang into being when the Germans’ retreat left the Lithuanians to atone for their crimes as Nazi collaborators.”[43]

About 500 000 Jews served in the Red Army, 25 000 to 30 000 were active as partisans.[44] From Schwarz we learn that:

“The total number of Jewish partisans in White Russia and Western Ukraine has been estimated at 10,000 to 11,000; of these, some 3,000 were killed in battle.”[45]

Schwarz further describes what happened to the Jewish partisans when the Red Army advanced:

“Immediately after liberation Jewish partisans were drafted into the Red Army advancing on Germany. There were instances when after the demobilization of partisan detachments virtually all Jews were sent to the front (the Ordzhonikidze, Red Guard, Victory, etc. detachments) [...] In non-Jewish detachments, as a rule, only those were sent to the front who originally had served in the German Wehrmacht and who had not come to the woods before the second half of 1943 — those, in short, who had to atone for their betrayal of the homeland. Partisans in civilian dress, with guerrilla weapons, untrained for such combat conditions, unfamiliar with the tactics of open fighting, were thrown into advanced positions. [...] A few who were lucky enough to incur disabling wounds, have survived. Most of the others perished in the battles near Volkovisk, Bialystok, and Lake Narev.”[46]

The Jews in Territories under German Control

Next a little about the Jews that survived in the territories under German control. Both Schwarz and Kahn write about the Jewish family camps in the forests. To give just one example from Kahn:

“When darkness fell, Buczko came to guide us deeper into the forest, crossing lakes and swamps, forcing our way through impenetrable thickets and miles of heavy forest. We arrived at the camp just after dawn. It was an incredible sight. Almost three hundred people were living openly and apparently without fear in the middle of the forest. They laughed and called to one another, the children played noisily, and women prepared breakfast over open fires and cows grazed nearby.”[47]

300 might be considered a small number, but we must remember that Kahn only writes about a relatively small area of southern Lithuania and this is just one of the camps mentioned by him. Schwarz tells us concerning this subject:

“Jews, however, faced an inescapable alternative; death or flight to the woods. Flight was no outing, and many fugitives perished; but to stay on was certain destruction. You did not consider your military qualifications, but sought only to reach the woods. Jews fled with their families, with the aged and infirm, and with small children escaping from ghettos — sometimes in sizable groups — and from death trains. In the eyes of the non-Jewish partisans those unable to bear arms were only a burden. There were thousands such. Thus Jewish ‘family camps’ came into being in the depths of the forest; and along with these, special Jewish detachments to protect the family camps. The organization of exclusively Jewish partisan units was encouraged by the difficulties Jewish combatants encountered when they sought to join non-Jewish detachments.”[48]

According to this description, Jews escaped from “death trains” and special armed groups were set up to protect them in the forest camps, as is confirmed by Kahn. There were also Jewish partisan units close to some of the Aktion Reinhardt (Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka) camps, yet nobody thought of interrupting the alleged mass killings going on there! Here yet another quote from Schwarz:

“In some cases partisans were said to have invaded smaller towns to set Jews free from ghettos or camps. Kaganovich mentions four such exploits: in Sverzh, where the Zhukov detachment saved 170 Jews; in Kossovo, where some 300 Jews were liberated by the 51st squad of the Shchors detachment; an assault by one of Kovpak’s detachments on Skalat,

Galicia where several hundred Jews were said to have been freed by partisans; and the capture of Molodechno by the Uncle Vanya detachment.”[49]

And finally, also from Schwarz:

“At about the same time a Jewish army officer made a tour of liberated White Russia and failed to find a single Jew either in Gomel or the neighboring towns. Later, when the Red Army advanced farther west, the picture changed somewhat. The Ukrainian provinces west of the Dnieper and the western part of White Russia are densely forested; the woods gave shelter to fugitives and guerrilla fighters. More Jews survived in those parts than had been thought, in some districts as many as several hundred, and all in all several thousand; but most of these were saved by their own enterprise and endurance, only a few having been aided by the local population.”[50]

The last sentence is no doubt a response to certain claims made by Soviet-Jewish propagandist Ilya Ehrenburg:

“The reader will also be deeply moved to note the facts proving Soviet solidarity and the strength of the fraternal bond of nations, expressed in the efforts of many Russians, White Russians, Poles and Ukrainians to rescue Jews from slaughter.”[51]

Rothfels tells us about the efforts made by German organisations to save Jews.[52] Aschenauer also informs us about Jews escaping en masse into the forest from the ghettos of Lublin, Radom, Bialystok and the eastern part of Warsaw district.[53]

We must also consider the change of names from Yiddish to whatever language. Leibke Kaganowicz changed his to Leon Kahn when he entered Canada. Schwarz also writes about name changes, which were made mainly because of the antisemitism during the war years and the post-war climate in the Soviet Union (part two of his book is titled *Antisemitism in the USSR*).

Leon Kahn remembers that when he reached Lodz, following the war, it was “overflowing with nearly thirty thousand Jewish survivors”. [55] A little further on we read:

“Although it was still illegal, many Jews were finding a refuge in Israel because an escape route, or ‘Bricha’, had already been organized by the Zionists and financed by Canadian and American Jewish organizations. Branches of this route extended into every country in Europe to bring the survivors together in displaced persons’ camps, and then transport them to Israel.”[56]

Bricha, or “Berihah, Brichah etc.”[57] translates into “*Flucht*” (flight, escape) according to the German Wikipedia entry on the subject. In this article we read that between 1944 and 1948, about 250 000 people were able to escape Eastern Europe, and that Bricha helped at least 80%, i.e., 200 000 Jews to leave. Another Jewish organisation, “Nativ”, operating in Russia, helped Jews from that country to immigrate. In an *Ha’aretz* article dating from November 4, 2006 we read:

“That is why Nativ was focused and aimed at immigration. And from this point of view, Nativ proved itself. It generated the immigration waves of the 1940s, the 1950s and the 1980s and brought about the immigration of millions of people.”[58]

For “people” we must read “Jews”, since Nativ was a Jewish organization. Further we have the reports of Jews fleeing from Europe and of refugee camps established in Italy and elsewhere.[59] Franz J. Scheidl also writes about Jewish escapees using various routes.[60]

The numbers of how many Jews were ever under German control vary widely, to list them all would draw this article out unnecessarily. This is also not the topic at hand. However, to give but a few examples, Schwarz, who almost exclusively concentrates on the Soviet Union, writes:

“After having risen from 3,100,000 in January 1939 [...] to about 5,000,000 [...] after the annexation of 1939 and 1940, it was reduced to something in the excess of 1,800,000 [...] after the war.”[61]

He seems to have forgotten to subtract the numbers of Jews who were evacuated by the Soviet authorities, and further his total of 1.8 million is wrong. Solzhenitsyn refers to a census taken in the Soviet Union in 1959 which showed that 2 268 000 Jews lived in the Soviet Union. Solzhenitsyn warns, however:

“It is generally known [...] that there are more Jews in the USSR than is shown by the census, since a Jew is allowed to state his nationality of choice, instead of what is shown in his passport.”[62]

Eugene E. Kulischer provides pages of data, showing the movement of peoples, including that of Jews, while relying on an impressive list of sources (in parenthesis, there is not one word about systematic mass killings). It would take too long to cite them all, and thus I will give just the summary:

“Accordingly, the number of Jews compulsorily removed from their homes would be about 2,100,000, or in any case over 2 million, and the total of all uprooted Jews 4,150,000, or in any case over 4 million.”[63]

The total of uprooted includes the Jewish refugees from Poland et al, as well as those that had been evacuated by the Soviets. It does not include the Jews from Hungary, however, or of any Jews uprooted following the publishing of the book, i.e., after mid-1943.

As of 1980, 4 million compensation claims by Jews had been filed and paid.[64] The *Aufbau*, a Jewish New York publication, informed its readers on June 30, 1965, that the number of claimants had doubled in the last ten years, and by now has reached the number of 3,375,000.[65] Yet we are now told that only about one million individuals are involved.[66] That figure is hardly believable, for in *Ha'aretz* of December 29, 2005 we read that “As of 2005, 40% of the 400,000 Holocaust survivors living in Israel live below the poverty line”.[67] Also, we have a 2003 report, showing that 1,092,000 survivors were still alive at that time.[68] With that many “survivors” still around, it is reasonable to assume that there were many more in 1945, thus, the number of 4 million claimants might not be that far off after all.

Conclusion

Jews served in the Red Army – a number of them were killed – how many we don’t know. Jews fought as partisans – a number of them were killed – how many we don’t know. Jews were deported by the Germans, forced to serve as slave labour – a number of them died – how many we don’t know. Jews

fled ahead of the advancing Germans or were evacuated by the Soviet authorities – how many we don't know. Jews fled via other countries – how many we don't know. Jews hid in the forest – how many we don't know. Jews converted to Catholicism – how many we don't know. Jews were helped to escape/emigrate by the locals – how many we don't know. Jews changed their names – how many we don't know. Jews were helped following the war by various organizations to relocate – how many we don't know. Etc., etc.

It is therefore impossible to construct a "Holocaust by demographics", because of the many unknowns. Thus, the question: "Well, where are they then?" is a moot question. If we are to believe that "The Holocaust" happened, a solid case for mass murder has to be made. So far this has not been done, and those who claim that "it" did happen, have to realize that it cannot be proven simply by repeating ad nauseam the question: "Well, where are they then?"

In reality, the question is a declaration of bankruptcy, because by asking it is admitted that no solid case for mass murder can be made, for if it were, there would exist no need to ask the question.

[1] W. Maser, *Fälschung, Dichtung und Wahrheit über Hitler und Stalin*, Olzog, Munich 2004, p. 339.

[2] Ibid., pp. 339-340.

[3] Joint Archive New York, Folder 712. *Nota bene*: The author of the present article (WH) has gone through the microfilm roll referred to by Maser without finding the corresponding information. This leaves four possibilities: 1) Maser has misrepresented the contents of the folder, for which we see no reason; 2) Maser did not himself access the folder but relied on flawed second-hand information; 3) Maser (or his editor) has stated the wrong folder number; 4) contents have been removed from the folder/microfilm at some time after Maser accessed it. At the moment there is no telling which of these alternatives is correct.

[4] Joint Archive New York, Folder 713.

[5] Louis Rapoport, *Hammer, Sichel, Davidstern*, Berlin 1992, p. 93.

[6] *American Jewish Yearbook*, Vol. 50, 1948/49, p. 397.

[7] W. Maser, *Fälschung, Dichtung und Wahrheit über Hitler und Stalin*, op.cit., p. 340. Cf. also A. Hillgruber, "Der Ostkrieg und die Judenvernichtung", in: Gerd R. Ueberschär, Wolfram Wette, *Unternehmen Barbarossa*, Schöningh, Paderborn 1984, p. 228, n 69: "The estimates of the number of Jews in the Soviet Union in 1941 varies with a difference of over one million. This is foremost due to the unanswered (and now hardly answerable) question of how many Jews were able to escape before the Germans into the unoccupied territories of the Soviet Union. The estimates range between 2.655 million to 1.6 million."

[8] R. Hilberg, *Die Vernichtung der europäischen Juden*, Berlin 1982, p. 209, 212, 243.

[9] W. Grossman, I. Ehrenburg, A. Lustinger, *Das Schwarzbuch*, Reinbeck 1994, p. 1022.

[10] Joint Archive, New York, Folder 424.

[11] Gunnar Heinsohn, *Jüdische Sklavenarbeiter Hitlerdeutschlands*, Bremen 2001, p.62, footnote 102, referenced in: W. Maser, *Fälschung, Dichtung und Wahrheit über Hitler und Stalin*, op.cit., p. 340.

[12] A. Solzhenitsyn, *Die Juden in der Sowjetunion*, Herbig, München, 2003.

- [13] JW-2 = *Evrejskij mir. Ezegodnik na 1939 g.* (The Jewish World Yearbook 1939), Vol. 2: New York: Sojuz russkich evreev v N'ju-Jorke (League of Russian Jews in New York), 1944.
- [14] I. Sechtman, *Sovetskoe evrejstvo v germano-sovetskoj*, in JW-2, p. 225f.
- [15] A. A. Goldstejn, *Sud'ba evreev v okkupirovannoj nemcami Sovetskoj Rossii*, in BRJ-2 (BRJ = *Kniga o russskom evrejstve*, vol. 2: 1917-1967), p. 89, 92.
- [16] *Rescue: Information Bulletin of the Hebrew Sheltering and Aid Society*, HIAS, July-August 1946, vol. III, Nr. 7-8, p. 2.
- [17] S. Svarc, *Evrei v Sovetskom Sojuze s nacala Vtoroj mirovoj vojny 1939-1956*, New York: Verlag des Amerikanischen Jüdischen Arbeiterkomitees, 1966, p.55.
- [18] Mose Kaganovic, *Der idiser ontajl in partizanerbavegung fun Sovet-Russland*, Central Historical Commission of the Partisan Federation PAKHAKH in Italy, Rome 1948, p. 45f.
- [19] A. Solzhenitsyn, *Die Juden in der Sowjetunion*, op.cit., p. 360.
- [20] Eugene M. Kulischer, *The Displacement of Population in Europe*, published by the International Labour Office, Montreal 1943, p. 99.
- [21] Ibid., pp. 58-59.
- [22] Franz J. Scheidl, *Geschichte der Verfemung Deutschlands*, Dr. Scheidl-Verlag, 1020 Wien, Postfach 61, Österreich, vol. 5, part IV, p. 7.
- [23] Ibid.
- [24] Hermann Graml in *Gutachten des Institutes für Zeitgeschichte*, Munich 1958, pp. 79-80.
- [25] Martin Broszat in *Gutachten des Institutes für Zeitgeschichte*, Munich 1958, p. 176.
- [26] F.J. Scheidl, *Geschichte der Verfemung Deutschlands*, op.cit., p. 8.
- [27] The Jewish Pale = Poland, Lithuania, Bessarabia and considerable portions of White Russia, Volhynia and Podolia; cf. S. M. Schwarz, *The Jews in the Soviet Union*, Syracuse University Press 1951, p. 14.
- [28] Itsik Fefer, "Sovetn Rateven Ondetalbn Milyon Idn-'Forverts' Kon Es Nit Fartrogn", in *Morgn Frayhayt*, October 21, 1945. This was in reply to the *Jewish Daily Forward*, July 1, 1945. See also *Morgn Frayhayt*, October 14, 1945. (Schwarz, p. 229, footnote 46).
- [29] *Eynikayt*, May 29, 1945. Fefer, incidentally, had told the Presidium of the Jewish Antifascist Committee as early as August 1944 that the number of Jews in Kiev was nearly 30,000; this was reported in the same *Eynikayt*, August 24, 1944 (Schwarz, p.229, footnote 47).
- [30] Eugene M. Kulischer, *Europe on the Move: War and Population Changes 1917-47*, New York 1948, p. 260.
- [31] J. V. Stalin, *O velikoi otechestvennoi voine Sovetskogo Soyuzu* (Remarks on the Soviet Union's Great War for the Fatherland), Moscow 1946, p. 14.
- [32] Schwarz, p.325, footnote 50: "Kaganovich fails to mention even as much as the date of issuance of the order. Elsewhere (p. 188) he "quotes" an edict of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR purportedly issued "near the end of 1941" bearing the signatures of Kalinin and Gorkin and calling upon Soviet authorities to provide for the evacuation of Jews from imperiled areas. No such order was ever issued; the writer apparently was misled by an apocryphal document, which may also have been the case with the order concerning non-combatants."
- [33] B. Slutskii, "Aheym!" (letter from Kazakhstan), *Eynikayt*, August 23, 1945.

- [34] V. Ortenberg, "Zay Gezunt, Uzbekistan", in *Eynikayt*, August 23, 1945.
- [35] B. Slutskii, "Idn in Kazakhstan" (Jews in Kazakhstan), in *Eynikayt*, July 3, 1945. See also his "Alma-Ata", in the issue of January 19, 1946. Similarly, the deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Kazakh Republic, dealing with the "Rebirth of the Kazakh People" (*Eynikayt*, February 15, 1947), said of the new Jewish residents: "In the years of the war tens of thousands of people — Russians, Ukrainians, White Russians, Jews — were evacuated from the western provinces to Kazakhstan. [. . .]. After the war thousands of Jews stayed for good in the prosperous republic, and they work here in the factories and plants, in producers' cooperatives and scientific institutes, displaying model work heroism."
- [36] B. London, "Idische Kulturarbet in Magnitogorsk," (Jewish Cultural Work in Magnitogorsk) in *Eynikayt*, November 3, 1945.
- [37] *Eynikayt*, December 20, 1945.
- [38] S. Rabinovich, "Naye Idishe Yishuvim Zaynen Oysgevaksn in Sovet-Farband" (New Jewish settlements established in outer USSR) in *Morgn Frayhayt*, December 22, 1946.
- [39] In the fall of 1946 Jacob Lestschinsky estimated the number of Jewish refugees and evacuees who "still remained" in Siberia and Central Asia at approximately 250,000 to 300,000, and assumed that up to 250,000 might possibly settle as permanent residents ("Idn in Sovet-Farband: 1946," in *Idisher Kemfer*, September 27, 1946, p. 98). The present writer [Schwarz] would make a somewhat lower estimate.
- [40] Schwarz, p.347, footnote 47: See A. R. L. Gurland, *Glimpses of Soviet Jewry: 1,000 Letters from the USSR and DP Camps. Report on Material Collected by the Union of Russian Jews, Inc.*, New York City, mimeog., on file with the Library of Jewish Information, American Jewish Committee (June 1948). Solzhenitsyn, Chapter 10, pp. 404ff.
- [41] S. Schwarz, *The Jews in the Soviet Union*, op.cit., pp. 252-253.
- [42] Leon Kahn, *No time to Mourn*, Ronsdale Press & Vancouver Holocaust Education Society, 2004, p. 115.
- [43] *Ibid.*, p. 176.
- [44] A. Solzhenitsyn, *Die Juden in der Sowjetunion*, op.cit., pp. 375-376.
- [45] S.M. Schwarz, *The Jews in the Soviet Union*, op.cit., p. 329.
- [46] *Ibid.*
- [47] L. Kahn, *No time to Mourn*, op.cit., pp. 81-82.
- [48] S.M. Schwarz, *The Jews in the Soviet Union*, op.cit., p.322.
- [49] *Ibid.*, p. 325.
- [50] *Ibid.*, p. 317.
- [51] *Ibid.*, p.315 (quoting *Merder fun Felker*, Tsveytse Zamlung, Moscow 1945, p. 3).
- [52] Hans Rothfels, *Die Deutsche Opposition Gegen Hitler*, Scherpe Verlag, Krefeld 1951, pp. 42ff.
- [53] Rudolf Aschenauer, *Krieg ohne Grenzen*, Druffel-Verlag, 1982, p. 247.
- [54] S.M. Schwarz, *The Jews in the Soviet Union*, op.cit., pp. 241-367.
- [55] L. Kahn, *No time to Mourn*, op.cit., p. 190.
- [56] *Ibid.*, p. 192.
- [57] <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bricha>

- [58] <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/783170.html>
- [59] Pierre Blet, S.J., *Pius XII and the Second World War*, Paulist Press New York, 1997, p. 143, 154ff.
- [60] Franz J. Scheidl, *Geschichte der Verfemung Deutschlands*, Dr. Scheidl Verlag, Wien, 1967, Bd. 5, I. Teil (also footnotes).
- [61] S.M. Schwarz, *The Jews in the Soviet Union*, op.cit., pp. 354-55. In the passages placed within ellipsis, Schwarz provides the number ranking among the various Soviet nationalities.
- [62] A. Solzhenitsyn, *Die Juden in der Sowjetunion*, op.cit., p. 433. Solzhenitsyn refers to I. Domalski, "Technologija nenavisti" (technology of hatred) in: *ZuW (Vremja i my. Mezdunarodnyj zurnal literatury i obscestvennych problem*, Tel Aviv/New York) 1978, Nr. 26, pp. 113f.
- [63] E. Kulischer, *The Displacement of Population in Europe*, op.cit., p. 113.
- [64] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiedergutmachung>
- [65] Heinrich Härtle, *Deutsche und Juden. Studien zu einem Weltproblem*, Druffel Verlag Leoni am Starnberger See, 1977, p. 302.
- [66] <http://www.global-alliance.net/SFPT/GermanGovernmentIndemnificationSummaryJan2001.htm>
- [67] The *Ha'aretz* link has since disappeared, all I have is the reference to it on Wikipedia, look under "Survivors' welfare in Israel": http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aftermath_of_the_Holocaust
- [68] Prof. Sergio DellaPergola: http://www.icheic.org/pdf/ICHEIC_demography1.pdf

Evidence for the Presence of “Gassed” Jews in the Occupied Eastern Territories, Part 1

Thomas Kues

1. The Importance of the Search for the “Gassed” Jews

According to mainstream historiography, during a period from December 1941 to the fall of 1944, millions of European Jews were murdered in homicidal gas chambers in six camps in Poland – the “combined concentration and extermination camps” of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Majdanek (Lublin) and the “pure extermination camps” of Chełmno (Kulmhof), Belzec, Sobibór and Treblinka. Revisionist historians, however, dispute this claim, considering it a theory completely lacking of documentary as well as material proof. In a number of studies, they have shown, based on documentary as well as archeological-forensic and technical evidence, that the alleged homicidal gas chambers in these camps never existed, that the alleged numbers of victims did not perish at these sites, and that there never existed a National-Socialist plan for a systematic physical extermination of the European Jews to begin with. The revisionists further propose that the Jews sent to the “extermination camps” and allegedly gassed there were in fact deloused and then sent away, the vast majority of them to the occupied eastern territories^[1], so that said camps actually functioned as transit camps. This transit camp hypothesis is in perfect harmony with documented National Socialist Jewish policy as expressed in official and internal reports, documents on the Jewish transports, and even in classified communications between leading SS members.^[2] The exterminationists on the other hand are forced to explain away terms such as *Durchgangslager* (transit camp), *Ostwanderung* (“wandering to the east”), *Umsiedlung* (resettlement) and *Aussiedlung* (emigration) as verbal camouflage.

While the refutation presented by the revisionists alone is enough to make the orthodox “Holocaust” story collapse like a house of cards, the proponents and defenders of the officially sanctioned exterminationist hypothesis, while doing their best to counter the revisionist onslaught with censorship and various damage control tactics, keep repeating over and over the same question: If the Jews were not gassed, where did they go?

One might argue that the revisionists have no obligation to answer this question. From a moral standpoint this argument is fully valid. As in a court of law, the exterminationists must prove that the crime they allege really took place – the burden of proof is on the accuser. Moreover, since the revisionists have proven that the crime – i.e. the mass gassings – did not take place, they have no moral obligation to search for the missing, alleged victim of the fictional crime. On the other hand, from a scientific viewpoint the question posed by the exterminationists is also fully valid, even if it usually uttered as a merely rhetorical question and part of anti-revisionist propaganda.

Needless to say, the forced deportation of millions of people would leave a significant paper trail. Even if one assumes – and there is good reason for it – that the archives in the former Soviet Union and elsewhere which are not under lock and key have been purged of such “inconvenient” documents,

common sense dictates that there should exist at least a number of minor direct or indirect documentary traces surviving in more or less obscure and unlikely places where the unnamed custodians of official history have neglected to look. In addition, there should exist scores of witness testimonies mentioning the presence of allegedly gassed Jews in the occupied eastern territories, and possibly even physical traces of them. Searching for the “gassed” Jews constitutes part of a new, constructive aspect to the revisionist critique, as the orthodox historiography is not only shown to be flawed, but an alternative reconstruction of events in accordance with known facts is offered (however spotty at this early point in time) – a development of revisionism which Carlo Mattogno has termed “affirmationism”.

The present article consists of a comprehensive survey of the hitherto discovered evidence for the presence of “gassed” Jews in the east, and should be regarded as a stepping stone to further future research. Some of the evidence has already been presented in Jürgen Graf and Carlo Mattogno’s study on the Treblinka camp[3], as well as in a recent study on the Sobibór camp[4] which I co-authored together with Graf and Mattogno. It should be mentioned here that many pieces of evidence were located by the Spanish revisionist Enrique Aynat and the late Belgian revisionist Jean-Marie Boisdefeu. The majority of the finds presented below, however, are published here for the first time.

2. The Deportation of Jews from Western-, Central-, Northern and Southern Europe According to Mainstream Historiography

In order to fully understand the significance of the evidence surveyed in the present article, it is necessary to acquaint oneself with the documented historical background, namely the deportations of Jews from the German-controlled European territories. How many Jews were deported from the different countries, and when? The sections below will clarify this context.

2.1. The Deportation of Jews from *Altreich*, *Ostmark* and the Protectorate

It is a fact fully recognized by mainstream historians that, between early November 1941 and late November 1942, more than 80 transports brought a relatively large number from *Altreich* (“The Old Empire”, a term referring to Germany within its 1938 borders), *Ostmark* (Austria) and the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia directly into the occupied eastern territories. The destinations were, in order of frequency, Riga, Minsk, *Maly Trostinec* (Belarus), Kaunas (in German Kovno), *Baranoviči* (Belarus) and *Raasiku* (Estonia).[5] None of the documented transports were sent to the Ukraine or to the occupied parts of Russia proper. Preserved railway documents in combination with a German report from July 1942, enables us to draw the conclusion that, all in all, 66,210 Jewish deportees were sent directly into the occupied eastern territories.[6]

A somewhat greater number were sent to the ghettos in the General Government and from there later on to the “extermination camps”. A total of 65,892 Jews were deported to Auschwitz from Germany, Austria and Theresienstadt during 1942-1943; 35,561 of these were “gassed without registration”, i.e. transited east. A total of 10,933 Jews who had been sent from the *Altreich*, *Ostmark* and the Protectorate to the Łódź Ghetto were deported to Chełmno in the first half of 1942 (cf. Section 3.3.1.) and “gassed” there, i.e. transferred east. According to Jules Schelvis, 23,500 German and Austrian Jews were sent to the “pure extermination camp” Sobibór.[7] In Treblinka, 18,004 Jews from Theresienstadt

were “gassed”.^[8] Yitzhak Arad further speaks of “tens of thousands” of German and Austrian Jews being sent to Treblinka as well as Belżec.^[9] This means that some 100,000 Jews from the abovementioned territories were deported to the east via transit camps.

2.2. The Jews of Central Europe

2.2.1. The Jews of Poland

The vast majority of the Jews allegedly gassed in the “extermination camps” were Polish Jews. Thus one would expect a search for the “gassed” Jews to focus mainly on this group. There are, however, good reasons for not doing so. First there is the great similarity between Polish, Baltic, Byelorussian, Russian and Ukrainian Jewry. All of these groups had until the early 20th century been subjects of the Russian Czar, and besides speaking closely related Slavic tongues (except for most of the Baltic Jews), nearly all of them spoke Yiddish. A Polish Jew would therefore have been able to go more or less unnoticed among for example Russian Jews. More importantly, it is a commonly recognized fact that a large number of Polish Jews either managed to escape or were evacuated east, first at the outbreak of the war in 1939, and later also in connection with the launch of Operation Barbarossa in the summer of 1941. Not all of those Jews found their way to the interior of Russia or Central Asia in; a relatively large number also remained in Belarus while smaller numbers lingered also in the Ukraine and the Baltic States. Hersh Smolar, the Jewish partisan leader operating near Minsk whose memoirs are discussed below (Section 3.3.3.), was one of the Polish Jews who had fled to Belarus in 1939 and remained there at the time of the German invasion. It is thus very difficult to use references to the presence of Polish Jews in the occupied eastern territories as a mean to verify the revisionist hypothesis. For their presence to be of significance, the mentioned Jews would have to be reported as deported from Poland to the east from December 1941 onward, following the opening of the first “extermination camp” Chełmno (*Kulmhof*) in the Warthegau District.

2.2.2. The Jews of Slovakia

The total number of Jews in Slovakia as per the census of 15 December 1940 amounted to 88,951.^[10] A deportation agreement reached between Germany and Slovakia in 1941 stipulated that the Slovakian government would pay Germany 500 *Reichsmark* per deportee for “shelter, food, clothing, and retraining” (*Unterbringung, Verpflegung, Bekleidung und Umschulung*), a cost which Raul Hilberg naturally dismisses as “fictional expenses”.^[11] Deportations from Slovakia began on 26 March 1942. Up until October the same year a total of 57,752 Jews were deported; 18,746 were sent to Auschwitz while 39,006 were taken to a ghetto in Nałęczów near Lublin. From this ghetto some 9,000 of them proceeded to Majdanek, while 24,378 were sent to be gassed at Sobibór.^[12] Jules Schelvis on the other hand concludes that, all in all, “around 26,000” Slovakian Jews were “gassed” at Sobibór.^[13] During 1942 some 7,000 Slovak Jews managed to escape to Hungary.^[14] Of the Jews that remained in Slovakia some 13,000 – 14,000 were eventually arrested. In October 1944, 7,936 of them were deported to Auschwitz, while 4,370 were sent to Sachsenhausen and Theresienstadt.

2.2.3. The Jews of Hungary

The deportation of Jews from Hungary did not begin until May 1944. Since the German-controlled

areas in the east were shrinking at a rapid rate during that year, it is extremely unlikely that any of the Hungarian Jews deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau ever reached the occupied eastern territories^[15], with two exceptions: 1) a transport of some thousand Hungarian women which was sent to Latvia, and of which approximately 700 were later transferred by ship from Kaunas to Stutthof on 4 August 1944;^[16] 2) a transport of 500 Hungarian women, possibly from the Transylvanian town of Bistritz (*Bistrița*) that arrived in the Estonian camp Vaivara in June 1944.^[17] It is not impossible that the latter group consisted of a subset of the first group, as one source states the Jewesses from Bistritz arrived via Riga.^[18] Two further special cases of Hungarian or nominally Hungarian Jews reaching the east already in 1941 will be discussed below in Section 3.3.3.

2.3. The Jews of the Netherlands, Belgium and France

2.3.1. The Jews of the Netherlands

According to a registration carried out by the German occupational authorities on 10 January 1941, there lived 140,000 full Jews liable to deportation on the territory of the Netherlands, whereof 80,000 in the city of Amsterdam.^[19] From July 1941 the Dutch Jews had to have their identification papers stamped with the letter “J” for “*Jood*” (Jew), and from 29 April 1942 they were forced to wear a yellow Star of David with the inscription “*Jood*” on their outer clothing.^[20] On July 17, 1942 transports of Dutch Jews bound for Auschwitz began departing from the collection camp of Westerbork. Raul Hilberg states that 105,000 Jews were deported from the Netherlands and presents the following breakdown according to the points of arrival^[21]:

Mauthausen (1941 and 1942)	1,750
Various Concentration Camps	350
Auschwitz Complex	60,000
Sobibór	34,300
Theresienstadt	4,900
Bergen-Belsen	3,750

More precisely this gives a total of 105,050 deportees. The figure of 350 deportees to “Various Concentration Camps” appears to be in error, since Hilberg elsewhere states that a total of 680 Dutch Jews were deported to Buchenwald in the period of February-June 1941.^[22] The number of Dutch deportees to Auschwitz and Sobibór are given more exactly by Jules Schelvis as 60,185 and 34,313 respectively.^[23] The number of Jews deported from the Netherlands therefore would appear to be closer to 106,000, but Schelvis, whose figures are generally more exact than those of Hilberg’s, writes that a total of 102,993 Jews were deported from the Netherlands in 102 transports, “excluding the 2,000 or so who were arrested in Belgium and France”.^[24] Hilberg gives the number of surviving deportees as 1 for Mauthausen, 19 for Sobibór, “over 1,000” for Auschwitz, and “over 4,000” for Theresienstadt and Bergen-Belsen combined;^[25] whereas the always more exact Schelvis gives the number of

Auschwitz survivors as 1,052, the number of Sobibór survivors as 18 and the number of Theresienstadt and Bergen-Belsen survivors as 4,030.[\[26\]](#) Thus of the 105,000 deportees, counting the Dutch Jews arrested outside of their country) all but 5,100 are alleged to have perished during the war. Hilberg adds that “about 2,000” Dutch Jews “were killed, committed suicide or died of privation inside the country, particularly in the transit camps Vught and Westerbork.”[\[27\]](#) Moreover, “up to 5,000 may have fled or emigrated, and the excess of deaths over births during the occupation was also a few thousand”, whereas the number of Jews remaining in the Netherlands at the end of the deportations is given as in total 20,000 – 22,000.[\[28\]](#) A Dutch Government Report issued on 16 October 1945 states the number of remaining Dutch Jews to be 23,000.[\[29\]](#) Adding the above figures together we get the following summary:

Allegedly perished deportees	approx. 99,900
Returning deportees	5,100
Deaths in the Netherlands	approx. 2,000
Mortality surplus	approx. 2,000
Migration and escapes	up to 5,000
Remaining Jews in Sept. '44	20,000-22,000
Total:	134,000 - 136,000

Acknowledging the possibility that some of the categories might have been slightly underestimated, we thus have statistical accounts covering the fates of the 140,000 Dutch Jews. We are moreover aided by the fact that the Germans kept precise records of the transports. The mainstream historians of course assert that much of said record keeping served as a “camouflage”, and that the vast majority of the Dutch deportees to Auschwitz and Sobibór were gassed there on arrival without being entered into camp registries: about 33,313 of the 34,313 Sobibór deportees[\[30\]](#) and 38,231 of the 60,085 Auschwitz deportees[\[31\]](#) are claimed to have met with this fate, which according to the revisionist hypothesis means that approximately 71,554 Dutch Jews were deported to the occupied eastern territories.

2.3.2. The Jews of Belgium

Hilberg writes that the Jewish population of Belgium on the eve of the German invasion “most probably” amounted to more than 65,000 people, the majority of whom did not possess Belgian citizenship but were immigrants from Eastern Europe as well as refugees from the Third Reich. At the time of the German invasion “thousands” of the Jews fled south, whereas another 8,000 were shoved by the German occupants into France. A subsequent registration of the Jews encompassed 55,670 Jews on Belgian territory and another 516 Jews in two French *départements* attached to the Brussels military administration.[\[32\]](#) Starting in August 1942, a total of 25,000 Jews were deported from Belgium to Auschwitz, and of those fewer than 1,500 returned after the war. According to Hilberg, “several

hundred” Belgian Jews died in their country during arrest or committed suicide.[33] Approximately 25,000 Belgian Jews were sent to Auschwitz, and of these some 15,700 are alleged to have been gassed; a smaller number was also sent to Majdanek.

2.3.3. The Jews of France

At the end of 1939, some 280,000 Jews lived in France; in Paris alone there were more than 200,000.[34] The first French transport bound for Auschwitz left on 27 March 1942.[35] By March 1943, the number of Jews deported from France had reached 49,906.[36] A total of 75,000 Jews were deported from France; whereof at least two-thirds were foreign-born people who did not possess French citizenship.[37] Hilberg lists the destinations of the deportees as follows[38]:

Auschwitz	69,000
Maidanek	2,000
Sobibór	2,000
Kaunas	1,000

Jules Schelvis on the other hand states that four French transports carrying a total of 3,500 Jews were sent to Sobibór.[39] The deportation of French Jews to Lithuanian Kaunas (Kovno) – bearing the transport code “73m” – left Drancy May 15, 1944; some of the Jews in this transport continued on to the Estonian capital of Tallinn (Reval).[40] Except for this single transport, no French Jews are reported by mainstream historians as having reached the occupied eastern territories.

2.3.4. The Importance of the Transports from the Abovementioned Countries

The Jews deported from the Netherlands, Belgium and France are of key importance to the issue at hand. Not only are good statistics on the Jewish populations available; the transports from these three countries were carefully recorded, and there further exist detailed transport lists with personal data on the deportees. The documented facts leave very little or no room for “unknown” direct transports of Jews from those countries to the east similar to the 1941-42 *Altreich* transports to the Baltic States and Belarus. The only such recorded deportation, the 15 May 1944 convoy from Drancy to Kaunas and Tallinn, is easily distinguishable due to the late date (the German withdrawal from the Baltic States began only some months later). In other words: any reliable report of Dutch, Belgian or French being present in the occupied eastern territories from the spring and summer of 1942 onward (and up until May 1944 in the case of the French Jews) is to be regarded as strong evidence for the revisionist transit camp hypothesis.

2.4. Jews of Other Nationalities

2.4.1. Italy

In Italy, the deportation of Jews did not begin until after the overthrow of Mussolini by Badoglio and the German take-over of the northern half of the country. The first transport of 1,007 Italian Jews

departed for Auschwitz on 18 October 1943. In November and early December of the same year two transports carrying a total of some 1,000 Jews departed from northern Italy. The deportations continued in small numbers until early August 1944. In total, more than 7,500 Jews were deported from Italy.[\[41\]](#) For the reason discussed in Section 2.2.3., it is highly unlikely that any of the Italian Jews except for the approximately 2,000 deported between October and December 1943 ever reached the occupied eastern territories.

2.4.2. Greece

In 1941 Greece was divided into three parts: one (the north, including most of Thrace) which was incorporated into Bulgaria, one (the largest, including Athens) under Italian jurisdiction and finally one (including Salonika and the East-Aegean area) under German jurisdiction. While the latter two parts were jointly administered by a puppet government in Athens, the Italians and the Germans were split in their treatment of the Jews. In the German jurisdiction the Jews were collected in the Salonika Ghetto during 1942. In February 1943, the first transports left the ghetto for Auschwitz. A total of 45,989 Jews are reported to have been deported from Salonika up until the cease of transports in August 1943.[\[42\]](#) According to Hilberg, 45,000 of them were sent to Auschwitz, whereas the rest – “privileged and foreign Jews” – were shipped to Bergen-Belsen. Yitzhak Arad, resting his argument on a railroad document as well as two eye-witnesses, suggests that at least one of the transports from Salonika in March 1943, carrying 2,800 Jews, was sent to Treblinka.[\[43\]](#)

In early 1943 there lived 13,000 Jews in the Italian jurisdiction. Following the downfall of Mussolini on 8 September 1943, this part of Greece was taken by German forces together with the former Italian-occupied territories of Albania, Montenegro and the Dodecanese islands. All in all approximately 16,000 Jews lived in these areas. Up until July 1944 more than 14,000 of these Jews had been deported, primarily to Auschwitz. In all of the mentioned areas some 12,000 remained at the end of the occupation.[\[44\]](#)

2.4.3. Bulgaria

Approximately 50,000 Jews lived in Bulgaria proper before the war (a census in 1934 gave their number as 48,565). Since Bulgaria was a weak ally of Germany rather than a mere puppet state, it was able to procrastinate on a promised deportation of its Jews, and in the end, the Jews in Bulgaria proper were never deported.[\[45\]](#) However, in the northern parts of Greece (Thrace) annexed by Bulgaria in 1941 together with Macedonia, there lived some 14,000 Jews, according to an agreement signed by the SS and representatives of the Bulgarian government on 2 February 1943. Of these some 5,500 Jews lived in the former Greek areas, and in March that same year 4,215 of them were sent by ship from Vienna and from there by train to Treblinka.[\[46\]](#) A further transport with 2,382 Jews was sent from Skopje (Macedonia) to Sobibór in March 1943.[\[47\]](#) All in all 11,343 of the Jews in the annexed territories (7,122 from Macedonia and 4,221 from Thrace) had been deported by 5 April 1943 according to a German document.[\[48\]](#)

2.4.4. Croatia

Similar to Greece, the administrative territory of Croatia was split into a German and an Italian zone,

with ensuing negotiation troubles concerning the deportation of the Jews. During the war Slovenia was slit up between Italy, Germany, Hungary and Croatia, while Bosnia and Herzegovina in its entirety was ceded to Croatia. In the whole of the new Croatia there lived some 35,000 Jews.[49] 19,800 are reported to have died in Croatian camps, primarily Jasenovac, during the following years.[50] During the summer of 1942, 4,972 Jews were sent to Auschwitz via Maribor. A further 2,000 Croatian Jews were deported to Auschwitz in May 1943.[51] Yet other Croatian Jews escaped to neighboring countries and were eventually deported from there, which makes the orthodox victim estimate somewhat floating. It is generally estimated that some 8,000 Croatian Jews[52] were “gassed” at Auschwitz.

2.4.5. Serbia

According to Raul Hilberg, barely 16,000 Jews lived in Serbia at the outbreak of the war.[53] Due to the significant involvement of Jews in the very active Serbian partisan movement, a large number of Serbian Jews were killed as hostages. On 8 September 1941 the German plenipotentiary in Belgrade, Felix Benzler, sent a telegram to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in which he requested the deportation of the male Serbian Jews (in all some 8,000) to an island in the Danube Delta (in Romania).[54] On 11 September Martin Luther replied that the Jews in question should instead be interned in labor camps.[55] Already on the following day Benzler sent a new request for the deportation of the male Serbian Jews, arguing that for security reasons such internment was unfeasible, and that if the Jews could not be sent to Romania as per his request, they would be expelled to the General Government or to Russia.[56] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs now turned to Adolf Eichmann, who declared a deportation of the male Jews to the General Government or Russia “impossible” and advised that the Jews in question be shot.[57] Nevertheless Ribbentrop on 2 October contacted Himmler to ascertain if the male Jews could be deported somewhere.[58] In the end, however, the decision was made to shoot the male Jews of Serbia. Thus it is a fact that a large number of Serbian Jews were shot, not primarily because of their ethnicity, but because of reasons of military security, and this as a last resort. As for the remaining Serbian Jews – the women, children, and elderly – it is alleged by mainstream historians, chiefly on basis of the so-called Turner document, that these were murdered in “gas vans” near Belgrade (in fact near the Sava River) in March-May 1942.[59] However, in his summary of the negotiations on the Serbian Jews from 25 October 1941, Franz Rademacher, chief of the “*Judenreferat*” at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, noted that these Jews “would be evacuated by ship to the collection camps in the east” (*auf dem Wasserwege in die Auffanglager im Osten abgeschoben*).[60] This would suggest that the remaining Serbian Jews were in fact deported east, possibly via the Sava River and the Danube to Romania.[61]

2.4.6. Norway

1,800 Jews lived in Norway as of 1939.[62] 767 of them were deported starting on 19 November 1942. Of these deportees, 532 were sent to Auschwitz, were 346 were “gassed without registration”.

2.4.7. Denmark

When the German occupation of Denmark began in April 1940, there lived approximately 6,500 in the

country. In early autumn 1943, 447 Danish Jews were deported to Theresienstadt, but none of them were ever sent on to Auschwitz. In a massive underground operation in October 1943, 5,919 Danish Jews were taken in boats to neutral Sweden. Thus not a single Danish Jew reached the “extermination camps”.[\[63\]](#)

2.4.8. Romania

During the war years Romania under the Antonescu regime pursued a more or less independent Jewish policy of its own, which mainly consisted in deporting Romanian Jews to Transnistria, an annexed region east of the Dniestr River.[\[64\]](#) Since the Romanian deportations are only indirectly related to National Socialist Jewish Policy, and since much is unclear about the deportations to – and from – Transnistria, Romanian Jewry will fall outside the scope of the present article. For an excursus related to Transnistria, see below Section 3.1.2.

2.4.9. Luxembourg

In 1935 there lived 3,144 Jews in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. During the first years of the war most of them fled the country, and by July 1941 there were only some 800 left. On 16 October 1941 a train with 334 Luxembourg Jews departed for the Łódź Ghetto. A few dozen of these Jews were later sent on to Auschwitz or the Lublin District. During 1942 the remaining Jews in Luxembourg were deported to the Theresienstadt Ghetto.[\[65\]](#)

2.5. The Number of Jews Deported to the Occupied Eastern Territories

According to the revisionist hypothesis, the Jews sent to the occupied eastern territories can be divided into two main groups: 1) the Jews from the transports sent directly to the Baltic States and Belarus from *Altreich*, *Ostmark* and the Protectorate in 1941-42 (recognized by mainstream historiography); 2) the Jews who were allegedly “gassed without prior registration” in the six “extermination camps” between December 1941 and late 1943. For the first group we have rather reliable numbers (see above, Section 2.1.). For the second group we have reliable figures of arrivals to the Reinhardt camps (Bełżec, Sobibór, Treblinka, here also including Majdanek/Lublin) for 1942, and the Korherr Report further provides a figure for Chełmno (where no “gassings” took place in 1943). For the year of 1943 we must to a certain extent rely on estimates presented by mainstream historians. In the case of Auschwitz-Birkenau, we have to rely on a number of sources, which are more or less exact. In order to not make this article longer than necessary, I will here refer the reader to a revisionist study wherein these calculations are presented in detail.[\[66\]](#) In the table below the number of Jews deported to the east is broken down according to routes and nationality (Polish and non-Polish Jews). One should recall here that not all of the non-Polish Jews are Western Jews (even if they form the majority).

Deported via the <i>Aktion</i> Reinhardt camps:	~1,429,000
Deported via Chełmno:	~145,300
Deported via Auschwitz:	~354,000

Deported directly w/o any stop-over in a camp	~ 66,200
Total:	~1,994,500
- of which Polish Jews:	~1,571,500
- of which non-Polish Jews:	~423,000

The total of 1,994,500 deportees must in turn be reduced for several reasons. To begin with, a certain smaller percentage of the deportees must have perished en route during the long travel, which often took place under less than humane conditions. Further a total of some thousands of deportees were picked out from the transports to work inside the transit camps, and a number of those inevitably perished there due to various causes. Secondly, it is likely that the Germans in the transit camps subjected Jewish deportees who were dying, carriers of epidemic diseases or mentally ill to “euthanasia” (possibly by lethal injections, possibly by shooting) rather than sent them along to camps and ghettos in the east, where such individuals would pose a liability to the German administration, not to say a health risk. The third reason is that the certainty of the figures presented by the mainstream historians for the year 1943 is questionable, the figures being likely to be slight overestimates. The fourth reason is that some thousands of deportees to Sobibór were transferred to various labor camps in the Lublin district^[67]; it is also likely that a smaller number of Jews sent to Treblinka were transferred to the nearby labor camp of the same name (Treblinka I) or to other labor camps in the area.^[68] The fifth and final reason is that some transports sent to the transit camps in late 1943 did not continue on from there to the eastern territories. The last six or eight transports to Sobibór in September 1943 arrived there from Minsk in Belarus, reportedly carrying a total of 13,700 people (documentation is lacking).^[69] These Jews were likely sent west to be employed as workers either in Sobibór itself, where a plant for the dismantling of captured Soviet ammunition had recently been installed (in the so-called “Lager Nord” part of the camp), or in Trawniki and other labor camps. Taken together, this means that the number of Jews who reached the occupied eastern territories almost certainly amounted to somewhere between 1,800,000 and 1,900,000.

Addendum: A List of the Operational Periods of the Transit Camps

- Chełmno (Kulmhof): 8 December 1941 – latter half of 1942; summer of 1944;^[70]
- Auschwitz-Birkenau: January or February 1942^[71] – 1 November 1944;^[72]
- Bełżec: 17 March 1942^[73] – early December 1942;^[74]
- Sobibór: 3 May 1942^[75] – 14 October 1943;^[76]
- Treblinka: 23 July 1942^[77] – 19 August 1943;^[78]
- Majdanek (Lublin): September-October 1942^[79] – 1943(?).^[80]

3. A Survey of the Testimonial Evidence

The testimonial evidence can here be divided into two sub-categories, indirect sources in the form of

news reports, statements from exile governments, underground publications etc. where the origin of the information is usually not made explicit, and direct information in the form of eyewitness statements. We will begin our survey with the former category.

3.1. Reports in Newspapers and Periodicals

3.1.1. American Jewish Yearbook

The *American Jewish Yearbook* is one of the most comprehensive contemporary sources on the development of the Jewish communities the world over. In its 1943 edition the *Yearbook* had the following to tell its readers about the developments in Poland:

“Among the more important of these transfers of population was the expulsion of all but 11,000 of the Jews of Cracow, who were deemed ‘economically useful’ and put into a ghetto; those expelled, over 50,000 in number, were sent to Warsaw, Lublin and other cities. The stay of those sent to Lublin was short, for most of them were sent farther east, those remaining being penned in a ghetto in one of the suburbs of the city. Also sent east were most of the Jews who still remained in the western Polish provinces incorporated into the Reich.”[\[81\]](#)

Three of the “extermination camps” were located within the Lublin district: Majdanek (in Lublin itself), Sobibór and Belżec. With “western Polish provinces incorporated into the Reich” is meant the Warthegau district, from which Jews were transferred east via Chelmno. In the edition from the following year (1944, with the year in review being 1943) we read:

“There are reports of Jewish deportees from Holland and other Western countries having been sent to the occupied Soviet territories for military work, but their numbers and their fate are still shrouded in darkness.”[\[82\]](#)

3.1.2. Israelitisches Wochenblatt für die Schweiz

The *Israelitisches Wochenblatt für die Schweiz* (Israelite Weekly for Switzerland) published many reports on the progress of the “Final solution” during the war years. In its issue from 16 October 1942 the weekly reported (p. 10f.):

”For some time there has been a trend toward dissolution of the ghettos in Poland. That was the case with Lublin, then it was Warsaw’s turn. It is not known how far the plan has been carried out already. The former residents of the ghetto are going farther to the east into the occupied Russian territory; Jews from Germany were brought into the ghetto to partly take their place. [...] Of late, transports of Jews from Belgium and other western European countries were observed in Riga, but they moved on immediately to other destinations.”

In the issue of 27 November 1942 we read:

“On a daily basis trains depart from Berlin for the east, part of them [destined] for the ghettos, part of them for drainage work in the territories of eastern Poland and Russia. Authorities in New York are reported to have learned that a Jewish settlement rayon for all the Jews of Western Europe is to be established in the former Polish-Russian border zone and if necessary used as a political means of pressure. The deportations from Germany,

Austria, Holland, Belgium and France are to cease by the end of this year. The identification papers of the deported Jews are destroyed and their names stricken out; they are henceforth only designated by numbers. It is therefore hardly possible to keep up a correspondence. [...]. In Paris 4,000 Romanian Jews and Jewesses have been arrested and taken out of the city. They were allowed to bring food for two days. [...] The London-based newspaper 'France' carries a notice that 20,000 Jews deported from France have arrived in Bessarabia in a pitiful state. The trains went straight to Kischinev [Chisinau] and Calarisi to deliver the prisoners to the local ghettos there."

With "the former Polish-Russian border zone" is almost certainly meant the area around the border between Poland and Russia as of 1920-1939 (note that the journal apparently uses "Russia" as synonymous with the USSR). Since, as already mentioned, the eastern part of Poland, including Pinsk and most of the Pripet marshes, fell to the Byelorussian Soviet Republic in 1939, this implies that the "Jewish settlement rayon [district] for all the Jews of Western Europe" consisted of a part of Belarus (Minsk was located only some thirty kilometers from this border).

At the time, Kishinev was located very near the border of the Transnistrian Reservation (between the rivers of Dniestr and Southern Bug), to where Jews from Bessarabia and Bukovina were deported en masse by the Romanian authorities. As mentioned in Section 2.4.8 above, the Transnistria issue will not be discussed here in depth. However, it ought to be mentioned that, while most of not all mainstream historians today know nothing of deportations of French Jews to Transnistria, an article from 1953 by the Jewish-American scholar Joseph B. Shechtman confirms that there are indications of transports of Jews from France as well as other countries in Western Europe to that area:

"There are indications that in 1943 Transnistria began to serve as a kind of a 'reservation' for deportation not only of Rumanian Jews, but of Jews from other Nazi-dominated countries. On February 28, 1943, the London press reported that thousands of Jews who had been transported from their homes in Germany, Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Protectorate to the 'model concentration camp' at the fortress of Theresin [i.e. Theresienstadt] in the Protectorate, were being sent to Transnistria.^[83] Eight months later, reports from Bucharest stated that freight trains crowded with Jews deported from France, Holland and Belgium 'continue to reach the city of Jassy en route to Transnistria,' where they 'are isolated in camps together with Jews from Bessarabia and Bukovina.'^[84] Jews from Germany and Bulgaria, as well as 700 Polish Jews, were reported among the deportees in Mogilev.^[85]

A confidential report of the International Red Cross, dated January 20, 1944, states that, according to official Rumanian statistics, there were on September 1, 1943, 82,098 Jews in Transnistria. Of this number, 50,741 were deported Rumanian Jews, while the remainder were Russian Jews, native inhabitants of this area. [...]. There are reliable indications that considerable numbers of Jews from Transnistria were sent to work on fortifications along the German-held eastern front. The *Krakauer Zeitung* of August 13, 1942 hinted at this when it stated that the Jews deported to Transnistria 'were housed in large ghettos until an opportunity arose for their removal further east.'^[86]

The claim of transports from Theresienstadt to Transnistria requires some elucidation. During 1943 a total of 17,068 Jews were deported from Theresienstadt in 10 transports. Four of them took place in

January and consisted of in all some 6,000 passengers. In February a single transport departed carrying 1,001 passengers. During the period March-August no transports took place; only in September were transports resumed again.[\[87\]](#) The first three of the January transports were sent to Auschwitz, as was the single February transport. From the information provided by Danuta Czech in her *Kalendarium*[\[88\]](#) we can reconstruct the fate of these four transports as per the table below:

Transports from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz January-February 1943

Date	Code:	Deportees	Registered	"Gassed"
Jan. 20	Cq	2000	418	1582
Jan. 23	Cr	2029	227	1802
Jan. 26	Cs	993	284	709
Feb. 1	Cu	1001	218	783
Total:		6023	1147	4876

It should be added that in the previous autumn, on 26 October 1942, a convoy (with the code "By") had brought 1,866 Jews from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz; 247 of those were registered in the camp, while the remaining 1,619 were "gassed", i.e. transferred elsewhere. The preceding five transports from Theresienstadt (departing during the brief period of 5-22 October) had all been sent to Treblinka. The transport "Ct" departing from Theresienstadt on 29 January with 1,001 deportees is listed as bound for Auschwitz by, among other sources, the *Terezin Studies* website,[\[89\]](#) but does not appear in Czech's *Kalendarium*.[\[90\]](#) Disregarding the minor uncertainty about this single transport, the contradiction between the orthodox historical picture and the 28 February 1943 news reports is clear. If the latter were correct, then the Jews in question could only have been sent to Transnistria via Auschwitz. The issue of these possible transports to Transnistria requires further research.

3.1.3. Judisk Krönika

In a study on the Swedish response to the "Holocaust", American-Jewish historian Steven Koblik has the following to say on the Swedish-Jewish periodical *Judisk Krönika* (Jewish Chronicle) issued in Stockholm:

"One center of activity [in Sweden] was with the pro-Zionist groups. They had a journal, *Judisk Krönika*, founded in 1932, that publicly tried to change the official congregation policy and influence the larger Swedish community. The journal developed close contacts in Eastern Europe, especially Poland, and provided some of the best information on the extent of the Final Solution found in any Western publication. The journal also became a source of information for other non-Jewish publications."[\[91\]](#)

During the war years, this well-informed journal carried a number of news stories that clash violently with the now established historical picture of the "Holocaust". In the issue from September 1942 we

read:

“Jewish school children of more than 14 years of age are being deported from the Third Reich as well, mainly to Ukraine, where they are deployed in harvest work. The children are informed about their deportation only a few hours earlier and are allowed to take along only the mere necessities.”[\[92\]](#)

No transports of German Jews to the Ukraine are known by mainstream historiography, which inevitably leads to the conclusion, that if the above information is correct, then the children in question reached their destination via one of the “death camps”.

In its issue from the following month *Judisk Krönika* reported:

“A large number of Jews who had been interned in German concentration camps have been transported to Poland, where they are deployed to drain the swamps of Pinsk. The Dachau camp is now devoid of any Jews. Most Jews from the Rhineland, including those of Cologne, have been transferred to the ghetto of Riga.”[\[93\]](#)

While the city of Pinsk did indeed belong to Poland between 1920 and 1939, it fell to the Byelorussian Soviet Republic after the division of Poland. As we will see, the Pripet marshes and the towns and cities near it, such as Pinsk and Bobruisk, will crop up again and again in our material.

In the same issue (October 1942) we read:

“The transport of this tremendous large amount of people [from Western Europe] to Poland was accompanied by the mass expulsion of Jews from the Warsaw ghetto and from other locations. These people were deported farther east, and since they were more or less unfit for labor due to starvation and diseases, one can imagine what fate awaited them there.”[\[94\]](#)

According to the Holocaust historians, the Jews deported from the Warsaw Ghetto were killed en masse in Treblinka, not “deported farther east”. Since the Polish-Jewish underground press had reported since August 1942 that Treblinka was a “death camp” where all arriving Jews were steamed or poisoned with a delayed-action gas, this news notice can only mean that the “news” of the “truth” about Treblinka had not yet reached the well-informed Swedish-Jewish journal (which seems unlikely) or that its writers did not believe the wild atrocity stories and had more trustworthy information available to them.

Finally, in the issue of May/June 1944 we read:

“Certain sparse information begins to seep through about the fate of those Jews who have been deported from Western Europe to Eastern Europe. According to a communication from Lithuania, thousands of Jews from Holland, Belgium, and northern France have been deported to Kaunas, where many have been shot to death in the city’s fortress. In Vilnius as well a large number of Jews from Western Europe has been executed. Some 20,000 Jews from Western Europe are still in the city’s ghetto. The Germans are executing several hundred of them every day, and the Gestapo compiles lists of the next victims. Many Jews managed to escape from the various ghettos and to join partisan groups, and today there is a large number [of Jews] from Western Europe who are fighting together with the Lithuanian partisans.”[\[95\]](#)

While the *Judisk Krönika* had reported of mass killings in Majdanek and Auschwitz in November 1943[96] and about the “death chambers” of Treblinka (where “many thousands of Jews have been killed”) in September 1943[97] as well as in its May-June 1944 issue[98], the above quoted passage demonstrates that one still believed a large number of Western Jews, including Dutch, Belgian and French Jews, to be present in the occupied eastern territories. As for the claim that the Germans executed thousands of Western Jews in Vilna in 1944, as well as similar claims elsewhere, the question of the eventual fate of the deportees to the eastern territories will be addressed in the concluding part of this article; here it will suffice to point out that if the Soviets at the end of the war had discovered remains of hundreds of thousands or even millions of deported Western and Polish Jews in mass graves on formerly German-occupied Soviet territory, they could easily have dispensed with the vapid claims about gas chambers and extermination camps and presented concrete forensic evidence at the Nuremberg trial.

Regarding the notion of mass shootings of Jews at Vilna in 1944, it is worth noting what historian Andrew Ezergailis has to say about similar claims concerning Latvia:

“Some memoir writers tell us that just before the move to send Jews back to Germany, there were large massacres in Latvia. This contention, however, must be deemed ‘folklore,’ because to date no archival information has surfaced that would confirm the murders. For example the Soviet Extraordinary Commission records no fresh 1944 grave sites.”[99]

3.1.4. *New York Times*

On 15 June 1943 the *New York Times* reported on a communiqué issued by the Belgian government in exile, according to which most of the Belgian Jews had been sent to concentration camps in Germany, Poland, and in the occupied Russian territories.

3.1.5. *Notre Voix*

In April 1944 the communist French underground newspaper *Notre Voix* told its readers:

“Thank you! A news item that will delight all Jews of France was broadcast by Radio Moscow. Which of us does not have a brother, a sister, or relatives among those deported from Paris? And who will not feel profound joy when he thinks about the fact that 8,000 Parisian Jews have been rescued from death by the glorious Red Army! One of them told Radio Moscow how he had been saved from death, and likewise 8,000 other Parisian Jews. They were all in the Ukraine when the last Soviet offensive began, and the SS bandits wanted to shoot them before they left the country. But since they knew what fate was in store for them and since they had learned that the Soviet troops were no longer far away, the deported Jews decided to escape. They were immediately welcomed by the Red Army and are presently all in the Soviet Union. The heroic Red Army has thus once again earned a claim on the gratitude of the Jewish community of France.”[100]

While it may be argued that both the French communists and Radio Moscow could be suspected of spreading propaganda, it is difficult to see how the presence of French Jews in the Ukraine could have lent itself to propaganda, especially since the Soviet Union were at the same time disseminating propaganda about German “extermination camps”.

3.2. Other Indirect Sources

3.2.1. E.M. Kulischer

In 1943, the demographics professor and member of the International Labour Office at Montreal, Canada, Eugene M. Kulischer published a survey entitled *The displacement of population in Europe*. Kulischer was assisted in his survey by no less than 24 institutions, including Jewish ones, which in turn had a dense network of information channels in the various European countries. His chapter on “The Expulsion and Deportation of Jews” contains much information of interest to revisionist researchers; here I will contend myself with merely quoting the passages of interest to our subject:

“This forced transfer [of the Jews] has taken the following forms: [...]. Expulsion from an area which is to be ‘purged of Jews’ and deportation to a special region (e.g. the Lublin reservation), city or town, or part of such region, city or town. Since 1940 this has been the usual practice adopted in removing Jews from various German-controlled territories and deporting them to the General Government, or, latterly, to the occupied area of the Soviet Union.”[\[101\]](#)

The mention of transports to the “occupied area of the Soviet Union” could possibly be a reference to the deportation of German, Austrian and Czech Jews directly to the Baltic States and Belarus in 1941-42, but the following passages are more specific:

“Some of the Jews from Belgium were sent to a neighbouring part of Western Europe for forced labour, but generally speaking the tendency has been to remove the Jews to the east. Many Western European Jews were reported to have been sent to the mines of Silesia. The great majority were sent to the General Government and, in ever growing numbers, to the eastern area, that is, to the territories which had been under Soviet rule since September 1939 and to the other occupied areas of the Soviet Union.”[\[102\]](#)

Here one should recall that the number of German, Austrian and Czech Jews deported directly to the east did not increase during 1942, according to preserved documentation, but was rather a small but steady stream, and that the last known such transport departed from Vienna on 28 November 1942. [\[103\]](#) It therefore does not make much sense for Kulischer to speak of “growing numbers” in 1943, unless he had knowledge of other, de facto increasing, transports of Jews to the occupied eastern territories. Further on Kulischer writes that

“...generally speaking, deportation to the east is for the Jews the equivalent of the recruitment for work in the Reich to which the rest of the population of German-controlled Europe is subject, and their removal further and further eastwards is doubtless connected with the need for supplying the army’s requirements near the front.”[\[104\]](#)

We note here the expression “further and further eastwards”. The destination of the transports “further eastwards” is made more clear in the following paragraph which concerns the deportation of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto – which the mainstream historians claim led said Jews to their deaths in the gas chambers of Treblinka:

“Since the summer of 1942 the ghettos and labour camps in the German-occupied Eastern

Territories have become the destination of deportees both from Poland and from western and central Europe; in particular, a new large-scale transfer from the Warsaw ghetto has been reported. Many of the deportees have been sent to the labour camps on the Russian front; others to work in the marshes of Pinsk, or to the ghettos of the Baltic countries, Byelorussia and Ukraine. It is hardly possible to distinguish how far the changes in the Jewish population of the General Government are due to deportation and how far they are attributable to 'ordinary' mortality and extermination. Moreover, the number of Jews remaining in the General Government is in any case uncertain.”[\[105\]](#)

Kulischer further speaks of “hundreds of thousands of Polish Jews deported eastward from the General Government”.[\[106\]](#)

3.2.2. A. Rei and H. Laretei

August Rei and Heinrich Laretei, who had served as Estonia’s ambassadors to Moscow and Stockholm, respectively, before the Soviet occupation of that country in 1940, reported to the Swedish detective superintendent Otto Danielsson on 8 November 1944 that

“Jews had been deported from Czechoslovakia and Poland [to Estonia] under the pretence that they would work in Estonian factories, but were then shot. Estonian patriots had carried out investigations and discovered evidence.”[\[107\]](#)

While it is documented and acknowledged by the Holocaust historians that a transport from Theresienstadt carrying 1,000 Jews bound for Estonian Raasiku departed on 1 September 1942, mainstream historiography is unaware of any transports of Polish Jews to Estonia.

3.2.3. A. Jablonski

On 26 August 1943, the Swedish Communist organ *Ny Dag* published an article written by a Latvian Communist, A. Jablonski, entitled “The Germans in Latvia”, in which we read:

“During the winter 1941-1942 the Germans deported to Riga Jews from Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, and other occupied countries and executed them together with Jews from Riga in the pine forest at Čuibe, between the stations of Rumbula and Salaspils.”[\[108\]](#)

3.3. The Witnesses

3.3.1. Herman Kruk

Herman Kruk was born in the Polish town of Plock in 1897. In 1920 he joined the Jewish Labor Bund. Following the German attack on Warsaw in 1939 he fled to Vilna, where he remained in 1941 when the Germans overtook Lithuania. In the Vilna Ghetto, Kruk became the head librarian and a prominent member of the ghetto community. From 1941 to 1944, he kept a voluminous diary which he regarded as a chronicle of the destruction of the Vilna Jews. In September 1943, Kruk was transferred from Vilna to the labor camp Lagedi in Estonia, where he was reportedly shot on 18 September 1944. His diary was preserved by a friend who after the war found his way to Israel. In 1961 the diary was published in the original Yiddish by the Jewish organization YIVO under the title *Hurbn Vilne* (The Destruction of

Vilna, other editions of the same book go under the title *Togbuch fun Vilner Geto*, Diary from the Vilna Ghetto). The diary finally appeared in English translation in 2002. It contains numerous entries which are of utmost interest, as they blatantly contradict the orthodox historiography on the “extermination camps” and offer strong support to the revisionist hypothesis.

In Kruk’s diary entry from 30 January 1942 we read:

“A train with Jews passed by here today. The Jews said that they are being taken to work from Sosnowiec and the surrounding area. The train left in the direction of the Eastern Front.”[\[109\]](#)

Sosnowiec is a city in Upper Silesia, not far from Katowice, which is in turn located not far from Oświęcim, that is, Auschwitz. According to orthodox historiography, the very first transport of Jews sent to Auschwitz to be gassed reportedly originated from Upper Silesia. The Holocaust historians are not unanimous when it comes to the date of this transport. Danuta Czech in her *Kalendarium* states that the convoy arrived from the Upper Silesian town of Beuthen on 15 February.[\[110\]](#) The sources she gives are not contemporary documents but statements from the SS men Rudolf Höss and Pery Broad that not in any way support the alleged date or origin of the transport.[\[111\]](#) Jean-Claude Pressac on the other hand dates the beginning of large-scale gassings at Auschwitz (in *Krematorium I*) to January 1942[\[112\]](#), as does Ber Mark, who identifies the first alleged victims as coming from an unspecified location in Upper Silesia.[\[113\]](#) Given the date and reported origin of the transport witnessed by Kruk it nevertheless seems plausible that we are here dealing with an observation of the first Polish Jews sent to be “gassed” at Auschwitz. Holocaust historiography knows of no transports from Sosnowiec to Auschwitz (or any other “extermination camp”) taking place earlier than May 1942,[\[114\]](#) but we should recall here that when it comes to many if not most deportations of Jews from Poland, contemporary documents are lacking and dates and numbers often derive from testimonies.

In a brief chronicle of the Kovno Ghetto written as a diary entry on 16 February 1942 and detailing events transpired in that ghetto from late June 1941 to February 1942, Kruk writes:

“The only disturbing thing was that masses of Jews were driven into Kovno from the Czech area, from Łódź, Upper Silesia, Belgium, and Germany. The Slobodka [Vilijampole] *Judenrat* [in Kovno] calculated that they would settle those Jews in the ghetto, but it turned out that the Jews were brought to Kovno for destruction.”[\[115\]](#)

Only two transports from the west to Kovno (Kaunas) are known by mainstream historiography for the period in question: one carrying an unknown number of German Jews from Berlin on 17 November 1941, and one with 995 Jews from Vienna departing on 23 November 1941. The mention of Jews from Łódź and Upper Silesia are of particular interest. As already mentioned, the first Jews sent to be “gassed” at Auschwitz are reported to have been Jews from Upper Silesia, and as seen above, Kruk on 30 January 1942 witnessed a convoy of Jews from that part of Poland passing through Vilna on their way to the eastern front. From January 1941 onward, Jews from Łódź are alleged to have been gassed at the Chełmno camp.

Kruk’s mention of Belgian Jews is difficult to explain, since the first deportations from that country

reportedly took place in August 1942. Some 8,000 Belgian Jews were expelled to France, but deportations from there did not start until March 1942 (cf. Sections 2.3.2. and 2.3.3.). Kulischer on the other hand states that “some Jews, mainly of Polish origin, were transferred from Antwerp to Lodz for work in textile factories” during the winter of 1941-42.^[116] Provided that this information is correct, then some of these Jews may hypothetically have reached Kovno via Chełmno. Perhaps more likely Kruk’s unnamed informant(s) was in error here. Another spurious piece of second-hand information (considering the date) was noted down by Kruk on 12 March 1942: the *Judenälteste* of the Kovno Ghetto had sent him “a yellow patch from a Western European Jew” together with a letter claiming that it derived from one of “a large group of Jews from Belgium and Holland” which had recently been brought to Kovno to be shot, but of which “many managed to hide.”^[117]

On 12 March 1942, Kruk penned the following entry in his diary:

“A rumor has suddenly spread through the ghetto that 2,000 German Jews were brought to Subocz Street [in Vilna].”^[118]

Two days later, on 14 March 1942, he returned to this subject:

“We have already noted that 2,000 German Jews are in the Municipal Houses on Subocz. Now I know that the group of Jews is from Austria, most from Vienna. So far, we have not been able to make contact with them.”^[119]

Mainstream historians know of no such transport of Austrian Jews to Vilna. These deportees may have been sent there directly from Vienna, but it is also possible that they reached Vilna via the Łódź ghetto. From 16 October 1941 to 4 November of the same year, a total of 5,002 Jews were deported from *Ostmark* (Austria) to the Łódź Ghetto. According to a Gestapo report dating from 9 June 1942, 10,993 of the 19,848 Jews deported to Łódź from *Altreich*, *Ostmark* and the Protectorate had been evacuated (i.e. sent east via Chełmno) up until that date.^[120]

When dealing with the possibility of transports to the east via the “pure extermination camp” of Chełmno, Kruk’s diary entry from 4 July 1942 under the heading “A Message from Łódź” is of utmost interest:

“Just received a message from Łódź. For us, Łódź is one of those cities from which you can obtain almost no information. Of course, the rumors from there are crazy and wild, and according to them, it is already certain that there are no Jews in Łódź.

Now I learn from two young people who were taken out of the Łódź Ghetto in March that Łódź has a ghetto. There is no shooting, and mass executions are unknown. The only thing is, people are taken off to work. They figure that about 10,000 Jews have recently been sent out of Łódź. Now the young people know what it is to be sent out to work. They are dragged around from place to place; they don’t know where they are or what they are doing. From time to time, groups are pulled out and disappear, and they assume that they are shot...

Both of the young men escaped from such a group, and after a week of wandering, they were arrested in Vilna [and taken to] Łukiszki [a prison in Vilna] and were released from

there only two days ago. Here in the ghetto they were clothed, and soon they will be sent to forest work.”[\[121\]](#)

Orthodox historiography has it that, from January 1942 onward, numerous Jews from the Łódź (*Litzmannstadt*) Ghetto were sent, not to work, but to be killed in the Chełmno “extermination camp”. According to the “Chronicle of the Łódź Ghetto”, 10,003 Łódź Jews were sent to their deaths in January and 7,025 in February.[\[122\]](#) In contemporary German documents the Jews evacuated from the ghetto are referred to as “resettled” (*ausgesiedelt*), and the diary entry of Kruk clearly shows that this resettlement was real and not a camouflage for mass killings. This diary entry thus constitutes a strong confirmation of the transit camp hypothesis. It is possible that the two Łódź Jews which Kruk received the information from only had knowledge of the number of Jews deported in January, considering the striking match between the figures (“about 10,000” and 10,003). The fact that the two young men had wandered for only a week from their work place to reach Vilna indicates that at least part of the Łódź Jews were sent to Lithuania or possibly to neighboring Belarus.[\[123\]](#)

The notion expressed by Kruk in his entry from 16 February 1942 that Jews from Łódź among other places were brought to Kovno merely to be shot there seems somewhat spurious in light of what the prominent Kovno Jew Avraham Tory entered into in his diary on 14 July 1942. Here we read that “four Jews from Łódź” had been brought to the Kovno Ghetto Hospital for surgery after having “spent a long time in a labor camp”.[\[124\]](#) We will also note here briefly that a number of witnesses report the presence of Polish Jews in the Baltic States. Most of them, unfortunately, do not specify where in Poland these Jews came from or when they had arrived to the occupied eastern territories. Jeanette Wolf, a German Jewess deported to Riga, writes in her memoirs of Polish Jews being interned in the Strasdenhof camp near Riga.[\[125\]](#) The German Jew Josef Katz repeatedly mentions the presence of Polish Jews in the Riga Ghetto and the Kaiserwald Concentration Camp (in the same city), including “Shmuel, a Jew from Łódź”.[\[126\]](#) In one of the undated notations made by Kruk after his deportation to Estonia, and which seems to refer to December 1943, we read that the camp elder in a camp in Narva (possibly the Vaivara subcamp Narva-Ost) was “the Galician Jew Zieler.”[\[127\]](#) Preserved file cards from the Estonian camp Klooga shows that at least 14 of the inmates there were Jews from Warsaw.[\[128\]](#) It is further reported that a smaller group of Polish Jews worked with cremating the bodies of executed political prisoners near the Estonian Tartu camp in November 1943.[\[129\]](#)

Kruk’s entry from 16 April 1943 is of extreme interest:

“I learn that for the past two weeks, two trains have been halted in Vilna, each with 25 cars of objects, apparently from the Dutch Jews. [...]. Today a rumor is circulating that there are about 19,000 Dutch Jews in Vievis.”[\[130\]](#)

Vievis (Polish spelling Jewie) is a small town located between Kovno and Vilna with direct access to the railroad running between those two cities (cf. Ill. 1). In a Lithuanian doctoral dissertation which is partially available in English translation online, historian Neringa Latvyte-Gustaitiene gives a description of the camps located in Vievis that is based almost exclusively on post-war testimonies:

“As early as 1942, there were two labour camps at Vievis, one for Soviet prisoners of war

and the other for Jews. Both were supervised by a German military unit, under the command of an officer named Deling.²²³ The majority of the Jews were mostly engaged in building the highway. [...]. In May 1942, there were 700 Jews in the camp. The flow of people was intense: large groups were often removed to be murdered, and others arrived to replace them. Prisoners from the Vilnius and Kaunas ghettos worked there. [...]. The regime at the Vievis work camp was very severe. Leaving the camp was strictly forbidden. The campsite was fenced off with barbed wire and guarded by armed personnel. The working day started at 5:30; the roll-call was at 6:00 a.m. The food was bad. [...]. In mid-1943 the Vievis labour camp came under the supervision of the Vilnius City Commissar, who was noted for his cruelty. [...]. The inmates continued to build the highway. Nutrition did not improve, 'Quite often you could see Jews returning from work, holding one another so as not to fall.' The living quarters were unhealthy and even a threat to life. People slept on four-story berths made of boards joined together. They put some straw on the boards, if they could get any. Selections at the camp continued, and groups of Jews were brought to replace others. Those who were ill were most often transferred to the Vilnius or Kaunas ghettos. From these ghettos, the camp received some aid - clothing, boots and other things. Although the internal regime had not changed substantially, confrontations between the Jews and the camp guard became more frequent. [...]. In September, a big group of Jews arrived at the Vievis camp. Selections of those fit to work began immediately. Dzena selected able-bodied Jews, and those who had gold, to remain in the camp. The greater majority, including the elderly people and children, were transported to Paneriai [i.e. the alleged mass shooting site Ponary]. [...]. A 45 kilometre narrow-gauge railway line from Vievis to Paneriai had been built, which transported Jews to the site of their death. [...]. The Vievis labour camp was liquidated in December 1943. All its workers were murdered in Paneriai."^[131]

What seems certain of the above information is that there existed a Jewish camp in Vievis from early 1942 to December 1943. That ill inmates from the Vievis camp were brought to the Vilna or Kovno ghettos – a detail which does not square well with the assertion that Jews from the same camp were shot in large numbers at Ponary – is confirmed by the Kovno Ghetto diary of Avraham Tory. In his entry from 2 July 1943 Tory writes:

"Yellin, the representative of Vievis camp, arrived here today. He comes to the Ghetto [in Kovno] once every two or three weeks to collect wooden shoes, underwear, and other supplies from our welfare department. The conditions in the Vievis labor camp are harsher than in the Ghetto. The housing conditions there endanger the health and lives of the inmates, the regime is strict, and the labor is back-breaking. The Vievis labor camp is under the supervision of the city governor of Vilna, who is a very cruel man. About four weeks ago, the camp workers feared that all the inmates would be exterminated after two Jewish youths had refused to obey the orders of the camp guards. Once in a while, patients from Vievis camp are admitted to our Ghetto hospital. The camp inmates also come here quite often to ask for help over some problem or other. We, for our part, extend them whatever assistance we can."^[132]

In a collection of "Holocaust survivor" testimonies from 2007 we read the following account concerning "Marie", a Jewess from the Vilna Ghetto:

"When they saw that the last days of the [Vilna] ghetto were approaching [the ghetto was

liquidated on 23 September 1943] Adam [Marie's brother] succeeded to be transferred to the camp Zezmarai, working for the German engineering organization TODT. He was working there as a camp physician, while Marie remained in the [Vilna] ghetto. Just before the great action her brother arrived with friendly members of the TODT organization and saved her. She was right now in camp Vievis. After about a month, she was transferred to Milejgany and from there to the Zezmarai camp.”[\[133\]](#)

This account suggests that Vievis functioned not only as a labor camp but also as a transit camp from where Jewish prisoners were relayed to other camps.



Illustration 1. A map of the Vilna-Kovno area in 1941 with Vievis underlined by the author. Trains coming from the south arrived at the Landwarów (*Lentvaris*) junction, where they either continued to the east and Vilna/Wilno/Vilnius, or to the northwest and Kovno (Kaunas). (Source: Section of *Internationale Weltkarte* 1:1 000 000 *Sonderausgabe* IV.1941 Ber. V.41 N-35 Wilna).

The notion that someone would have simply made up such a curious claim as that 19,000 Dutch had arrived in a small Lithuanian appears out of the question. For what reason would someone make it up, or, for that matter, how could such a misconception arise? But where then did these Jews come from?

Transport lists shows that between 2 March and 6 April 1943, six transports with altogether 7,699 Dutch Jews left Westerbork for the “extermination camp” of Sobibór.[\[134\]](#) Was the person behind the Vievis rumor perhaps misinformed about the number of Dutch deportees? This may be, but it is also possible that Vievis at this time held Dutch Jews deported to the East not only via Sobibór but also via Auschwitz. Between 17 July 1942 and 25 February 1943 a total of 42,533 Dutch Jews were sent to Auschwitz; 30,413 were “gassed upon arrival”, i.e. transited elsewhere.[\[135\]](#) If part of these were sent to Vievis, it is possible that there indeed were 19,000 Dutch Jews present in this town on 16 April 1943.

Later on the same day that he reported on the rumor of Dutch Jews in Vievis (16 April 1943) Kruk wrote under the heading “Once more about the Dutch Jews”:

“Just now I succeeded in getting a Jewish sign from a Dutch Jew and a copy of the order of

the *Reichskommissar* for the Occupied Netherlands about Jewish property (attached).”[\[136\]](#)

The editor of the diary informs us that “The order is missing.” This entry shows us that Kruk had good reason to believe the Vievis rumor, since he himself had in his possession items belonging to one or more Dutch Jews transported to the East. With “Jewish sign” is undoubtedly meant the yellow cloth Star of David forcibly worn by the Western Jews. In the Netherlands these emblems bore the inscription *Jood* (Dutch for Jew).

On 19 April 1943 Kruk wrote:

“Europe will be purged of Jews. The Jews of Warsaw are being taken to be killed in Malkinia, near Lwów or near Zamość. The Jews from Western Europe are being taken east, their wandering go on.”[\[137\]](#)

In his previous entries Kruk repeatedly recounts claims that the Warsaw Jews were killed near the Polish town of Malkinia. On 5 September 1942 Kruk wrote that “The Jews are taken toward Malkinia, and there, there... they are poisoned with gas”.[\[138\]](#) On 30 September 1942 he noted that the mass killings “are supposed to have taken place somewhere near Malkinia. People are forced to leave their clothes in the trains. From there, they are driven to underground trenches, and they don’t come back. How it is done is still a secret.”[\[139\]](#) By 27 October the rumors had become more specific: “The Jews from there [Warsaw] were taken, as has been mentioned, to Belz (near Lwów) and to a forest around Malkinia. There the Jews are put into special underground entrances, poisoned, and burned.”[\[140\]](#) On 30 October Kruk again wrote of the rumors, this time giving a source, issue no. 6 of the Polish underground newspaper *Niepodległość*. Kruk summarizes: “Some were taken on trains to Treblinka near Malkinia, many were conveyed as far as Belz (in the Lwów district), where they were poisoned *en masse* with gas or killed with electrical current in the former soap factory there.”[\[141\]](#) By 6 May 1943, finally, the rumors had grown wild indeed:

“Treblinka. This is the name of that place near Malkinia where Jews from Warsaw, Białystok, and Grodno are killed. Here, as I said, the trains come and everyone has to undress to go into the woods, where there is supposedly a disinfection facility. Anyone who realizes what is going on, and doesn’t want to undress, is handed over to a group of Jewish police, who throw the resisters into a fire; then you have to undress and be driven in, no matter where. [...] The victims are driven into the disinfection facility. From the inside, the air is sucked out by a machine until the people die. The bodies then burst from the pressure of the air and are automatically thrown into a so-called crematorium, which burns the bodies to coal. The narrators [unnamed] say that ashes are scattered on the fields of the whole area. Clearly, the ashes from the burned people.”[\[142\]](#)

It is of interest to note that, while Kruk readily reported rumors spread by Polish underground publications that the Jews from Warsaw, Białystok and Grodno were killed *en masse* at Treblinka and Belzec (which is here confused with another place, the town of Belz) – the latter camp being located not far from Lwów and Zamość – he never mentions the alleged mass killing of the Łódź Jews at Chełmno (Sobibór and Auschwitz are also unknown to him). The reason for this is obvious: ever since his encounter with the two young Łódź Jews on 4 July 1942, he understood that the rumors according

to which “there are no Jews in Łódź” were “crazy and wild” because he knew from first-hand sources that “mass executions are unknown” and that the tens of thousands of Jews evacuated from the Łódź were merely “taken off to work”. This shows that Kruk, while susceptible to black propaganda about the fate of the Warsaw Jews – something understandable in the light of the fact that most of his relatives lived there – did not lend credence to mere rumor in cases when he had access to reliable first-hand sources contradicting those rumors.

Kruk’s note from 19 April 1943 that “The Jews from Western Europe are being taken east, their wandering go on” shows that he did not believe said Jews were being gassed en masse in the “extermination camps” in Poland. The reason for this is also simple: why would he believe so when he knew that the Dutch Jews were being taken to the occupied eastern territories?

On 26 April 1943 Kruk wrote more about the Western Jews under the heading “Where are the millions of Jews of Europe?”, insinuating that at least part of them had been shot in Lithuania and Belarus:

“We know, for example, that Poland alone contained more than 3 million Jews, and now – can you find even half a million in former Poland? However much we try, we cannot reach such a number. And the hundreds of thousands of Jews from Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and the thousands of Jews from France, Belgium, Holland, and Czechoslovakia, who have gone through Lithuania in the thousands, who were shot near Minsk, at the Seventh Fort of Kovno, etc.?”[\[143\]](#)

On 30 April 1943 Kruk returned to the subject of the deported Dutch Jews:

“We have already written about the packing up of 130,000 Jews from Holland and their transport to the East.[\[144\]](#) We have also mentioned that carloads filled with goods from the Dutch Jews are in the Vilna railroad station. Now an issue that clears it all up - beautiful old furniture has been brought here, to our joiners' workshop, to be repaired. In the drawers people find Dutch documents, including documents from December 1942, which means that ostensibly, the Dutch were not taken to the East before January or February. Thus the Jews [there] did not know they were going to be exterminated. The rich Dutch Jews even brought bridge tables with them, in case, God forbid, such things wouldn't be found among the backward *Ostjuden* [Eastern European Jews]. Now it is clear that they were slaughtered, just like the Oszmiana[\[145\]](#) and Swieciany Jews. In our area, dozens of railroad cars are scattered, filled with Jewish junk, remnants of the former Dutch Jewry.”[\[146\]](#)

This passage removes the last doubt about the origin of the transports, because the mainly Yiddish-speaking Jews in the Vilna Ghetto would certainly have been able to tell Dutch from German. The dates written on the documents discovered in the drawers also confirm that the Dutch Jews had been brought to Lithuania either in January or February 1943 via Auschwitz or in March or April via Sobibór.

One might argue here that the trains may have brought only the belongings of Dutch Jews murdered at Sobibór, and not the Jews themselves in still living condition. Such a counterargument, however, clashes with the mainstream historiography on Sobibór. Miriam Novitch writes that “Gold and jewelry were sent directly to the Führer’s Chancellery in Berlin. Prisoners’ clothing, from which the yellow star badges, and all signs indicating their origin, were removed, went to several German institutions.”[\[147\]](#)

Yitzhak Arad quotes the testimony of Jan Piwonski, a railway worker at Sobibór station:

“I saw how the goods which were of no value to the Germans were burned. The other goods were loaded on freight cars and sent to Germany. Such transports with objects and clothing departed twice a month. Valuables, gold, and money were packed in an iron box and sent to Berlin twice a week.”[\[148\]](#)

One would think that Piwonski would have recalled if part of the spoils for some odd reason had been sent not to Germany, but to the Baltic States! Moreover, if the railway cars really were filled with the stolen belongings of Dutch Jews murdered in Sobibór, how come there were not only possibly incriminating documents among the objects, but also Star of David patches? It should further be pointed out that this passage indicates that the transited Jews did not have all their belongings confiscated at Sobibór. Finally we note that nowhere in this or the following entries does Kruk give an explanation to how he knew that the Dutch Jews sent to Lithuania had been “slaughtered”.

A further passage of interest was penned by Kruk on 23 June 1943:

“In the Minsk Ghetto, 3,000 - 4,000 Jews now live. Next to the ghetto is another ghetto. In the first ghetto are Russian Jews from Minsk, Slutsk, Baranovitsh, etc. In the second, there are altogether 1,500 German and Czech Jews.”[\[149\]](#)

Kruk knew this information from two individuals who had recently been to Minsk. The assertion that 1,500 German and Czech Jews at the time lived in the second ghetto appears to contradict the statement of Minsk witness Hersch Smolar (see Section 3.3.3.) that the last remaining German Jews in the “Hamburg Ghetto” were murdered in “gas-vans” in early 1943.[\[150\]](#) On the other hand, Smolar reports that no less than 12,000 Jews (whereof about 3,200 in hiding) were still living in the Minsk ghetto as of late February 1943.[\[151\]](#)

3.3.2. Hilde Sherman-Zander

Hilde Sherman-Zander, a German Jewess born in 1923, was deported from Cologne to Riga on 10 December 1941. In her memoirs she recalls an incident taking place at a not further specified date in the summer of 1942:

“One morning on the way to work, as we crossed the railroad tracks, we found there standing a long train made up of cattle wagons. On the tracks lay small pieces of paper and cardboard, on which were written, ‘Help, we are thirsting to death’ and cries of ‘Water! Water!’

From the air apertures, which were barred with barbed wire, we saw hands and lower arms reaching out. Suddenly the unfortunates threw out rings, watches and money in the hope of receiving a mouthful of water in return. We were hastily marched on our way.

In the evening in the ghetto we learned that the clothing from this transport had already arrived in the Ghetto. Only the clothing. Also a couple of prams with baby bottles filled with milk. There was no trace of the people. They were Dutch Jews, deported from Westerboork [correct: Westerbork].

So it continued during the whole of the summer: Every second day large amounts of clothing arrived in

the ghetto: bed sheets, shoes, toilet articles. Everything was unloaded in the enormous hall and then sorted. [...] Not once did a single human soul from all the thousands and yet thousands from these transports reach our ghetto. By now we knew where they went: to the Hochwald [i.e. the Bikernieki Forest]. All of them. Without exception. All were shot and buried in mass graves.”[\[152\]](#)

Similar to Herman Kruk, Sherman-Zander claims that the Dutch deportees were all shot to death in forests in the vicinity of Riga, but this assertion is not based on observations of her own. As mentioned above, the deportation of Dutch Jews to Auschwitz began on 17 July 1942, a fact which fits well with Sherman-Zander’s testimony.

3.3.3. Hersh Smolar[\[153\]](#)

Hersh Smolar was a Polish Jew born in 1905. In 1939 he fled from his native city of Bialystok to Minsk in Belarus, where after the German invasion in 1941 and the erection of the Minsk Ghetto he became a prominent figure in the local Jewish underground. From 1942 onwards, Smolar led a group of Jewish partisan fighters based in the forests and swamps near Minsk. In his memoirs, originally published in 1948, Smolar recalls the arrival of Western Jews to Minsk:

“Ever since transports of Jews from various European countries had begun arriving at the Minsk railroad station - from Germany and France, from Poland and Czechoslovakia, from Hungary and Greece - we were receiving from our people employed at the station fragmentary reports about the Jews in those countries. We heard about the various methods the Nazis were using not only to terrorize the Jews but to undermine their vigilance by deception. We knew, for example, that this was done by spreading rumors that the transports were going to work-places in the east.”[\[154\]](#)

Unfortunately, while the passage quoted here is found in a chapter describing events taking place during the summer of 1942, Smolar does not make it clear when these transports began arriving or until what date they continued. We recall here that the first deportation of Jews from Greece took place in February 1943, whereas in France the deportations began already in March 1942.

The mention of Hungarian Jews might be taken to indicate that the information relayed by Smolar is unreliable, due to the reasons presented above in Section 2.2.3. There is, however, an entirely possible explanation for the presence of nominally Hungarian Jews in Belarus in 1942: In August 1941, 17,000 – 22,000 of the Jews living in the former Czechoslovak province of Carpatho-Russia, which had been incorporated into Hungary, were declared as stateless and deported by the Hungarian authorities across the Dnjestr River to the Ukrainian region of Kamenetz-Podolsk.[\[155\]](#) Historian Christian Gerlach further mentions that the 2nd Hungarian Army brought some thousand of Hungarian “Work Jews” with them to Belarus in the summer of 1942, who were then also employed by *Organisation Todt*.[\[156\]](#) In his short memoirs from 1961, the Berlin Jew Karl Loewenstein, who was deported to Minsk on 14 November 1941 and transferred to Theresienstadt on 13 May 1942 (due to distinguished service in World War I), mentions having been in contact with a Hungarian Jew in Minsk.[\[157\]](#)

3.3.4. Heinz Rosenberg

The German Jew Heinz Rosenberg, born in 1921, was deported from Hamburg to Minsk on 8

November 1941 (the first direct transport to that city).^[158] His memoirs were published in 1985. A few days after Rosenberg's arrival to Minsk, another transport with "about 1000 Jews from Düsseldorf" arrived.^[159] This is perfect accordance with facts, since a transport bound for Minsk departed from Düsseldorf on 10 November. At the time, Rosenberg was told by SS members that "another 30 to 40 transports would follow".^[160] This reported statement fits well with the fact that another 32 direct transports reached Minsk: 4 more in November 1941 and another 28 in the period May – November 1942 (most of them from Vienna). Rosenberg writes that in the next few weeks following the Düsseldorf transport, more trains arrived, each carrying about 1000 people, so that in all 7,500 Jews arrived in the ghetto (which seems to imply a total of 7 transports). The documents show that the transports to Minsk in November numbered 6, and that they carried a total of 5,453 people. Thus Rosenberg somewhat overestimates the number of deportees, but within a reasonable margin of error. The origins of the transports following the first two from Hamburg and Düsseldorf are given by Rosenberg as "Berlin, Vienna, Prague and Bremen/Hamburg".^[161] The documents show (in chronological order): Frankfurt am Main, Berlin, Brünn and Hamburg. Here Rosenberg is in error, but it is not as grave an error as it might appear. Brünn (present Brno) was a city in the Protectorate and it is not out of the question that Rosenberg in his recollections mistook it to have arrived from Prague. The mention of Vienna and the lacking mention of Frankfurt are perhaps more serious, and points to a somewhat faulty memory. Rosenberg is correct, however, that the last of the November transports arrived from Hamburg. It is worth noting here that Karl Loewenstein, who arrived with the fourth transport (from Berlin), recalled in 1961 that the three following transports arrived, in chronological order, from "Brünn, Bremen and Vienna".^[162] Later in his recollection Loewenstein explicitly mentions the presence of Vienna Jews in Minsk in the winter of 1941-42 (and that part of the German ghetto had been named after these Jews)^[163], while the documents show that the first direct transport from Vienna to Minsk departed on 6 May 1942. A hypothetical explanation for this would be that the transport from Vienna to Kaunas departing on 23 November 1941 was for some reason rerouted to Minsk, or that some Jews from the Kaunas transport were sent on to Minsk.^[164] However, as far as the author of this article is aware, there exists no documentary evidence supporting this hypothesis.

The part of Rosenberg's memoirs that interests us here describes how the witness worked in February-March 1942 with sorting the belongings from arriving transports in the former Minsk Opera:

"A large contingent of ghetto inmates worked every day in this building with sorting the stolen goods of the 'enemies of the Reich'. We were dealing with hundreds and thousands of trunks, rucksacks and handbags from the belongings of some 23,000 Jews, who had arrived to Minsk in 23 transports, but never were admitted into the ghetto. Instead they were shot or gassed immediately at arrival. Only from the labels on the trunks could our people know where the transports had come from."^[165]

Apparently Rosenberg "knew" about the fate of these Jewish transports only from hearsay, as he himself during this period of time neither was present at the railway station nor outside of the city near the alleged killing sites. It may be worth noting in this context K. Loewenstein's comment that the Minsk railway station and the ghetto of the German Jews were located in opposite ends of the city.^[166]

According to the documents, not a single direct transport from the west arrived in Minsk during the whole period from December 1941 to May 1942. The possible counterargument that the luggage Rosenberg sorted might have come from Jews sent from Theresienstadt to nearby Maly Trostinec does not hold water, since the first of these transports (five in all) departed on 14 July 1942. Neither does there exist, as far as the author of this article is aware, any reports of Jewish transports arriving by train to Minsk from other parts of *Ostland* or the Ukraine during the period in question. This implies that if Rosenberg is correct, then the 23 unknown transports arrived to Minsk indirectly from the west via Chełmno or Auschwitz. Alas, Rosenberg does not tell his readers what he and his fellow workers read on the trunk labels!

When we compare Rosenberg's statement with what contemporary documents has to tell us about Minsk during the period in question (early 1942) something rather curious crops up. On 5 January 1942, the *Stadtkommissar* of Minsk, *Gauamtsleiter* Wilhelm Janetzke sent a letter to the Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories, Alfred Rosenberg, in which he related that he had just been informed by the SS and Police that central authorities had the intention

“of bringing approximately 50,000 more Jews from Germany to Minsk in the next weeks and months.”

Janetzke strongly protested the planned deportations, arguing that the city, which had been severely devastated by the war but still had 100,000 civilian inhabitants, could not receive more transports, and that there were in the city's ghettos already “about 7,000 Jews from Germany” and “roughly from 15,000 to 18,000 Russian Jews”. [\[167\]](#)

On 16 January, the expert on Jewish questions in Rosenberg's ministry, *Amtsgerichtsrat* Wetzel, replied in a letter addressed to *Reichskommissar* Lohse (i.e. Janetzke's superior):

“According to a communication of the Reich Security Headquarters imparted to me, it was planned to send 25,000 Jews from the Reich to Minsk, who were supposed to be accommodated in the ghetto there. Of these, 7-8,000 Jews have reached Minsk. The rest who remained behind cannot be transferred to Minsk at this time due to transportation difficulties. As soon as these difficulties are removed, however, the arrival of these Jews in Minsk must be reckoned with.”[\[168\]](#)

On 6 February 1942 *Generalkommissar* Kube wrote a letter to Lohse in which he supported Janetzke's protest and pointed out the impossibility of accommodating yet an additional 25,000 Jews.[\[169\]](#)

As has already been mentioned, no Jewish transports are recorded as having departed for Minsk during the long period from 19 November 1941 to 6 May 1942, when the first known transport from Vienna departed. Did it really take this long to remove the referred-to transport difficulties? Or was the problem in fact solved not long after Wetzel's reply and the deportation of Jews to Minsk renewed, as Rosenberg's account hints at?

If we add together the recorded number of Jews deported directly from the Reich to Minsk in the period 6 May – 28 November 1942 (the date of the last recorded such transport) we reach the figure of 25,657 people. For one of the recorded transports during this period, however, the number of deported

Jews is not known. The transport in question departed from Cologne on 22 July 1942 and had the code Da-219. Since virtually all of the other direct transports from the Reich to *Ostland* carried approximately 1,000 persons each, we are justified in assuming this average number also for Da-219. Thus some 26,657 Reich Jews were sent to Minsk during the abovementioned period in 28 transports. If we then add to these the 23,000 arrivals in February-March claimed by Rosenberg, we get the figure 49,657, that is, almost exactly the number of Jewish deportees (50,000) that the SS and Police authorities in early January 1942 had told Janetzke would arrive to Minsk “in the next weeks and months”. Was the deportation schedule resumed again in February but then stretched out over the whole of 1942 in order to make it easier for the local administration to find accommodation for the arrivals?

3.3.5. Friedrich Jeckeln

In an interrogation held in Soviet custody on 14 December 1945, the former Higher Leader of the SS and Police of *Ostland*, Friedrich Jeckeln, made the following statement concerning the Latvian “death camp” of Salaspils:

“Q: What countries were the Jews in Salaspils brought from?

A: Jews were brought from Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Czechoslovakia, and from other occupied countries to the Salaspils camp. To give a precise count of Jews in the Salaspils camp would be difficult. [...]. The first Jewish convoys arrived in Salaspils in November 1941. Then, in the first half of 1942, convoys arrived at regular intervals. I believe that in November 1941, no more than three convoys arrived in all, but during the next seven months, from December 1941 to June 1942, eight to twelve convoys arrived each month. Overall, in eight months, no less than fifty-five and no more than eighty-seven Jewish convoys arrived at the camp. Given that each convoy carried a thousand men, that makes a total of 55,000 to 87,000 Jews exterminated in the Salaspils camp.”[\[170\]](#)

It should be noted here that while Russia as late as 2004 claimed that 101,000 “Soviet citizens” had been killed at Salaspils, and whereas a Soviet encyclopedia in 1970 gave the victim number as at least 53,700,[\[171\]](#) current historiography estimate a death toll of only some thousands.[\[172\]](#) We will return to the issue of Salaspils further on in this article.

3.3.6. William W. Mishell

Mishell, born as Mishelski in 1918, was a Lithuanian Jew who during the war lived in the Kovno Ghetto. In his memoirs from 1988 he writes of one or more transports of French Jews to Kovno in the summer of 1942:

“Barely had the bodies of the Jews from Vienna a chance to cool when, one morning, a new transport of Jews was brought to Kovno for extermination. [...]. Nobody was quite sure, but it seemed that this group was from France. [...]. Several more transports came in short succession and then they stopped, for how long we did not know.”[\[173\]](#)

Mainstream historiography knows of only one transports of Viennese (or other Austrian) Jews to Kaunas, which took place on November 23, 1941. The ambiguity concerning the nationality of the

“French” deportees as well as the late date of Mishell’s memoirs prompts us to regard this piece of witness evidence as of minor value.

3.3.7. Lebke Distel

In his book on Abba Kovner’s Lithuanian-Jewish resistance group, The Avengers, Rich Cohen recounts the story of a companion of Kovner’s named Lebke Distel who on 1 September 1943 was deported from Vilna to Estonia^[174] and various camps near the Narva-Leningrad theatre of the eastern front, only to be reunited with Kovner and his group in 1945:

“From Wilna, Lebke had been sent from prison camp to prison camp, a death march, always one step ahead of the Red Army. In Kortla Java, he worked on the roads in the swampy country. At night he could hear shelling and rifle shots. He was then sent down the river Narva River to Suski, where he built the German railroad. The temperature dropped to twenty five degrees below zero; prisoners carried the dead to be counted and burned. The snow was to his waist in Koromej, where he was locked up with Jews from Holland and Kovno. He then marched west to a half-remembered foundry of red flames and smoke chimneys. He worked in the metal shop. One day a door opened and in walked his brother, which Lebke had last seen in Vilna. Their mother had been sent to Auschwitz or Ponar, her good hiding place given away by a Jewish policeman. Lebke’s feet were bloody in Tallinn, the snow-covered capital of Estonia, houses serene beyond the boxcar door. A boat took him to Stutthof, outside Gdansk, the blue-black port. It was summer. Lebke was shaved, put in uniform and marched to Stuttgart.”^[175]

An indirect retelling of someone’s experiences like the one above naturally has less evidential value than would an account coming directly from Distel himself. We know from the “acknowledgments” page of the book that Cohen met and interviewed Distel in Yaqim in Israel,^[176] and we may thus assume that the passage above is based on statements from Distel. As will be seen below, the sequence of events described fits with documented facts about the places mentioned.

The name “Koromej” is not to be found on any map of Eastern Europe. Distel was however referring to a real place. The location of “Koromej” can be identified with certainty thanks partially to Distel’s mention of other places, partially thanks to the testimony of a certain Miriam Reich, a Jewess from Kovno who on 26 October 1943 was deported to “Camp Kurame” in Estonia. She describes her brief stay in the camp as follows:

“Our bunks were very primitive. No running water. No toilet facilities. An outhouse and a well were all we had. We did what we could to keep ourselves clean, but most of the time it was too cold to even want to undress and bathe. Looking for lice in the seams of our clothes was the most common evening recreational activity. Needless to say, the smell in the bunks, particularly at night, was odious. We slept on tiers of boards, one above the other, bundled up in our day clothes for warmth. Blankets were scarce. There was a wood stove in the center of the bunk that would burn dimly at night. [...]. We built roads in the middle of nowhere. Ostensibly, these roads were going to provide the Germans with greater access to the Russian front. Trees had to be cleared, road beds dug, and gravel spread, all manually. The supervisors were mainly local Estonians recruited by the Germans. Some were quite decent; others were worse than the Germans. Lunch consisted of some nondescript cabbage soup with a few potatoes thrown in, and upon our return to our bunks, more of the same

with a slice or two of bread.”[\[177\]](#)

A close look at a map of Estonia (cf. Ill. 2) will reveal the presence of a village named Kuremäe located some 20 km south-west of the city of Narva. Some 15 km to the north-north-east of Kuremäe we find Vaivara, a concentration camp from which a large number of Jews as well as Soviet POW:s were distributed to a network of labor camps in the north-eastern part of Estonia, including Klooga, Narva-Ost, Aseri, Kiviõli, Viivikonna, Lagedi, and, indeed, Kuremäe.[\[178\]](#) The presence of Reich and other Kovno Jews in “Camp Kurame” fits well with the mention in Lebke Distel’s story of Kovno Jews being present at “Koromej”. Unfortunately, Reich does not mention the origin of the other inmates of the camp.



Illustration 2. The area south-west of Narva in 1944, with Kuremäe and Vaivara underlined by the author. (Source: Section of *Deutsche Heereskarte Osteuropa* 1:300 000, *Ausgabe* Nr. 2, *Blatt*-Nr. U60, Narwa).

The camp encyclopedia *Der Ort des Terrors*[\[179\]](#) has the following to tell us about Kuremäe:

“The subcamp [*Außenlager*] in Kuremäe, a village in the north-east of Estonia (...) was established in October 1943. The first 150 prisoners were initially housed in a former communal building. They lacked everything: food, water, latrines, shoes and clothing. [...]. Some inmates were deported directly from Kaunas [Kovno] to Kuremäe, others were brought in from different camps.

The forced labor consisted in the construction of a narrow gauge railway. In November 1943 the number of inmates rose to 462. Bodmann [an SS camp physician] mentioned the high percentage of inmates ‘completely unable to work’ who were, however, to be reduced.[\[180\]](#) The 33 registered deaths in November were likely not due to natural causes. In December 1943 and January 1944 the number of inmates was slightly reduced, and Bodmann registered 10 and 14 deaths respectively. 437 prisoners from Soski were brought to Kuremäe in February 1944[\[181\]](#), something which raised the total number to 850.[\[182\]](#) On 8 and 6 February prisoners on the work sites were killed by Soviet artillery fire.

The head of the camp was Alfred Engst[183], and a certain Knott was medical orderly [*Sanitätsdienstgrad*]. Erich Scharfetter was present in the camp from February to March 1943 as medical orderly and disinfectant. He was infamous because of numerous atrocities. [...] Scharfetter was sentenced to life imprisonment in Stade for several cases of murder. [184] [...]. In March 1944 Kuremäe was closed. After an evacuation march under terrible conditions the inmates were distributed to various camps. Several witnesses mention Goldfields as the next station.”

Since “Suski” is undoubtedly the same camp as Soski (in Viru County), Lebke Distel most likely arrived to Kuremäe in February 1944. Miriam Reich on the other hand stayed in Kuremäe only “halfway through the winter”, when she and other inmates, including her mother, were marched to the camp in Goldfields.[185] As for Soski, we are informed by the same encyclopedia that it was yet another subcamp of Vaivara, located in the vicinity of Lake Peipus and the Narva River. The inmates there worked on constructing a narrow gauge railroad – another detail which confirms the veracity of Distel’s story – as well as with shale-oil production.[186]

Lebke Distel’s route is moreover confirmed by an eyewitness account from a certain Wein Moyshe about “The Entrapment of the FPO Group [Abba Kovner’s resistance group] at Szpitalna Street 6” which was included among the undated notes taken by Herman Kruk in Estonia.[187] The only main difference is that the deportation from Vilna here takes place on 2 August 1943, not 1 September.[188] Moyshe mentions among the deported FPO members a Jew named “Letsid” whom the editor of the Kruk diary identifies as “Letsid Distel”. According to Moyshe’s account the train reached Vaivara via Daugavpils, Riga and Tartu. From Vaivara part of the transport continued to Kohtla (no doubt identical with the “Kortla Java” mentioned in the Distel account)[189] and from there on to the Vaivara subcamp Ereda. “About September 1” the FPO members were sent to Narva and then to Soski, where they met 250 Jews “from the ghetto” (likely it is the Vilna Ghetto that is implied). At the “beginning of February 1944” the Jews from the Soski camp “marched 20 kilometers to Kuremae, where it was integrated into another Jewish camp.” In March the Jews in this camp “marched 60 kilometers toward Goldfilz [Goldfields]”. Some of them were later sent on to the Klooga camp.

The Distel account is important since it indicates that the Dutch Jews deported the Baltic States were not sent there to be killed en masse, as at least some of them were still alive in early 1944.

3.3.8. Paula Frankel-Zaltzman

In a witness testimony from the Latvian Jewess and Daugavpils Ghetto inmate Paula Frankel-Zaltzman, originally published in Yiddish in 1949 and now available online in English translation, we find the following sentence buried in a description of the liquidation of the Daugavpils Ghetto on 25 October 1943:

“Just then they started to take us to Pogulanka where the earth is soaked with the blood of tens of thousands of Jewish victims from Latvia, Holland and other countries.”[190]

The transport carrying the witness did not stop at Pogulanka but went on to Riga. Needless to say, this brief statement has little evidential value, since Frankel-Zaltzman does not state that she herself

observed any Dutch Jews. Nevertheless this throw-away reference indicates that she regarded transports from the Netherlands to Latvia as something of a common fact.

Pogulanka (or Pagulanska) is the name of a forest just north-west of Daugavpils (Dvinsk, in German Dünaburg) in south-eastern Latvia, which allegedly served as the site for mass shootings of Jews.[\[191\]](#)

3.3.9. Jack Ratz

Jack Ratz was born in Riga in 1927. In May 1943 he was sent to Lenta, a labor camp some 40 km north-east of Riga, where some 500 Jews worked[\[192\]](#):

“After two months, four hundred Jews were left in Lenta, all Latvians. After a few months, a new transport arrived, but the newcomers were not Latvian. They were German, Czechoslovakian, Austrian, and Polish Jews. Some of the foreign Jews were from the Riga ghetto; the Polish Jews had come straight from Poland. Lenta now had a mixed Jewish population.”[\[193\]](#)

One should note here that the Polish Jews are explicitly stated to have “come straight from Poland”, in other words they were not Polish Jews from Belarus.

To be continued...

Notes:

[\[1\]](#) Strictly speaking, the occupied eastern territories were the two *Reichskommissariat Ostland* and Ukraine. *Reichskommissariat Ostland* consisted of the four *Generalbezirk Estland* (Estonia), *Lettland* (Latvia), *Litauen* (Lithuania) and *Weißruthenien* (White Ruthenia), i.e. the occupied western part of Belarus SSR. Two further *Reichskommissariat* were planned that would encompass Muscovite Russia and the Caucasian region respectively, but those administrative entities were never realized due to the retreat of the German armies. The great areas in west and south-west Russia taken by the German early in the war were not occupied in the same sense that the territories of the two *Reichskommissariat* were, and were administered by the military command and the SS generals. It seems highly likely, however, that Jews were transported to Russia proper to carry out labor near the front; cf. H. Kruk’s diary entry about Polish Jews from Sosnowiec passing through Vilna in a train heading “in the direction of the eastern front” (Section 3.3.1.).

[\[2\]](#) To give just one example: In a letter sent to eight high-ranking members of the SS administration, among them the head of SS-WVHA, Oswald Pohl, on 5 July 1943, Heinrich Himmler ordered “The Sobibor transit camp [*Durchgangslager*], located in the Lublin district, (...) to be converted into a concentration camp” (a transformation which eventually did not take place); Nuremberg Document NO-482.

[\[3\]](#) Jürgen Graf, Carlo Mattogno, *Treblinka. Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2004.

[\[4\]](#) Jürgen Graf, Thomas Kues, Carlo Mattogno, *Sobibor: Holocaust Propaganda and Reality*, TBR Books 2010.

[5] For a list of the documented transports, see Jürgen Graf, Carlo Mattogno, *Treblinka. Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*, op.cit., pp. 199-201.

[6] The available railway documents shows that, between 8 November 1941 and 28 November 1942, 66 transports with a total of 56,221 Jewish deportees were sent from Altreich, Vienna and the Protectorate to the East (cf. note 5). In an enclosure to “*Meldungen aus den besetzten Ostgebieten*” no. 10 from 3 July 1942 (RGVA, 500-1-775, p. 233) it is stated that 25 transports carrying 25,103 Jews had been sent to Riga between 17 November 1941 and 6 February 1942. Only 15,114 of these deportees are found in the available railway documentation. Thus the number of directly deported Jews amounted to $[56.221 + (25.103 - 15.114) =]$ 66,210.

[7] Jules Schelvis, *Sobibór. A History of a Nazi Death Camp*, Berg, Oxford / New York 2007, p. 224.

[8] Miroslav Kárný, *Konečné řešení. Genocida českých židů v německé protektorátní politice*, Academia, Prague 1991, pp. 115f.

[9] Yitzhak Arad, *Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka. The Operation Reinhard Death Camps*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington / Indianapolis 1987, pp. 139-140.

[10] Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, 3rd edition, Yale University Press, New Haven / London 2003, vol. II, p. 769.

[11] Ibid., pp. 776-777. It seems somewhat odd that Germany would bother to scam this money from Slovakia, since the latter nation, as Hilberg puts it, was a “puppet state” (ibid., p. 792) and thus could have been plundered by the Germans in a much less roundabout manner.

[12] Ibid., p. 785.

[13] Jules Schelvis, *Sobibór. A History of a Nazi Death Camp*, op.cit., p. 215.

[14] Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, op.cit., vol. II, p. 781; on p. 785 though Hilberg gives their number as merely 6,000.

[15] This of course also applies to the Jews from Slovakia and elsewhere deported to Auschwitz during 1944.

[16] Jürgen Graf, Carlo Mattogno, *Concentration Camp Stutthof and its Function in National Socialist Jewish Policy*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2003, p. 24.

[17] In June 1944 the possibility of using Hungarian Jews as workers in the Estonian camps was under consideration. A total of 2,310 men and 240 women were scheduled for deportation, but in the end it appears that only the 500 women arrived in Estonia. They were employed at the *Arbeitseinsatzstätte Baltöl* in north-eastern Estonia. Cf. Toomas Hiio et al. (eds.), *Estonia 1940-1945: Reports of the Estonian International Commission for the Investigation of Crimes Against Humanity*, Tallinn 2006, p. 724.

[18] Ibid., p. 719.

[19] Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, op.cit., pp. 600-601, 610.

[20] Ibid., p. 615.

[21] Ibid., pp. 628-629.

[22] Ibid., p. 614.

[23] Jules Schelvis, *Sobibór. A History of a Nazi Death Camp*, op.cit., p. 198.

[24] Ibid., p. 199.

[25] Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, op.cit., p. 629.

[26] Jules Schelvis, *Sobibór. A History of a Nazi Death Camp*, op.cit., p. 199.

[27] Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, op.cit., p. 629.

[28] Ibid., note 139.

[29] PS-1726, IMT Vol. XXVII, p. 506.

[30] Schelvis writes that according to his own "rough estimates", about 1,000 Dutch Jews were transferred upon their arrival at Sobibór to labor camps in the Lublin district; J. Schelvis, *Sobibór. A History of a Nazi Death Camp*, op.cit., p. 14.

[31] Danuta Czech, *Kalendarium der Ereignisse im Konzentrationslager Auschwitz-Birkenau 1939-1945*, Rowohlt, Reinbek 1989, passim.

[32] Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, op.cit., p. 636.

[33] Ibid., p. 645.

[34] Ibid., p. 650.

[35] Ibid., p. 672.

[36] Ibid., p. 695.

[37] Ibid., p. 699.

[38] Ibid., p. 700.

[39] J. Schelvis, *Sobibór. A History of a Nazi Death Camp*, op.cit., p. 198, 216-218.

[40] Serge Klarsfeld, *Le Mémorial de la Déportation des Juifs de France*, Beate and Serge Klarsfeld, Paris 1978. This book lacks page numbers. See also Alex Fایتelson, *Heroism & Bravery in Lithuania 1941-1945*, Gefen, Jerusalem 1996, pp. 373-375. A number of inscriptions preserved on the walls of Cell No. 5 in the Kovno Ninth Fort were left by those French Jews. The inscriptions transcribed by Fایتelson includes an "S. Kool, jr., Amsterdam", something which indicates that this transport may have contained a miniscule number of Dutch Jews, most likely individuals that had been arrested in France. Fایتelson also writes of Belgian Jews being in the Drancy transport, but provides no evidence for this claim.

[41] Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, op.cit., p. 716, 718, 722-723.

- [42] Ibid., pp. 738-739, 742-743, 745.
- [43] Yitzhak Arad, *Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka. The Operation Reinhard Death Camps*, op.cit., p. 146.
- [44] Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, op.cit., pp. 748-750, 755.
- [45] Ibid., p. 794ff.
- [46] Yitzhak Arad, *Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka. The Operation Reinhard Death Camps*, op.cit., p. 143.
- [47] J. Schelvis, *Sobibór. A History of a Nazi Death Camp*, Berg Publishers, Oxford / New York 2007, p. 226, note 5.
- [48] Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, vol. II, op.cit., p. 805.
- [49] Ibid., p. 757.
- [50] Ibid., p. 761.
- [51] Ibid., pp. 764-765.
- [52] This group is sometimes confusingly designated as “Yugoslavian”.
- [53] Ibid., p. 725.
- [54] R. M. Kempner, *Eichmann und Komplizen*, Europa Verlag, Zürich/Stuttgart/Vienna 1961, p. 289, 290.
- [55] Ibid., p. 290.
- [56] Ibid., p. 291, facsimile of the document.
- [57] Ibid., p. 292. Nuremberg document NG-3354.
- [58] Ibid.
- [59] Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, vol. II, op.cit., pp. 736-737.
- [60] Ibid., p. 293.
- [61] Cf. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Danubemap.jpg>
- [62] Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, vol. II, op.cit., p. 584ff.
- [63] Ibid., pp. 589-596.
- [64] Cf. ibid, pp. 808-853.
- [65] Ibid., pp. 632-634.
- [66] Jürgen Graf, Thomas Kues, Carlo Mattogno, *Die Akte Sobibor*, pp. 105-109, online: <http://juergen-graf.vho.org/pdf/graf-kues-mattogno-die-akte-sobibor.pdf>
- [67] As mentioned above, Jules Schelvis states that approximately 1,000 Dutch Jews were transferred from Sobibór to various labor camps. Witnesses quoted by Schelvis further speak of at least 40 French

Jews transferred to Lublin and of 830-880 Belarus Jews transferred to Trawniki; J. Schelvis, *Sobibór. A History of a Nazi Death Camp*, op.cit., p. 14, 217, 219f.

[68] Cf. the testimony of Treblinka I inmate Israel Cymlich, according to which “transports of workers were brought in frequently from the death camp”; Israel Cymlich & Oskar Strawczynski, *Escaping Hell in Treblinka*, Yad Vashem, New York/Jerusalem 2007, p. 36.

[69] J. Schelvis, *Sobibór. A History of a Nazi Death Camp*, op.cit., p. 198, 218-220.

[70] These are the most commonly given dates; for a list of alleged dates relating to the camp cf. Ingrid Weckert, “What Was Kulmhof/Chełmno? Questions about a controversial extermination camp”, *The Revisionist* 1(4) (2003), pp. 400-412. Any Jews deported to the camp in the summer of 1944 would almost certainly not have reached the eastern territories. It is in fact highly dubious that any Jews were deported to Chełmno during 1944, cf. Carlo Mattogno, *Il campo di Chełmno tra storia e propaganda*, Effepi, Genua 2009.

[71] Cf. Section 3.3.1.

[72] The last “gassing” in Auschwitz “probably” took place on 1 November 1944, according to Danuta Czech, *Kalendarium der Ereignisse im Konzentrationslager Auschwitz-Birkenau 1939-1945*, op.cit., p. 921.

[73] Yitzhak Arad, *Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka. The Operation Reinhard Death Camps*, op.cit., p. 68.

[74] *Ibid.*, p. 172. The Höfle document shows that 0 Jews were deported to the camp during the last two weeks of December 1942, implying that transports ceased during the first half of December or already in November.

[75] J. Schelvis, *Sobibór. A History of a Nazi Death Camp*, op.cit., p. 36.

[76] 14 October 1943 is the date of the well-known Sobibór uprising and mass escape, following which the camp was promptly liquidated. It should be pointed out that the last 6 or 8 transports (the number is not known due to lack of documentation) arrived to Sobibór from Ostland in September 1943 and consisted of Russian Jews who were most likely either employed within Sobibór or transferred to Trawniki and other labor camps in the Lublin district. The last transport to Sobibór transited east was almost certainly a convoy from the Netherlands which departed on 20 July 1943 (cf. *ibid.*, p. 198).

[77] Yitzhak Arad, *Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka. The Operation Reinhard Death Camps*, op.cit., p. 81.

[78] *Ibid.*, p. 372.

[79] Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, vol. III, op.cit., p. 938.

[80] Based on the Höfle document we know that a total of 24,733 Jews were transited via Camp Lublin (Majdanek) during 1942, whereof 12,761 during the latter half of December. In the latest official estimate of the Majdanek death toll (from 2005), historian Tomasz Kranz does not claim any “gassings” for the year 1943. If any Jews were transited via Majdanek in 1943, their numbers are likely to have been very small. For more on the Majdanek victim figure, cf. Jürgen Graf, “Zur Revision der

Opferzahl von Majdanek”, online: <http://aaargh.codoh.com/fran/livres7/JGrevismajda.pdf>

[81] *American Jewish Yearbook*, no. 44 (1942-1943), p. 244f.

[82] *American Jewish Yearbook*, no. 45 (1943-1944), p. 304.

[83] *JTA Bulletin*, March 1, 1943. (Note in original).

[84] *Ibid.*, November 1, 1943. (Note in original).

[85] *Ibid.*, July 23, 1943. (Note in original).

[86] Joseph B. Shechtman, “The Transnistria Reservation”, in: Koppel S. Pinson (ed.), *Studies on the Epoch of the Jewish Catastrophe, 1933-1945* (YIVO Annual of Jewish Social Science, Vol. VIII), Yiddish Scientific Institute - YIVO, New York 1953, pp. 190-191.

[87] Cf. Elena Makarova et al., *Theresienstadt: kultur och barbari / Theresienstadt: Culture and Barbarism*, Carlssons Bokförlag, Lund / Stockholm 1995, p. 11.

http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/0025_BialystokChildren5Oct1943.htm

[88] Danuta Czech, *Kalendarium der Ereignisse im Konzentrationslager Auschwitz-Birkenau 1939-1945*, op.cit. Entries for January and February 1943, passim.

[89] http://www.terezinstudies.cz/deu/ITI/database/tr_out_to (Accessed on 1 May 2010).

[90] The webpage <http://www.gedenkbuch.halle.de/gbdatensatz.php?num=294> states that a Martha Bratel was brought on Transport Ct to Auschwitz on 29 January 1943, giving as its source a transport list reproduced in *Theresienstädter Gedenkbuch – Die Opfer der Judentransporte aus Deutschland nach Theresienstadt 1942-1945* (Prague 2000), p. 709. The author of this article has not been able to verify this source.

[91] Steven Koblik, *The Stones Cry Out: Sweden's Response to the Persecution of the Jews*, Holocaust Library, New York 1988, p. 56.

[92] *Judisk Krönika*, vol. 11, no. 7, September 1942, p. 91.

[93] *Judisk Krönika*, vol. 11, no. 8, October 1942, p. 123.

[94] *Ibid.*

[95] *Judisk Krönika*, vol. 13, no. 5, May/June 1944, p. 68.

[96] *Judisk Krönika*, vol. 12, no. 9, November 1943, p. 150.

[97] *Judisk Krönika*, vol. 12, no. 7, September 1943, p. 105.

[98] *Judisk Krönika*, vol. 13, no. 5, May/June 1944, p. 67.

[99] Andrew Ezergailis, Harold Otto, Gvido Augusts, *Nazi/Soviet Disinformation About the Holocaust in Nazi-Occupied Latvia*, Latvijas 50 Gadu Okupācijas Muzeja Fonds, Riga 2005, p. 115.

[100] Reproduced in: *La presse antiraciste sous l'occupation hitlérienne*. Foreword by A. Raisky, Paris

1950, p. 179.

[101] E.M. Kulischer, *The displacement of population in Europe*, International Labour Office, Montreal 1943, pp. 96-97.

[102] Ibid., p. 107.

[103] Cf. Jürgen Graf, Carlo Mattogno, *Treblinka. Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*, op.cit., pp. 199-201.

[104] E.M. Kulischer, *The displacement of population in Europe*, op.cit., p. 110.

[105] Ibid., p. 111.

[106] Ibid., p. 113.

[107] Memoranda written by Otto Danielsson on 9 November 1944, attached to a letter from Thulin to SUK on 27 November 1944, Kontrollbyråns korrespondens E4:1, SUK, RA; quoted in Mats Deland, *Purgatorium. Sverige och andra världskrigets krigsförbrytare*, Atlas, Stockholm 2010, p. 323, 521 (note 1106).

[108] Quoted in Andrew Ezergailis (ed.), Stockholm Documents. *The German Occupation of Latvia 1941-1945. What Did America Know?*, Historical Institute of Latvia, Riga 2002, p. 472.

[109] Herman Kruk, *The Last Days of the Jerusalem of Lithuania. Chronicles from the Vilna Ghetto and the Camps, 1939-1944*, Yale University Press, New Haven/London 2002, p. 187.

[110] Danuta Czech, *Kalendarium der Ereignisse im Konzentrationslager Auschwitz-Birkenau 1939–1945*, op.cit., pp. 174f.

[111] Cf. Carlo Mattogno, *Auschwitz: Crematorium I and the Alleged Homicidal Gassings*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2005, pp. 67-68.

[112] J.-C. Pressac, *Les crématoires d'Auschwitz. La machinerie du meurtre de masse*, CNRS Editions, Paris 1993, p. 38.

[113] Ber Mark, *The Scrolls of Auschwitz*, Am Oved Publishers, Tel Aviv 1985, p. 4.

[114] Shmuel Spector, Geoffrey Wigoder, *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Life Before and During the Holocaust*, Vol. 3, New York University Press, New York 2001, p. 1221.

[115] Herman Kruk, *The Last Days of the Jerusalem of Lithuania*, op.cit., p. 210.

[116] E.M. Kulischer, *The displacement of population in Europe*, op.cit., p. 104.

[117] Herman Kruk, *The Last Days of the Jerusalem of Lithuania*, op.cit., p. 231.

[118] Ibid., p. 230.

[119] Ibid., p. 236.

[120] Jüdisches Historisches Institut Warschau (ed.), *Faschismus-Getto-Massenmord. Dokumentation*

über Ausrottung und Widerstand der Juden in Polen während des zweiten Weltkrieges, Röderberg-Verlag, Frankfurt am Main, pp. 285-286.

[121] Ibid., p. 319.

[122] Danuta Dąbrowska, Lucjan Dobroszycki (eds.), *Kronika Getta Łódzkiego*, Wydawnictwo Łódzkie 1965, vol. I, p. 401, 426.

[123] Vilna is located some 150-160 km from the Polish and (former) German (East Prussian) borders but merely some 30 km from the border to Belarus. One must further keep in mind that Jewish escapees traveling by foot, who had to look out for German soldiers, would not likely have covered a very long distance daily.

[124] Avraham Tory, *Surviving the Holocaust. The Kovno Ghetto Diary*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge / London 1990, p. 111. In his entry from 17 November 1942 (p. 154) Tory further writes that “The Jewish police [in the Kovno Ghetto] have found two young men, both originally from Poland, who have agreed to carry out the hanging”.

[125] Jeanette Wolf, *Mit Bibel und Bebel*, Verlag Neue Gesellschaft, Bonn 1980, p. 33. Wolf writes (ibid.) that the camp had about 1,500 inmates.

[126] Josef Katz, *One who came back: The diary of a Jewish survivor*, Dryad Press, Takoma Park (ML), 2006, p. 65, 108, 129, 156. Katz’ memoirs (not an actual diary, but memoirs in strict chronological order) were written between the early summer of 1945 and the fall of 1946.

[127] Herman Kruk, *The Last Days of the Jerusalem of Lithuania*, op.cit., p. 664.

[128] Toomas Hiio et al. (eds.), *Estonia 1940-1945*, op.cit., pp. 724-725.

[129] Ibid., p. 703.

[130] Herman Kruk, *The Last Days of the Jerusalem of Lithuania*, op.cit., p. 518.

[131] Neringa Latvyte-Gustaitiene, “The Genocide of the Jews in the Trakai Region of Lithuania”, online: http://www.jewishgen.org/LITVAK/HTML/OnlineJournals/genocide_of_the_jews.htm

[132] Avraham Tory, *Surviving the Holocaust. The Kovno Ghetto Diary*, op.cit., p. 407.

[133] Joseph Rebhun, *Why Me? Memoirs of Holocaust Survivors*, Wildside Press, Rockville (MD) 2007, p. 173.

[134] J. Schelvis, *Sobibor. A History of a Nazi Death Camp*, op.cit., p. 204, Table 12.9. A seventh transport departed on 13 April, but is improbable that it could have reached Lithuania by 16 April.

[135] Forty-three transports with Dutch Jews departed for Sobibór between 15 July and 12 December. After a lull in the departures, another nine convoys Dutch Jews were sent to Auschwitz between 11 January and 1 March 1943. Cf. Danuta Czech, *Kalendarium der Ereignisse im Konzentrationslager Auschwitz-Birkenau*, op.cit. Schelvis on the other hand gives the total number of Dutch Auschwitz deportees July 1942 – March 1943 as 46,555; J. Schelvis, *Sobibor. A History of a Nazi Death Camp*,

op.cit., p. 198.

[136] Herman Kruk, *The Last Days of the Jerusalem of Lithuania*, op.cit., p. 519.

[137] Ibid.

[138] Ibid., p. 350.

[139] Ibid., p. 370.

[140] Ibid., p. 386.

[141] Ibid., p. 396.

[142] Ibid., p. 530.

[143] Ibid., p. 521.

[144] In his entry from 12 April 1943 Kruk writes under the heading “30,000 fresh victims”: “From the German press, I learn that the Jews must leave 8 of the 11 Dutch provinces. This means about 130,000 fresh victims. No one knows if the Jew will be sent to Eastern Europe to work or to be killed. Now it’s the turn of the Dutch Jews.” Ibid., p. 515. Since the figure of 130,000 is mentioned again in the entry from 30 April, one may conclude that the figure in the heading is an error.

[145] In his entry from 10 August 1942, Kruk writes under the heading “What happened in Oszmiana?”; “About 40 km from Vilna is the small town of Oszmiana, which was annexed to Lithuania only this spring. Until recently it was quite there. Yesterday a train passed through Vilna with Jews who tossed out about 20 letters to those working in the Vilna railroad station. From the letters, it became clear that the Jews come from Oszmiana and are being taken to work in Vievis, a small town 50 km from Vilna. They write that they don’t know where they are being taken. They were sure this was the end. Some ran away. Altogether, some 400 persons were taken. Some are in... the hospital; some were not taken because they are wounded... That means there was an Aktion, that Oszmiana has already been staked out.” Ibid., p. 344. In the entry from 28 October the same year Kruk reports that 410 sick and old among the remaining 2,300 Jews in the Oszmiana Ghetto were taken away and shot; *ibid.*, pp. 387-388. The following day Kruk noted down contradictory reports that 800 Jews had been shot; *ibid.*, p. 394.

[146] Ibid., p. 525.

[147] Miriam Novitch, *Sobibor. Martyrdom and Revolt*, Holocaust Library, New York 1980, p. 29. Cf. Y. Arad, *Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka. The Operation Reinhard Death Camps*, op.cit., pp. 109-110.

[148] Ibid., p. 157.

[149] Herman Kruk, *The Last Days of the Jerusalem of Lithuania*, op.cit., p. 570.

[150] Hersh Smolar, *The Minsk Ghetto: Soviet-Jewish Partisans Against The Nazis*, Holocaust Library, New York 1989, pp. 102-103.

[151] Ibid., p. 108.

[152] Hilde Sherman-Zander, *Zwischen Tag und Dunkel. Mädchenjahre im Ghetto*, Ullstein, Frankfurt a. M. /Berlin 1984, pp. 60-61.

[153] Other sources, such as Reuben Ainsztain, spells the name of this witness as Hersh Smolyar.

[154] Hersh Smolar, *The Minsk Ghetto: Soviet-Jewish Partisans Against The Nazis*, op.cit., p. 98.

[155] Gerald Reitlinger, *Die Endlösung. Hitlers Versuch der Ausrottung der Juden Europas 1939-1945*, Colloquium Verlag, Berlin 1992, pp. 467-468.

[156] Christian Gerlach, *Kalkulierte Morde. Die deutsche Wirtschafts- und Vernichtungspolitik in Weißrußland*, Hamburger Edition, Hamburg 1999, pp. 761-762.

[157] Karl Loewenstein, *Minsk. Im Lager der deutschen Juden*, Bundeszentrale für Heimatsdienst, Bonn 1961. pp. 23-24.

[158] Rosenberg gives the date as 9 November, and describes the train as being boarded 5 o'clock in the morning and departing on 10 o'clock. It does not seem out of the question that the scheduled departure time was pushed forward for whatever reason and that Rosenberg is actually correct about the date; Heinz Rosenberg, *Jahre des Schreckens... und ich blieb übrig, daß ich Dir's ansage*, Steidl Verlag, Göttingen 1985, pp. 17-18.

[159] Ibid., p. 27.

[160] Ibid.

[161] Ibid.

[162] Karl Loewenstein, *Minsk. Im Lager der deutschen Juden*, op.cit., p. 17

[163] Ibid., p. 20.

[164] It is interesting to note in the light of this hypothesis that, according to orthodox historiography, the Jews from this Vienna transport were shot by an *Einsatzkommando* at the outskirts of Kaunas; cf. R. Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, op.cit., Vol. I, p. 366.

[165] Heinz Rosenberg, *Jahre des Schreckens*, op.cit., pp. 37-38.

[166] Karl Loewenstein, *Minsk. Im Lager der deutschen Juden*, op.cit., p. 16.

[167] GARF, 7445-2-145, pp. 65f.; quoted in: Jürgen Graf, Carlo Mattogno, *Treblinka. Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*, op.cit., p. 198. Raul Hilberg, who merely summarizes the contents (*The Destruction of the European Jews*, op.cit., Vol. I, p. 367), gives as an alternative archival source Occ E 3-37.

[168] GARF, 7445-2-145, p. 68; quoted in: Jürgen Graf, Carlo Mattogno, *Treblinka. Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*, op.cit., p. 198.

[169] GARF, 7445-2-145, pp. 72f; summarized in: Jürgen Graf, Carlo Mattogno, *Treblinka. Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*, op.cit., pp. 198-199.

- [170] Minutes from Jeckeln's interrogation on 14 December 1945 (Major Zwetajew, interrogator; Sergeant Suur, interpreter), Historical State Archives, Riga; quoted in Gerald Fleming, *Hitler and the Final Solution*, University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles 1984, pp. 96-97.
- [171] Jukka Rislakki, *The case for Latvia: disinformation campaigns against a small nation*, Editions Rodopi, Amsterdam / New York 2008, p. 124.
- [172] Ibid., p. 123.
- [173] William W. Mishell, *Kaddish for Kovno. Life and Death in a Lithuanian Ghetto 1941-1945*, Chicago Review Press, Chicago 1988, pp. 127-128.
- [174] Rich Cohen, *The Avengers: A Jewish War Story*, Vintage Books, New York 2001, pp. 87-88.
- [175] Ibid., p. 196.
- [176] Ibid., p. 255.
- [177] *Memoir: The Holocaust Recalled*, http://migs.concordia.ca/memoirs/Reich/Rei_mem.html
- [178] Toomas Hiio et al. (eds.), *Estonia 1940-1945*, op.cit., p. 722.
- [179] Wolfgang Benz, Barbara Distel, *Der Ort des Terrors: Geschichte der nationalsozialistischen Konzentrationslager*, Vol. 8, Verlag C.H. Beck, Munich 2008, pp. 167-168.
- [180] Monatsbericht SS-Lagerarzt, 25.11.1943, in: EAM (*Eesti Ajaloomuuseum*, Estonian History Museum), D 152/2/40. (Source in original). The reports of the Vaivara SS-Lagerarzt were discovered only in 2002 by Estonian historian Meelis Maripuu; cf. ibid., p. 144, note 4.
- [181] The exact date was 3-4 February. 23 sick inmates were evacuated on horseback and 414 on foot. The transport took place under Red Army fire and as a result of the exerting march some inmates died after arriving at the Kuremäe camp. Toomas Hiio et al. (eds.), *Estonia 1940-1945*, op.cit., p. 729.
- [182] A witness named Markus Gordon on the other hand testified that the number of inmates at the Kuremäe camp prior to the transfer from Soski amounted to some 800, not 444 as recorded by Bodman. The author of this article has unfortunately not had the opportunity to directly access Gordon's account, which is referenced in Toomas Hiio et al. (eds.), *Estonia 1940-1945*, op.cit., p. 726.
- [183] Other sources state that the *Lagerführer* was a certain Eugen Einget Wurth; cf. Toomas Hiio et al. (eds.), *Estonia 1940-1945*, op.cit., p. 722.
- [184] *Urteil gegen Scharfetter*, 1.2.1980, in: *Landgericht Stade*, 9 Ks /78-23/78. (Note in original). The Estonian name of the Goldfields camp was Kohtla, not to be confused with the nearby Kohtla-Järve camp.
- [185] *Memoir: The Holocaust Recalled*, op.cit.
- [186] Wolfgang Benz, Barbara Distel, *Der Ort des Terrors*, op.cit., pp. 175-176.
- [187] Herman Kruk, *The Last Days of the Jerusalem of Lithuania*, op.cit., p. 667ff.

[188] Another source states that 1,000 Jews from Vilnius arrived at the Kohtla railway station on 4 September 1943, whereof one half were taken to the Ereda camp and the other half to Vaivara – this would support the dating found in the Distel account; Toomas Hiio et al. (eds.), *Estonia 1940-1945*, op.cit., p. 731.

[189] Other sources gives the name of this place as “Kohtla-Järve”; cf. Lukáš Příbyl, “Die Geschichte des Theresienstädter Transports ‘Be’ nach Estland”, in *Theresienstädter Studien und Dokumente 2001*, Institut Theresienstädter Initiative, Prague 2001, p. 164.

[190] http://migs.concordia.ca/memoirs/frankel_zaltzman_paula/frankel_zaltzman_paula_04.htm

[191] *The Holocaust in Kraslava*, http://www.seligman.org.il/kraslava_holocaust.html

[192] Jack Ratz, *Endless Miracles*, Shengold Publishers, New York 1998, p. 43.

[193] Ibid., p. 45.

Evidence for the Presence of "Gassed" Jews in the Occupied Eastern Territories, Part 2

Thomas Kues

The following article is a continuation of Thomas Kues's [Evidence for the Presence of "Gassed" Jews in the Occupied Eastern Territories, Part 1](#). Thomas Kues's analysis takes up the revisionist proposal that Jews sent to the "extermination camps" and allegedly gassed there were in fact deloused and then sent away, the vast majority of them to the occupied eastern territories. The camps therefore actually functioned as transit camps. The transit camp hypothesis is in perfect harmony with documented National Socialist Jewish policy as expressed in official and internal reports, documents on the Jewish transports, and even in classified communications between leading SS members.

3. A Survey of the Testimonial Evidence

3.3.10. Lev Saevich Lansky and Isak Grünberg

Lev Saevich Lansky, who had been an inmate of the Maly Trostinec camp from 17 January 1942 onward, was interrogated by a Soviet investigative commission on 9 August 1944. Concerning the Jews deported from Altreich, Austria and the Protectorate to Maly Trostinec¹ (which is located 12 km southeast of Minsk),² Lansky made the following statement:

"We all got soap and clothing from German Jews who had been slaughtered. There were ninety-nine transports of a thousand people each that came from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia."³

When asked about the fate of these deportees, Lansky answered that they were "all shot".⁴

It is generally agreed that five transports from Theresienstadt (Da220, Da222, Da224, Da226, Da228) reached Maly Trostinec between July and September 1942, and that each of them carried 1,000 deportees.⁵

Holocaust Historian Gertrude Schneider asserts that, except for a first transport departing on 28 November 1941, all transports from Vienna to the General District of *Weißruthenien* (White Ruthenia) "ended up at the killing grounds of Maly Trostinec",⁶ despite the fact that said transports are listed in documents as bound for nearby Minsk. On the other hand Schneider also states that the transport departing Vienna on 6 May 1942 "arrived May 11 at the Minsk railroad station", whereupon 81 Austrian Jewish deportees were "selected for work on the farm at Maly Trostinec".⁷ Schneider also mentions a survivor from the transport departing Vienna on 27 May 1942 (Da-204), Marie Mack, who was later deported from the Minsk Ghetto to Lublin in September 1943;⁸ as well as the arrival of the 7 October 1942 transport (Da-230) at the Minsk railway station.⁹ Thus of the 25 transports departing Vienna for Minsk in 1942, only 22 or 23 could have been diverted to Maly Trostinec. If Lansky's statement about the number of transports from the west to Maly Trostinec is correct (or more or less correct as to order of magnitude), where did the other 71 or 72 transports come from? Did further,

indirect transports reach Maly Trostinec via the "extermination camps"?

German exterminationist historian Christian Gerlach writes that 18 Jewish transports from Germany, Austria and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia to Minsk and the rest of *Generalbezirk Weißruthenien* were originally planned for the period 10 November – 16 December 1941, and a further 7 transports between 10 and 20 January 1942. In the end, however, due to the protests of *Generalkommissar* Kube, only a total of 7 transports were sent to Minsk in November and December, while all the January transports were cancelled. To compensate for the decreased number of transports, more convoys to Riga were added.^{[10](#)} The deportations were then commenced anew following the visits of Eichmann, Himmler and Heydrich to Belarus in March and April 1942.

Gerlach provides a list of 18 transports to *Weißruthenien* that are "certain to have arrived" and 5 "uncertain" ones.^{[11](#)} In the more comprehensive list provided by Graf and Mattogno there are a total 34 transports for the period in question (May-November 1942). Three of the "uncertain" transports in Gerlach's list are not included in the latter: one from Theresienstadt departing on 13 June 1942 with some 1,000 deportees, one transport from Dachau which arrived sometime in June 1942 (attested to by a surviving deportee, Ernst S.), and one from an unknown origin arriving in the first half of August 1942 (attested to by an activity report of the "Gruppe Arlt" from 25 September 1942). The "uncertain" transport listed by Gerlach as departing from Theresienstadt on 20 August 1942 with some 1,000 deportees is concluded by Graf and Mattogno to have been sent to Riga; Gerlach himself notes that "this transport, billed for Minsk, was possibly redirected."^{[12](#)} A further "uncertain" Theresienstadt transport ("Be") departing on 1 September 1942 with some 1,000 deportees was in fact sent to Raasiku in Estonia, as confirmed by numerous eyewitnesses.^{[13](#)}

As for the Theresienstadt transport departing on 13 June 1942, the Terezin Studies website^{[14](#)} lists a transport designated "AAi" as departing for an "unknown" destination on this date. The Dachau transport in June 1942 is yet more mysterious. We may recall here that the Swedish-Jewish periodical *Judisk Krönika* in its issue from October 1942 reported that Jews from Dachau and other German concentration camps had been deported to Pinsk for drainage work (cf. §3.1.3. above). Mainstream historiography knows of no transports of Jews from Dachau to the occupied eastern territories. It is documented that there were transports from Dachau to two of the "extermination camps", namely Auschwitz and Majdanek. The number of these deportees amounted to 4,767 and 2,933 respectively. However, Danuta Czech lists no transports as arriving to Auschwitz from Dachau during June 1942, and the only known transports from Dachau to Majdanek took place in January and February 1944.^{[15](#)} The purported Dachau transport to Belarus remains an enigma.

It is when we take a look at transports departing from the Theresienstadt (Terezin) ghetto in October 1942 that things get really interesting. In 1993 the German historian Hans Safrian wrote:

"In the summer of 1942 Minsk and Maly Trostinec became the end station for deportation transports from Central Europe, mainly from Terezin and Vienna. [...]. The destination of five further deportation transports from Terezin in October 1942 has not yet been clarified. [...]. In the circulation plan for October the station of Izbica [in the General Government] was designated as destination for the transports from Terezin, which suggests that these

people were murdered in one of the 'Aktion Reinhard' death camps. Nonetheless there is evidence indicating that in October 1942 five trains from Theresienstadt were conducted to Minsk / Maly Trostinec." [16](#)

The "evidence" indicating that the five Theresienstadt transports Bt, Bu, Bv, Bw and Bx arrived in Maly Trostinec consists of a reference to H.G. Adler's study *Der verwaltete Mensch* from 1974. In a previous study on the Theresienstadt Ghetto from 1955 Adler had concluded that the same transports were sent to Treblinka, [17](#) but by 1974 he had changed his mind on the issue:

"On 8 August 1942 a certain Dr. Engineer Jacobi of the General Management Office East [Generalbetriebsleitung Ost] of the German Reich Railway [Deutsche Reichsbahn] wrote to inform the Main Railway Offices in Minsk and Riga, the Reich Railway Head Office, the General Office of the Eastern Railways [Ostbahn] in Cracow and also the General Management Offices in Essen and Munich about the 'Special trains [Sonderzüge] for resettlers, harvest workers and Jews in the period from 8 August to 30 October 1942'. To the cover letter was attached, among other things, a 'circulation plan' [Umlaufplan], which was later partially revised. The following trains, which were supposed to carry each 1,000 people, were assigned for the deportation of Jews (the declared destination Wolkowysk indicates Minsk): [...]

21.9.[42] from Theresienstadt to Wolkowysk

23.9. from Nuremberg to Theresienstadt

24.9. from Vienna to Theresienstadt

26.9. from Berlin to Riga

27.9. from Darmstadt to Theresienstadt

28.9. from Vienna to Wolkowysk

1.10. from Vienna to Izbica

3.10. from Berlin to Riga

from Berlin to Theresienstadt

5.10. from Vienna to Wolkowysk

from Theresienstadt to Izbica

6.10. from Darmstadt to Theresienstadt

8.10. from Theresienstadt to Izbica

9.10. from Vienna to Theresienstadt

12.10. from Theresienstadt to Izbica

15.10. from Theresienstadt to Izbica

19.10. from Theresienstadt to Izbica

22.10. from Theresienstadt to Izbica

26.10. from Theresienstadt to Izbica

29.10. from Theresienstadt to Izbica

In this contemporary schedule [...] there are some aspects worthy of note. First of all Auschwitz was at this time still not intended as a destination for transports from the Reich proper. [...] Following the series of transports to Wolkowysk the destination of the transports departing Theresienstadt is given as Izbica from the beginning of October onward. In reality none of the deportees reached the ghettos in Izbica or in its vicinity, if not only as transit camps from where they were sent to the nearby extermination sites Belzec, Sobibor and Majdanek. The destination Izbica thus refer to these sites. However, all of the transports from Theresienstadt during October 1942, with the exception of the last one on the 26th (from the 29th no more departed) with which began the series of convoys to Auschwitz, were in fact directed to the vicinity of Minsk and the extermination camp Trostinetz which is here implied with the station Wolkowysk."[18](#)

Czech Holocaust historian Miroslav Kary has made the following comment on Adler's later hypothesis:

"In his newer work he [Adler] asserts that the October transports departing from Theresienstadt did instead arrive via Izbica at the extermination camp in Trostinez, 'which is here implied with the station Wolkowysk.' In no document relating to any of the October transports from Theresienstadt is Wolkowysk mentioned as a station where the 'travellers' would have to reembark on a freight train and continue their journey to Minsk or Koloditschi."[19](#)

It is indeed true that Adler does not provide reference to a document stating that the October transports were routed to Wolkowysk (which is an important railway junction in western Belarus). What then prompted Adler to change his mind? As we will see below it was likely the testimony of a certain former Trostinec detainee.

Kary, like other mainstream historians, asserts that the Jews on the five transports Bt-Bx departing from Theresienstadt in October 1942 were killed in Treblinka. It is in fact clear that at least one of the five trains—the second transport departing on 8 October (Bu)—reached Treblinka, as one of the Jews on board, Richard Glazar, was picked out to work in the camp and later survived the Treblinka prisoner revolt to become a Holocaust witness.[20](#) Reportedly only a few dozen of the in total 8,000 Theresienstadt deportees were selected for work in Treblinka as Glazar was, while the rest were "gassed".[21](#)

Ironically, while criticizing Adler for not backing up his assertion, Holocaust historians like Karny are completely unable to provide any documentary proof of the alleged homicidal gas chambers in which these deportees were supposedly killed. The only one of their conclusions which is acceptable is thus that these five trains were sent to Treblinka—but from this does not follow that the Jews in the convoys were killed there.

What kind of transports arrived at the station of Maly Trostinec? In an account based mainly on West German court material, Paul Kohl has the following to say about this alleged extermination site:

"In the summer of 1942 a railway station was built by a one-way track near the collection point in the part of the camp closest to the [Minsk-Mogilev] road (the railway line had previously ended at Michanowice). The trains with Jews from the Reich, which had previously stopped at the Minsk freight yard, were now immediately redirected from there to Trostenez. Twice a week trains arrived from the Reich, from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, France. They arrived on Tuesdays and Fridays and - in order to avoid commotion - always in the early morning between four and five o'clock. Also from the Dachau Concentration Camp a train arrived in June 1942."[22](#)

In 1974 H.G. Adler described the Trostinec camp thus:

"In a small village, which before the occupation had constituted a kolkhoz, the camp [Trostinec] was located; to this belonged an estate of 250 hectares. Here the prisoners were also housed, first in pig sties, later in barracks which each housed 150 to 160 people. During 1942 a total of 39,000 Jews from Germany, Austria, Bohemia-Moravia, Luxembourg, Holland and also from the Soviet Union were brought to Trostinetz, but in the camp itself there were never more than 640 Jews at one time, most of them Jews from Vienna; among the inmates there were also some hundreds of Russian prisoners of war."[23](#)

Needless to say the dogma of mainstream historiography does not allow for transports of Jews from Poland, Holland, France or Luxembourg to Belarus.

If one or more trains arrived at the station "twice a week", as Kohl writes, this would mean that at least 50 convoys arrived at Trostinec during the second half of 1942. According to Gerlach, from 10 August 1942 on, all the Jewish deportation trains were redirected from Minsk to Trostinec via the Kolodischtschi station (15 km east of Minsk).[24](#) Yet if we look at the listed transports from 11 August to 28 November we find that it contrasts with Kohl's description of the arrivals at Minsk/Maly Trostinec:

Date of Departure	Origin	Deportees	Interval (days)
11 Aug (Tue)	Vienna	1,000	
17 Aug (Mon)	Vienna	1,003	6
18 Aug (Tue)	Vienna	1,000	1
25 Aug (Tue)	Vienna	1,000	7
25 Aug (Tue)	Theresienstadt	1,000	0
31 Aug (Mon)	Vienna	967	6
1 Sept (Tue)	Vienna	1,000	1

8 Sept (Tue)	Theresienstadt	1,000	7
14 Sept (Mon)	Vienna	992	6
22 Sept (Tue)	Theresienstadt	1,000	8
30 Sept (Wed)	Vienna	1,000	8
7 Oct (Wed)	Vienna	1,000	7
18 Nov (Sun)	Hamburg	908	11
28 Nov (Wed)	Vienna	999	10

We see here that the direct transports to Belarus during the period in question departed in general 6-8 days apart, and until 30 September always on Mondays or Tuesdays. From the memoirs of Karl Loewenstein we know that it took 4 days for a transport from Berlin to reach Minsk.²⁵ The trip from Vienna, Hamburg or Theresienstadt would probably not have taken much less or longer. Accordingly most of the transports would likely have reached Maly Trostinec on either a Thursday or a Friday (on a Saturday for three of the last four transports). How then could there also arrive transports weekly on Tuesdays, unless one allows for indirect transports arriving from the "extermination camps"? This, however, is exactly what is claimed by the Maly Trostinec eyewitness brought forward by Adler in his 1974 study: the Austrian Jew Isak Grünberg (b. 1891).

Grünberg was deported from Vienna on 5 October 1942 (according to him; preserved railway documents give the departure date as 7 October) and on 9 or 10 October 1942 reached Maly Trostinec, where Grünberg himself, his wife and their three children were selected for work in the camp. At their arrival, there were "already a lot of Jews" in the camp, "mainly from Poland".²⁶ By this point in time there were, according to mainstream historiography, to follow only two more transports from the west to Belarus—one convoy departing from Hamburg on 18 November 1942 and another one departing Vienna on 28 November 1942—but according to Grünberg several transports from the west reached Trostinec in the months following his arrival:

"According to my estimate there were 1200 to 1300 Jews in the camp. This figure remained unchanged, the fresh supply [of manpower] was taken from camps, from Theresienstadt and Auschwitz and probably also from other ones. [...] Transport after transport arrived. Often we never even heard where they came from, since it frequently happened that all [of the deportees] were immediately liquidated."²⁷

Further on in his testimony Grünberg estimates the number of Jews allegedly liquidated near Trostinec to "certainly 45,000 people at the least".²⁸ It is not made clear in the testimony whether this estimate refers to merely Grünberg's own period of stay at Trostinec or the whole operational period of the camp.

The mention of Auschwitz is crucial: here we have a witness who explicitly states, based on his own experience, that transports arrived in the occupied eastern territories from one of the "extermination camps". The mention of Theresienstadt is likewise of utmost importance: The last documented transport from Theresienstadt to Belarus departed on 22 September 1942, i.e. more than two weeks before Grünberg arrived in Trostinec. In October 1942, as has already been mentioned, five transports were sent from Theresienstadt to Treblinka:

Deportation date	Designation	Number of Deportees
5 October	Bt	1,000
8 October	Bu	1,000
15 October	Bv	1,998
19 October	Bw	1,984
22 October	Bx	2,018

From 26 October 1942 onward the Theresienstadt transports were sent to Auschwitz.[29](#)

The transports from Theresienstadt which Grünberg states arrived at Trostinec following his own arrival at the camp on 9 or 10 October must therefore have arrived either via Auschwitz or Treblinka. Since Grünberg explicitly mentions Auschwitz together with Theresienstadt as origins of the transports it seems most likely that they reached Belarus via Treblinka. Possibly these deportees simply did not recall the name of this transit camp in the middle of nowhere, where they might have stayed only a few hours.

Unfortunately Grünberg does not state the nationality of the arrivals, although it is presumable that the Theresienstadt Jews were (for the most part) Czech. His statement that most of the Jews in the camp at the time of his arrival were Polish implies one or more undocumented Jewish transports from Poland. That transports of Polish Jews reached Trostinec is also maintained by Belarussian Holocaust historian Marat Botvinnik.[30](#) From where Kohl and Adler derive their assertions that also Jews from Luxembourg, Holland, France were sent to Trostinec is unclear. In Kohl's case it is possibly unpublished court material, in Adler's it is more likely other testimonial sources. Grünberg in his testimony mentions two Trostinec survivors who had returned to Austria: Julie Sebek and Siegmund Prinz.[31](#)

3.3.11. Yudi Farber, K. Sakowicz and Aba Gefen

Yudi Farber, a Russian-Jewish engineer, left an account in the early post-war years of how he was sent on 29 January 1944 to Ponary (also spelt Ponar, in Lithuanian Paneriai), an alleged extermination site north of Vilna, from where he managed to escape on 15 April 1944. In this we find the following passage describing his arrival at Ponary:

"We went under a canopy; there was a wooden structure that they referred to as a bunker, with a small kitchen. The women said that Jews from Vilnius and surrounding areas were living here. They were hiding in the ghetto but were found, sent to prison, and brought here. Kantorovich, whom I have already mentioned (he was from Vilnius), exchanged a few words with the women. They opened up and said that this was Ponary, where not only the Jews of Vilnius had been shot but also Jews from Czechoslovakia and France. Our job would be to burn the bodies."[32](#)

Mainstream historiography knows of neither French nor Czechoslovakian Jews killed at Ponary. As mentioned in §2.3.3., the only French Jews claimed by the orthodox historians to have reached the occupied eastern territories departed Drancy for Kovno and Tallinn on 15 May 1944. Any French Jews present in Lithuania prior to that date must accordingly have reached that destination via one of the "extermination camps" of Auschwitz-Birkenau or Sobibór.

Interestingly we find in the "Ponary diary" of Kazimierz Sakowicz the following entry dated 4 May 1943 in which this Polish journalist reports on a conversation with Lithuanian militia members stationed at Ponary:

"The Lithuanians say that they will have still more work to do, as Jews are to be brought here from abroad. Reportedly Jews from France, Belgium and so on are already being shot in the Fourth Fort in Kaunas [Kovno], where they were brought under the pretense that they would be transported to Sweden."[33](#)

That Belgian Jews were transported to Lithuania is confirmed by a news notice appearing in *Aufbau* on 28 August 1942:

"Several hundreds of Belgian Jews, who had been deported to Wilna, were massacred by the Gestapo."[34](#)

According to Jewish historian Reuben Ainsztein

"entire train-loads of Czech, Dutch and French Jews were brought to what they believed to be the town of Ponary and exterminated there by German and Lithuanian killers."[35](#)

Ainsztein does not provide a source, but since neither Sakowicz nor Farber mentions transports of Dutch Jews to Ponary it seems likely that there exists further testimony concerning transports of foreign Jews to this place. In this context it should also be noted that Ponary is located only some 5 km north-east of the town of Vievis, where, according to rumors reported in the diary of Herman Kruk (cf. §3.3.1.), 19,000 Dutch Jews had arrived by 16 April 1943. As for the alleged mass shootings of foreign Jews at the forts around Kovno, we read in the *Black Book* that

"Not only Kaunas Jews met their death in the mass graves near the forts; here the Nazis carried out the wholesale execution of thousands of Jews who had been driven there from the Lithuanian provinces, from Berlin, Vienna, France and Holland."[36](#)

The French Jews can be explained by the fact of Convoy 73 reaching Kovno in May 1944, but the mention of Dutch Jews is anomalous to exterminationist historiography.

A further witness stating that foreign Jews were brought to the Vilna area is the Lithuanian Jew and partisan Aba Gefen. On 16 May 1943 Gefen wrote in his diary:

"In the evening I visited Yonas Kazlovsky at Zhuk's [a farmer]. He said that recently in Vilna 40,000 Jews—not from Lithuania, but from other countries—have been killed."[37](#)

Again the date fits well with the Herman Kruk's diary entry from 16 April 1943 and his subsequent entry from 30 April stating that 19,000 Dutch Jews deported to Lithuania had been "slaughtered" there (§3.3.1.).

3.3.12. Moses L. Rage

On 10 September 1944 a Latvian-Jewish engineer from Riga named Moses L. Rage (b. 1903) left a written testimony to a Soviet commission in Dvinsk (Daugavpils), in which we find the following

passage:

"Subsequently [in the spring of 1942 or later] there began to arrive in Riga a series of trains with Jews from Poland, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Holland and other countries, which were taken off the trains and sent away on trucks to be shot. Their belongings were sent to the Gestapo. I estimate that the total number of foreign Jews killed in Riga and other parts of Latvia exceeds 200,000."[38](#)

As mentioned in the first part of this article (§2.4.7.) no Danish Jews were ever "gassed", and accordingly Ruge could not have witnessed the arrival of Jews from that country in Riga, something which diminishes the value of this testimony. It seems possible though that the witness could have mistaken Norwegian Jews for Danish Jews. 346 Jews from Norway were allegedly "gassed" in Auschwitz in October 1942.

3.3.13. M. Morein

In his book on the Holocaust in Latvia, Bernhard Press provides the following brief summary of a testimony left by a certain M. Morein which is stored in the archive of the Jewish Information Center in Riga:

"(...) while looking for the corpses of his parents in 1946 near the village of Kukas near Krustpils, he discovered in a mass grave corpses whose clothes bore French labels."[39](#)

It is not made clear whether with "French labels" is meant French Star of David patches or similar. The author of this article has not yet been able to access the testimony in question.

3.3.14. Szema G.

A Latvian Jewess identified in the court material only as "Szema G" testified in 1948 that groups of Belgian, Dutch, French and Hungarian Jews[40](#) were sent to the Lenta camp near Riga.[41](#) The value of this testimony is diminished by the fact that the witness incorrectly claimed that a crematory oven was installed in Lenta.

That foreign Jews were brought to the Lenta camp is supported, however, by other eyewitnesses. I have already discussed Jack Ratz's mention of Polish Jews being sent to Lenta "straight from Poland" in the summer of 1943 (§3.3.9.). Another Lenta inmate, Abraham Bloch, has stated:

"To us came a small group of Jews from Vilna. For Lenta this was not a surprise. They brought to us Jews from the most different places."[42](#)

This indicates that foreign (i.e. non-Latvian) Jews were commonplace in Lenta. In this context one should note the following passage from a monthly report drawn up by the labor administration department of the Gebietskommissariat Riga for April 1943:

"Lately there have been no new arrivals of Jews. [...] Following the deployment of all Jewish auxiliary workers [Hilfsarbeiter] outside of Riga, and since the removal of Jewish skilled labor from the armaments industry—the production and supply of arms being of extraordinarily great importance—can no longer be justified, the influx of Jews from

territories outside of Latvia is to be thoroughly welcomed."[43](#)

This acute need for Jewish labor would explain why Jews from Poland and possibly also from various Western European nations were sent to the Lenta camp in the summer of 1943. The last documented transport from Germany, Austria and the Protectorate to Latvia departed from Theresienstadt on 20 August 1942, although there are indications that a transport departing from Berlin on 26 October 1942 reached Salaspils near Riga (cf. §3.4.). Considering this, it seems decidedly odd that a lull in transports lasting a whole 5-7 months should be described using the word "lately" ("in der letzten Zeit"). Were there more transports of Jews to Latvia during the last months of 1942, or even at the beginning of 1943?

One might argue that any foreign Jews sent to Latvia in 1943 might have been Lithuanian. Herman Kruk, however, does not mention any Jewish transports from Lithuania to Latvia during that year, and as of 6 April 1943, the Kovno Judenrat secretary Avraham Tory had recorded only two transports of Lithuanian Jews to Latvia (both from Kovno to Riga): the first, consisting of 500 workers, on 6 February 1942; the second, consisting of more than 300 people, on 23 October 1942.[44](#) In his diary entry from 12 February 1943 Tory mentions a German demand that 1,000 Kovno Jews be sent to Riga,[45](#) but this demand was apparently rescinded, because Tory, who due to his position necessarily would be aware of any major transports from the Kovno ghetto, does not record any transports from the Kovno Ghetto (or any other place in Lithuania) to Latvia during 1943. Bloch's statement hints at a transport of Vilna Jews to Riga, but this must have been small to escape Kruk's attention. Possibly some Vilna Jews reached Riga after the liquidation of the Vilna Ghetto on 23 September 1943, i.e. five months after the above quoted labor administration report. There further exist no indications that Jews were sent from other parts of Reichskommissariat Ostland, or for that matter the Ukraine, to Latvia for work.

It should be mentioned here that Dutch Jews deported to the Baltic states in 1942-1943 apparently were alive not only in Kuremäe, Estonia (cf. 3.3.7.), but also in western Latvia in 1944, for in the *Aufbau* issue from 25 August 1944 we read:

"Six hundred Jews, used by the Germans for forced labor on fortifications in occupied Latvia, were to be transferred to Liepaja. On the way there they were liberated by partisans. Most of them were deportees from Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Holland. Immediately after being liberated all of them joined the Latvian partisan units. This report comes from the Stockholm newspaper Baltiska Nyheter."[46](#)

3.3.15. Kalmen Linkimer

Another minor testimony concerning transports to Latvia is the diary of Kalmen Linkimer, a Jewish schoolteacher from Liepaja (Libau) who spent most of the second half of the war hiding in a cellar together with ten other Jews. In his diary entry from 10 June 1944, we read:

"[The Latvians] so distinguished themselves through their blood thirst and brutality that Jews were sent from countries all over Europe to Latvia, Riga [...]"[47](#)

The use of the expression "all over Europe" certainly implies transports to Latvia of Jews from countries other than just Germany, Austria and the Protectorate. Unfortunately, Linkimer does not bring up the subject elsewhere in his diary.

3.3.16. Yehuda Lerner

Yehuda (Leon) Lerner is primarily known as a Sobibór eyewitness. He was deported to this "pure extermination camp" from Minsk in the second half of September 1943⁴⁸ under the "pretense" that the Jews in this convoy would be sent to work in Łódź.⁴⁹

What is remarkable about Lerner is the fact that he had previously been sent from Warsaw to the occupied eastern territories. Lerner was born in Warsaw in 1926, and it was from there that he was sent to Belarus in the summer of 1942. In a brief, undated testimony (written sometime between 1951 and 1978)⁵⁰ presented by M. Novitch we read:

"I was born in Warsaw in a family of six; my father was a baker. When war was declared, our life in the ghetto was similar to that of most Jews: unemployment, hunger and anguish. On July 22, 1943, tragedy began in the ghetto. The president of the Jewish council committed suicide and, on the same day, my father, my mother, one of my brothers and I were taken away to the Umschlagsplatz, the ghetto station, and were left in a building. My whole family was deported and never came back.

I was sent to a camp near Smolensk, in occupied Russia, where I remained for ten months. Our job consisted of building an airfield. For our work, we got a piece of bread and a bowl of soup. Hunger weakened us and prisoners who had no strength to work were taken to a wood and executed. Haim, a friend from the Warsaw ghetto, was with me. There also were German Jews, in transit through Warsaw. I told my friend, 'Let us escape, we are doomed here.'

Four months later, on a dark night, we crossed the barbed wire, but we were caught and sent to another camp where we again found hard work, hunger and beating. We tried to escape a second time, managed to be free for several days, but once more were arrested and taken to the Minsk ghetto."⁵¹

The president of the Jewish Council of the Warsaw Ghetto, Adam Czerniaków, committed suicide on 23 July 1942. On the day before, the first train with Jewish deportees left Warsaw for the Treblinka "extermination camp".

In 1979 Lerner was interviewed by Claude Lanzmann (in French, using an interpreter). A film of this interview was later released together with a published transcript,⁵² but this does not contain the entire interview; especially the beginning has been cut short. Fortunately, a complete transcript is available online. In this Lerner dates his deportation to July 22:

"(...) all starts on July 22, 1942, at the moment when they make us leave the Warsaw ghetto; they gather us at the *Umschlagsplatz* and they tell us that they are going to send some of us off, they do not know where yet; at this moment, I am still with my parents, with my family, but very quickly we are separated, they send me to one side, my parents and my family to the other, and from that moment I am alone. They tell us that in some

days they would send us into a work camp, and effectively, after these few days still spent in Warsaw, we leave for Russia."[53](#)

This indicates that the transport in question departed from Warsaw sometime during the last week of July. Later in the interview the period between the arrest and the departure is stated to have been "several days". Lerner further tells Lanzmann that the convoy consisted of "some thousands of young people", all able to work.[54](#) The journey is described as follows:

"Lerner: And so, it is there that everything started; for nearly a week, we traveled in these freight cars; each day we were given a little water through the door. After we were placed in the freight cars, they distributed to us a loaf of bread each, and soon we arrived in Belorussia and we were unloaded for work, the place where we arrived was located near an old airport.

Lanzmann: What was it called?

Lerner: The name of the place, I do not remember exactly, in any case it was an airfield and we were working in construction, we were constructing buildings; the conditions were very hard, very little to eat, the Germans on the spot fired on the Jews, without reason, and in particular the pilots when they returned in the evening, got drunk and amused themselves by shooting, firing on the Jews, in the head in general.

Lanzmann: This was a military airport?

Lerner: Yes, military.

Lanzmann: And this, this is the first place where he [i.e. Lerner] had been, after having left Warsaw?

Lerner: Yes, yes, the first place."[55](#)

Historian Christian Gerlach states that the transport carrying Lerner arrived in Bobruisk on 28 July and that a part of this convoy continued on to Smolensk.[56](#) The only source that Gerlach gives here, however, is the Lerner account found in the Novitch anthology, which does not mention any stop-over in Bobruisk. Moreover Gerlach writes that the 28 July Bobruisk transport together with a previous transport of 961 Jews from Warsaw to Bobruisk on 30 May 1942 consisted of in all some 1,500 people,[57](#) so that the latter convoy would have contained approximately 540 Jews—in contrast with Lerner's statement to Lanzmann that the deportees of his transport numbered "some thousands". Apparently the only thing certain about this transport is that it took place, since there is no doubt that Lerner later was sent to Sobibór from Belarus. Thus we have only Lerner's personal assurance that the train did not stop anywhere on the way from Warsaw to Smolensk—for example in Treblinka.

On 17 August 1942 the clandestine Polish newspaper *Informacja Bieżąca* mentioned that 2,000 "skilled workers" had been sent from the Warsaw Ghetto to Smolensk on 1 August 1942. Some weeks later, on 7 September, the same newspaper reported that two transports carrying a total of some 4,000 Jews had been sent from Warsaw to work on military installations in Brzesc and Malachowicze.[58](#)

This raises the question: were there perhaps not one, but two transports from Warsaw to Smolensk during the first week of the great evacuation—one with some 540 Jews that reached Bobruisk on 28

July and another with 2,000 Jews, that departed from Warsaw on 1 August, travelling directly to Smolensk?

Lerner's statement that there "were German Jews" in the camp in Smolensk who had arrived there from Warsaw is intriguing. From the diary of the aforementioned Warsaw Judenälteste Adam Czerniaków we know that during the spring of 1942, some 4,000 Jews from the territory of the Reich and the Protectorate were deported to the Warsaw Ghetto. On 1 April there arrived "1,000 expellees from Hannover, Gelsenkirchen etc." who were "put in the quarantine at 109 Leszno Street". This convoy consisted of "older people [but no-one older than 68], many women, small children".⁵⁹ On 5 April there arrived "1,025 expellees from Berlin", "mainly older people, partly intelligentsia". These were also put in the quarantine at Leszno Street, which now contained in all "2,019 persons" (implying that the first convoy consisted of 994 deportees).⁶⁰ On 8 April Czerniaków visited the Jews "from Berlin, Frankfurt, Hannover, Gelsenkirchen etc." in the quarantine, distributed candy to the children and "addressed the youth" among them.⁶¹ Two days later "150 young German Jews" were sent to "Treblinka",⁶² by which is no doubt meant the labor camp Treblinka I, as the "extermination camp" Treblinka II would not open until three and a half months later. Considering the descriptions of the two first German convoys, these 150 deportees must have made up most if not all of the youths among the quarantined German Jews. On 16 April a third transport of "about 1,000" German Jews arrived in the ghetto.⁶³ On 18 April Czerniakow was called to see the ghetto commandant Auerswald about the German Jews:

"He gave me a list containing 78 names from the last transport; these people are to be sent to Treblinka. Besides he gave me two letters from the workers who are already there. One is asking for phonograph records, the other for tools."⁶⁴

On 23 April a "transport of 1,000 people arrived from Bohemia".⁶⁵ Almost a month later, on 23 May, Czerniaków noted that "thirty Jews" had been sent to Treblinka, but he neglected to mention whether these were Polish or German Jews.⁶⁶ Then finally on 16 July 1942, six days prior to the start of the great evacuation, the Judenälteste mentioned in his diary that 1,700 German Jews had been released from the quarantine.⁶⁷

Very little documentation on the great Warsaw evacuation has survived. We do not know when the German Jews in the ghetto were sent to Treblinka. It may be that the German Jews from Warsaw whom Lerner met in Smolensk were identical with those 150 or so young Jews who had been sent to Treblinka I in April, and that those for some reason had been transferred east, but it is also possible that they had reached Russia via the Treblinka "extermination camp" during the first days of the deportations.⁶⁸ A member of the Warsaw ghetto police noted in his diary that

"The tenants of two hostels [that housed Jewish refugees from Germany and Czechoslovakia] received a day's notice that they must leave on the morrow. They had already undergone so many moves from city to city and country to country that they showed no signs of despair or fear. Warsaw or Vilna, Smolensk or Kiev—it was all the same to them."⁶⁹

Is it just coincidence that Smolensk is mentioned here as a possible destination?

It should be mentioned here in passing that there is testimonial evidence for the presence of German Jews also in Bobruisk. In 1971 a German witness testified that he had met and spoken with a German Jew from Mönchengladbach in the *SS-Arbeitslager* Bobruisk.^{[70](#)} The Jews from Mönchengladbach were sent to Auschwitz, Łódź, Riga, and Theresienstadt.^{[71](#)} Those sent to Riga went there via Düsseldorf, and included the witness Hilde Sherman-Zander (§3.3.2.).^{[72](#)}

3.3.17. Inge Stolten

Inge Stolten (born 1924) was a German stage actress and playwright. During the war she performed for German troops in Germany as well as at theatres in the occupied territories. In late July 1943 she was sent to Minsk,^{[73](#)} where at the Minsk Theatre she got into contact with some German Jews from the Minsk ghetto who worked backstage. In the description of the Minsk ghetto found in her memoirs, Stolten mentions also Dutch Jews:

"I heard of Dutch Jews who still believed that their furniture would be forwarded to them as promised, who discussed how they would be able to fit their great armchairs into the all-too-small rooms. Thus almost all of them hung on to some kind of illusion, nourished hopes and felt secure once they had escaped something."^{[74](#)}

For more on the presence of Dutch Jews in Minsk, see §3.5 below.

3.3.18. Tsetsilia Mikhaylovna Shapiro

The testimony of Dr. Tsetsilia Mikhaylovna Shapiro, a former inmate of the Minsk Ghetto, was recorded on 20 September 1944 by A.V. Veysbrod. This witness, who escaped from Minsk in early November 1942, stated that French Jews had been present in this city.^{[75](#)}

3.3.19. Avraham Tory (Golub)

Avraham Tory (aka Avraham Golub, b. 1909) served as secretary of the Jewish Council in the Kovno Ghetto. During the period 1941-1944 Tory kept a diary in which he also reproduced several orders and reports from the Council as well as the German ghetto administration.

In Tory's diary entry from 14 July 1942 we read:

"Four Jews from Lodz have been brought to the [Kovno] Ghetto hospital for surgery. They had spent a long time in a labor camp."^{[76](#)}

On 30 July 1942 Tory again wrote of Łódź Jews in Lithuania:

"The Lodz Jews who had been employed at the construction of the Kovno-Vilna highway and were transferred to Riga will be replaced by 500 workers from the Ghetto."^{[77](#)}

In the same entry Tory writes that

"Five Jews who risked their lives by escaping from a labor camp, where they had been employed at highway construction, arrived in the Ghetto, having traveled by various routes. The inmates of this labor camp had been transferred by road to Riga, and fifty Jews escaped during the transfer. As they jumped off the trucks, they were shot at. Two of the escapees

waded into the [unnamed] river and remained hiding there, submerged in the water up to their necks. After the first danger passed, they entered the forest and hid there. Then they traveled by roundabout paths until they reached Kovno."[78](#)

We further learn about the unnamed labor camp that

"The camp commandant pretended to be the friend of workers. In reality, he disposed of everyone who, for different reasons, fell behind in his work. One day twenty people were killed by injections of poison, having been told beforehand that they were exhausted and sick and needed some rest. Those who asked to be taken to a physician were taken to the forest and shot. Only four inmates were brought to the Ghetto hospital for surgery; there they remain as of now.

The Council extended assistance to the inmates of this labor camp. This assistance was of some help. But the inmates were desperate and availed themselves of every opportunity to flee, despite the risk to their lives.

Fifteen of those people are now in the Ghetto. First, they were cleaned of lice at the lice disinfection center. They have also received clothes, which enable them to conceal their condition and status in the Ghetto. They must also be protected from the evil eye. At the same time, however, they present the [Jewish] Council with a problem: should the Gestapo find out about their presence in the Ghetto, their fate will be one and the same—death."[79](#)

The above diary passages indicate that several hundreds of Jews from Łódź were confined in a labor camp somewhere between Kovno and Vilna, not far from a river, and that this group was transferred to Riga sometime in late July 1942. Likely Tory refrained from naming the camp here due to concerns of security, as mentioned in the diary entry itself.

In this context one may recall Herman Kruk's diary entry (cf. §3.3.1.) from 4 July 1942 reporting on the presence in Vilna of two young Jews who had been deported from Łódź in March the same year, and who had escaped from an unnamed labor camp around the 25th of June. Needless to say the escapees mentioned by Tory and the escapees with which Kruk came into contact might have come from two different labor camps.

Which camp then is Tory referring to? Later in the diary he mentions that the camps Miligan (Milejgany), Vievis and Zezmer (Ziezmariai) employed "thousands of Jews" working on the construction of the Kovno-Vilna highway; in charge of these labor camps was "the Kovno branch of the Todt organization".[80](#) Much points to Vievis being the camp in question, because at the end of the 30 July 1942 entry we find the following isolated sentence:

"Five Jews from the labor camp near Vievis arrived in the Ghetto. They were given clothes and underwear."[81](#)

It seems highly unlikely that two groups of each five Jews with ragged clothes had arrived from two different labor camps to the Kovno Ghetto on the same day. Tory – who was a lawyer by profession—may have thought it safe to mention the name of the camp in an isolated sentence where the circumstances of the arrival of the five Jews were not made explicit. That the Jewish Council of Kovno

did in fact "extend assistance to the inmates" of Vievis is clear from the diary entry of 2 July 1943, in which we read that "Yellin, the representative of Vievis camp" visited the Kovno Ghetto "once every two or three weeks to collect wooden shoes, underwear, and other supplies from our welfare department" and that "Once in a while, patients from Vievis camp are admitted to our Ghetto hospital".⁸²

A look at a map of the Vievis area (Illustration 1) shows a wooded area to the east of the town, which may be the "forest" where sick inmates reportedly were taken to be shot. The "river" in which escapees hid themselves might have been the Streva, a tributary of the Nemunas River. The Streva runs along the road from Vilna to Kovno at a shorter distance for a stretch between Vievis and Rumsiskas (cf. Illustration 2).



Illustration 1. Map of Vievis and its vicinity. (Source: Section of Deutsche Heereskarte 1:100 000 Truppenausgabe Nr. 1 vom VII.1944, Großblatt Nr. 324 Koschedoren)⁸³

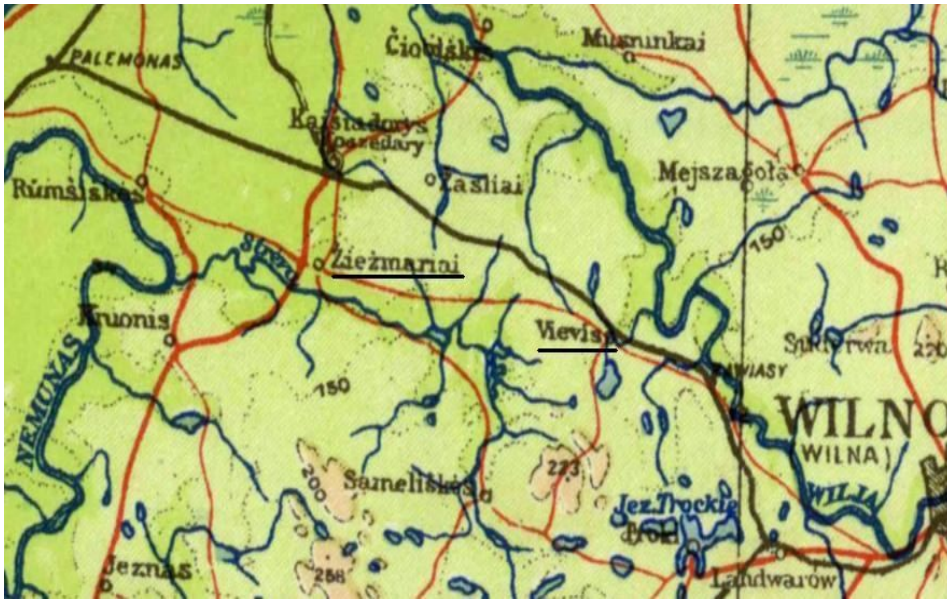


Illustration 2. Map of the area north-west of Vilna with Ziezmariiai, Vievis, Palemonas and Kaisiadorys marked out by the author. (Source: Section of Internationale Weltkarte 1:1 000 000 Sonderausgabe IV.1941 Ber. V.41 N-35 Wilna).

Finally, in the diary entry from 10 December 1942, we read:

"A young girl by the name of Zisling has come to the Ghetto from the labor camp in Vievis."⁸⁴

Without at least a given name and an approximate date of birth it is nigh unto impossible to identify this individual. Nonetheless we may note that a search of the online Yad Vashem Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names,⁸⁵ which reportedly contains records of close to 3 million individuals—with the caveat that "some people appear in more than one record")⁸⁶— produces a mere 29 results for the surname "Zisling" with variants (Cizling, Zysling, Tzizling), whereof almost half are duplicates. We are thus dealing with a very rare Jewish surname. Of these search results, the following pertain to young girls:

—Lea Cizling, born to Benjamin and Khana Cizling, nee Pinta. She reportedly died in Skuodas, Lithuania, in 1941, aged 11.

—Zelda Zysling, born in April 1926 in Klodawa,⁸⁷ Poland, to Baruch and Sara Zysling nee Skowronski. Reportedly killed in Chełmno aged 14.⁸⁸

—Zalma Zysling, the sister of Zelda Zysling, born 19 December 1930, also supposedly gassed at Chełmno.⁸⁹

—Deborah Zisling, sister of Zelda and Zalma Zysling, supposedly gassed at Chełmno in 1942 at the age of 19.

—Pese Zysling, born in Klodawa in 1924, supposedly gassed at Chełmno in 1942.

This inconclusive yet notable information compels the question: Were Jews who had been transited via

Chełmno still present in Vievis in late 1942? Did the transfer to Riga in July 1942 perhaps encompass only the able-bodied or skilled workers? Research into local archives might possibly provide more information on transports to and from the Vievis camp.

The diaries of Avraham Tory and Herman Kruk indicate that the Vievis camp served as a major destination and/or transit point for Jews deported to the East: First in 1942 Jews from the Warthegau district were sent there via Chełmno, and then in early 1943 Dutch Jews reached the camp via Auschwitz and Sobibór. Many of these Jews were apparently employed in the construction of a highway between Vilna and Kovno. This brings to mind the following passage from Himmler's speech in Bad Tölz on 23 November 1942:

"The Jew has been removed from Germany; he now lives in the East and works on our roads, railways etc."[90](#)

A Partial List of Camps with Jewish detainees in Lithuania

Abbreviated Main Sources

T: A. Tory, *Surviving the Holocaust* (Harvard University Press 1990).

K: H. Kruk, *The Last Days of the Jerusalem of Lithuania* (Yale University Press 2002)

NL: Martin Weinmann (ed.), *Das nationalsozialistische Lagersystem*.[91](#)

Aleksotas – labor camp in western Kovno suburb at the site of an airfield (NL p. 665, T p. 455).

Babtai – camp where some 1,500 Jews were employed at an "Heeresbaudienststelle" (Army construction bureau).[92](#)

Batcum – camp belonging to the Siauliai (Schaulen) Ghetto with 500-1,000 inmates, established 1942, closed 1944 (NL, p. 665).

Bezdany – peat-digging camp 25 km from Vilna (K, p. 120, 486).

Biała Waka – peat-digging camp 14 km from Vilna (K, p. 120, 407).[93](#)

Darbenai – camp in the Kretinga district.[94](#)

Demitrau (Dimitravas) – camp in the Kretinga district.[95](#)

Ezereliai (Ezerilis) – subcamp to KL Kauen (Kovno) with accommodations for 1,200 Jews.[96](#)

Jonava – labor camp with some hundred inmates.[97](#)

Kacergin – Jewish tree-felling unit located in suburb of Kovno (T, p. 114).

Kailis – "Jewish labor camp" inside Vilna (K, pp. 134-135).

KL Kauen (Kovno) – concentration camp replacing the liquidated Kovno Ghetto in June 1943, closed on 25 July 1944 (NL, p. 299).

Kazlu-Ruda (Raudondvaris) – subcamp to KL Kauen with 300 Jewish inmates some 20 km south of

Kovno, established in early 1944.[98](#)

Keidan – labor camp connected with the construction of an airfield (T, pp. 448-453). May be the same as Kedanen/Kidarniai (NL).

Kiena – peat-digging camp, likely near Vilna, apparently run by Organization Todt (K, p. 120, 366, 630). Likely identical with the Keni labor camp mentioned by Tory, who asserts that all of the camp inmates, "300 in all", were burned alive in July 1943 (T, p. 430).

Koschedaren (Kaisiadorys) – Tory gives the name as Koshedar (T, p. 482), but also as Kaisiadorys: "the peat-digging camp at Kaisiadorys, where 350 Ghetto residents do forced labor" (T, p. 454).

Kybartai – small town on German border with Jewish camp or labor unit (T, p. 113).

Linkaiciai (Linkeitz) – labor camp halfway between Kovno and Siauliai where Jews worked in army factories and warehouses, a sugar refinery and with peat digging (T p. 126, 460).

Marijampolė – Army camp in the vicinity of this city to which 400 Kovno Jews were transferred in late September 1943 (T, p. 482).

Miligan (Milejgany) – labor camp for road construction (T, pp. 389-390, 492).

Nowa Wiljeka – Jewish labor camp in the town of the same name (K, p. 485).

Oszmianka – labor camp run by Organization Todt, located near the town of Oszmiana (K, p. 621).

Palemonas – peat-digging camp 10 km from Kovno; a brick factory was also located here (T, p. 58, 60, 92, 482).

Panemune – labor (possibly peat digging) camp.[99](#)

Panevezys (Ponevezh) – City in northern Lithuania where a ghetto and later a Jewish camp was located; according to the witness Reska Weiss there lived as many as 30,000 Jews in the camp in the summer of 1944, mainly Baltic Jews.[100](#)

Petrasunai (Petrasun) – Kovno suburb where Jews worked in a paper factory and at an electric power plant, accommodations for 5,000 Jews were reportedly under construction here in August 1943 (T, p. 116, 188, 455).

Podbrodzie – labor camp or site to where 400 Vilna Jews were sent in early May 1942 (K, pp. 286-287).

Porubanek – groups of Jews worked here in early 1942 with unpacking and sorting weapons and ammunition (K, p. 173).

Provienishok (Pravieniskis) – labor camp 20 km south-east of Kovno (T, p. 115). This is likely the same camp as Prawienischken or Proveniskaiai, which according to NL (p. 666) housed 5,000 – 6,000 inmates "working in the woods"; it was established in 1941 and closed sometime in 1944 .

Radvilishok (Radviliskis) – ghetto and peat-digging labor camp in central Lithuania, railway junction

(T, p. 113).

Rudziszki – labor camp (K, p. 629).

Rzesza – peat-digging camp 15 km from Vilna with a few hundred Jewish detainees (K, p. 118, 366).

Sanciai (Schantz) – labor camp in a suburb of Kovno (T, p. 318, 455, 482, 501).

Siauliai (Schaulen) – the ghetto in this city in north-western Lithuania was the third largest in the country; after its liquidation it was replaced on 17 September 1943 with Concentration Camp Schaulen. Inmates evacuated to Stutthof on 21 July 1944. According to the aforementioned Reska Weiss it held as many as 30,000 Jews in the summer of 1944.[101](#)

Sorok Tatary – forestry labor camp 15 km from Vilna (K, p. 400).

Swiecziany – Jewish labor camp about 80 km from Vilna (K, p. 485, 513).

Veivirzenai – camp located between Taurage and Kretinga employing Jewish women in agricultural labor (K, p. 483).

Vievis – Jewish labor camp near the town of Vievis (cf. §3.3.1.).

Volary – camp for Jews (NL, p. 299).

Vyzuonos – an agricultural camp or labor unit called the "Red Plantation" was located near the town of Vyzuonos in 1943.[102](#)

Zasliai – Jewish labor camp run by Organization Todt (K, p. 485, 533).

Zatrocze – agricultural/peat digging camp not far from Trakai (Troki), which is located some 20 km west of Vilna (K, p. 346, 447).

Zežmer (Ziezmariai) – labor camp for road construction with at least 400 Jewish detainees in early May 1943. Located 50 km north-west of Kovno. The camp was technically affiliated with the Vilna Ghetto but received aid from the Kovno Ghetto Council (T, p. 162-163, 329). In early May 1943 the camp housed 1,200 Jews, "including 180 children and a number of old people", brought there from Oszmiana and other towns in the Vilna district; some of these were later transferred to Dno near Pskov, 680 others to the Kovno Ghetto (T, p. 328, 376). According to H. Kruk the camp housed 1,200 – 1,500 Jews (K, p. 554). It appears to have been at least formally run by Organization Todt (K, p. 533).

Aside from the three major Lithuanian ghettos of Vilna (Vilnius), Kovno (Kaunas) and Schaulen (Siauliai) there existed a number of minor ghettos, many of them in the small part of northwestern Belarus which had been incorporated into Generalbezirk Litauen: Soly (T pp. 273-274, 486), Oszmiana (K p. 387), Michaliszki (K, p. 486), Smorgonie (reportedly there existed two ghettos in this town; K, p. 629, NL p. 666), Krewo (NL *ibid*), Ziezmariai (*ibid.*) and Nieswiez (*ibid.*).

Reading orthodox literature on the Holocaust in Lithuania one generally gains the impression that there existed only a handful camps in this country during the German occupation. However, as seen above, a minor survey of some easily available sources clearly indicates that there existed at least some 43

camps with Jewish detainees on Lithuanian soil. Of the camps listed some 90% were located in south-eastern Lithuania, near Vilna or Kovno. How many camps existed in other parts of the country that the authors of these sources were either not aware of or had no reason to mention?

A possible explanation for the seeming ignorance of the mainstream historians on this issue could be that the large number of camps does not square very well with the firmly established belief that some 75% of the Lithuanian Jews had been killed already by early 1942, and that the vast majority of the survivors were housed in the three major ghettos.¹⁰³ This is not to say that all the Lithuanian Jews allegedly murdered by the *Einsatzgruppen* were in fact transferred to these labor camps. While some of them probably were indeed shot—as communists, resistance members, hostages, carriers of epidemic diseases, or for other reasons—many may also have been deported out of Lithuania. Herman Kruk, in a diary entry dated 11 July 1942, mentions a Vilna Jew living undercover with "Aryan" papers in Belarus, according to whom "a lot of Jews from Vilna and Kovno are working in Minsk".¹⁰⁴ In the April 1942 issue of *Contemporary Jewish Record* we read concerning the "over 30,000" Jews removed from the Vilna ghetto (up until February 1942) that "it is believed that half are now in labor camps on the Soviet front, and the remainder have either been interned or executed".¹⁰⁵ According to mainstream historiography these Jews were slaughtered en masse at Ponary.

As for the populations of the respective camps, there is a near-total lack of reliable figures. The few available figures are frequently based not on documentary sources but witness testimony. One should note that even if such estimates are taken to be more or less correct, they typically reflect the inmate population at only one given time; needless to say, the populations as well as holding capacities of the camps could have fluctuated. Future archival research may perhaps bring more clarity on this issue. It is also possible that aerial photographs, which we know were taken over Lithuania in 1944,¹⁰⁶ could help out with locating camps and estimating their holding capacities.

To conclude: It is certainly not out of the question that a large number of Polish and Western Jews said to have been "gassed"—perhaps even some hundreds of thousands—were interned in Lithuanian camps and ghettos during the years 1942-1944.

3.4. Historians and Witnesses on the Presence of Foreign Jews in Salaspils and Other Latvian Camps

Historian Franziska Jahn has summarized the currently held historiographical picture of the Salaspils camp, located near the Latvian capital Riga, as follows:

"Salaspils was the second camp [the first being Jungfernhof] outside of the [Riga] ghetto, to which foremost male 'Reich Jews' between the age of 16 and 50 were deported. According to the estimates of survivors there were 1,500 inmates in Salaspils. They constructed the camp and worked at the nearby railway station with sorting the luggage from arriving Jewish transports. From the summer of 1942 Salaspils served as a *Polizeihaeftlager* [police custody camp] for Latvians and Russians."¹⁰⁷

In their study *The 'Final Solution' in Riga*, originally published in German in 2006, historians Andrej Angrick and Peter Klein devote two chapters to the Salaspils camp. Here we learn that the camp,

assigned to the Regional Commander of the Security Police (KdS) Latvia, was constructed starting September 1941 and meant to house Latvian political prisoners as well as Latvian Jews and Jews brought from Germany, Austria and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. Originally the camp was planned to hold about 25,000 inmates. A POW camp, Stalag 350, which held some 40,000 prisoners, was already located nearby.^{[108](#)} By mid-January 1942 at least 1,000 Jews were working in the camp.^{[109](#)} On 2 February 1942 a status report from the office of the Territorial Commander of the Security Police and Security Service (BdS) Ostland advised that construction was underway at Salaspils on

"a large camp for about 15,000 inmates, which will be completed around the end of April and is designated at the moment to take in the Jews coming from the Reich. Whereas a part of the camp is to serve immediately as an enlarged police prison, the camp would be completely available as an expanded police prison and correctional camp after the deportation of the Jews, which is expected toward the end of summer."^{[110](#)}

The work on this camp, however, did not progress as planned. On 2 May 1942, 300 Jews were transferred from the Riga ghetto to Salaspils for cutting peat. By the end of June there were only 675 inmates in the camp, whereof some 400 were German and Austrian Jews. The KdS Latvia now had to admit to Berlin that after nine months barracks for only 1,000 inmates had been built, and that barracks for only 500-1,000 more inmates could be added in the near future.^{[111](#)}

In the autumn of 1942 the German and Austrian Jews were gradually withdrawn from Salaspils. By December there were 1,800 inmates in the camp, most of them Latvians brought in from the Riga Central Prison and elsewhere.^{[112](#)}

As we have already seen above in §3.3.5., the former Higher Leader of the SS and Police of *Reichskommissariat Ostland*, Friedrich Jeckeln, stated during his interrogation on 14 December 1945 that between 55,000 and 87,000 Jews "from Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Czechoslovakia, and from other occupied countries" had been brought to Salaspils and "exterminated" there in the period from November 1941 to June 1942.

Contemporary Latvian experts, however, estimate the number of Salaspils victims at only some 2,000.^{[113](#)} This of course does not exclude the deportation of tens of thousands of Western Jews to the camp, providing that a) the Jews were not murdered there, and b) that most of the arriving Jews were transferred on to other camps or ghettos. Salaspils would in that case serve as a transit station for Jewish transports, similar to for example the Vaivara camp in Estonia.

Latvian-American historian Andrew Ezergailis unsurprisingly dismisses the notion that other groups of foreign Jews may have been deported to Latvia:

"It is a Soviet invention that 240,000 Jews were sent to Latvia and murdered there. To begin with, there was not enough housing in wartime Latvia to accommodate, even on a temporary basis, numbers of that scale. The two larger concentration camps, Salaspils and Mezaparks (Kaiserwald), even after being completed, could accommodate only about 6,000 each. And the Riga Ghetto, after the killing of Latvia's Jews, was never again filled up to its original population of 29,000. A makeshift camp was created in Jumpravmuiza

[Jungfernhof], but that housed at its peak no more than 4,000."[114](#)

What Ezergailis fails to consider is the fact that there existed a number of other, smaller camps in Latvia (for example Strasdenhof, Dundaga I and II, Lenta, Spilve, Eleja-Meitene), as well as minor ghettos such as those in Liepaja and Krustpils. According to a brief report which appeared in the February 1945 issue of the Swedish-Jewish *Judisk Krönika* there existed in the summer of 1944 no less than 21 camps in the Riga district alone, housing at least 15,000 Jews "from Western Europe" as well as 3,000 Hungarian Jewesses.[115](#)

Ezergailis likewise completely ignores the possibility that such deportees may have been accommodated only for a while in Latvia and later sent elsewhere, for example to workplaces near the Leningrad front. Something like this is in fact hinted at by a brief report which appeared in the February 1943 issue of *Contemporary Jewish Record*:

"Systematic deportation of all Jews who remained in Latvia, including those brought from Germany, Holland and Belgium was reported Nov. 19 [1942]. The first step in the policy of extermination was taken Nov. 28, 1941, according to the Manchester Guardian (Oct. 30), when the Nazis established an 'inner ghetto' in Riga, and began to use the main ghetto as a transit camp for Jews from Central Europe."[116](#)

We note here the (from an exterminationist viewpoint) anomalous presence of Dutch and Belgian Jews in Latvia, as well as the claim that Riga served as a transit station for foreign Jews. If the mentioned transfer did indeed take place it cannot have been complete, at least not in the case of the German (and Austrian) Jews, since it is well documented that there were still thousands of them left in Latvia in summer 1944 (see also §3.3.14. for a report on the presence of Dutch Jews in Latvia in 1944).[117](#) This report, together with that appearing in the 16 October 1942 issue of *Israelitisches Wochenblatt für die Schweiz* (according to which "Jews from Belgium and other western European countries" who arrived in Riga "moved on immediately to other destinations"; §3.1.2.) indicates that the Dutch Jews sent to Riga were not shot in the nearby Bikernieki Forest upon their arrival, as claimed by Hilde Sherman-Zander (3.3.2.), but transferred to other ghettos or to labor camps.

Considering the abovementioned possibilities, it is definitely not out of the question that a total of some hundreds of thousands of foreign Jews were indeed transported to Latvia in the period of 1941-1944. Ezergailis's report that there exist no known mass graves containing hundreds of thousands of foreign Jews, or court testimonies or documentation on this hypothetical mass murder,[118](#) needless to say, merely points to the fact that such deportees were not killed *en masse*.

The fact is, that the historiographical knowledge of the Salaspils camp is extremely scant. Even Angrick and Klein have to admit that "the history of the Salaspils camp and its different groups of inmates is almost unknown."[119](#) Their three Latvian colleagues Karlis Kangeris, Uldis Neiburgs and Rudite Viksne state in an article from 2009 that the administrative records of the Salaspils camp have not been preserved (presumably the documents were destroyed by the Germans at the time of the retreat in autumn 1944), and that the scattered preserved documents (deriving from various German occupation authorities) are not sufficient to reconstruct the history of the camp.[120](#)

There are indeed some Jewish historians who maintain or at least accept as possible the notion that Western Jews from countries other than the German Reich and the Protectorate were deported to Latvia. Bernhard Press, who himself grew up as a Jew in Riga during the war, writes in his study on the Holocaust in Latvia:

"As for the number and origin of other foreign Jews [i.e. other than Jews from Germany, Austria and the Protectorate] who were murdered in Latvia, no official data of any sort exist, and rumors about them are still awaiting confirmation. As has already been indicated, in recent years numerous large and small mass graves have been discovered at various locations in Latvia, but these have yielded no new information because as a rule it was impossible to identify the victims. It must be pointed out here that a leitmotif in the relevant literature is the statement that Jews from France, Belgium, Holland, and even Norway died in Latvia besides those from Germany and the countries of Eastern Europe. Such statements can be found not only in the books of M. Kaufmann and M. Birze and the aforementioned KGB brochures, but even in the personal minutes of the interrogation of F. Jeckeln on December 14 and 16, 1945. [...] It is known that there were also Lithuanian and Polish Jews in the Riga ghetto and the billets [= work camps/commandos in the Riga area]. [...] Jews from Romania and Yugoslavia were also reportedly exterminated in Latvia. [...] As has been mentioned, F. Jeckeln (...) claimed not to know how many foreign Jews had been brought to Riga. Thus the question of the number and origins of the Jews who were deported to Latvia and murdered there remains largely unanswered. Nor do we have a precise answer to the question of how many of the Latvian Jews in the territory occupied by the Germans survived the war."[121](#)

That Yugoslavian Jews were brought to Latvia is reportedly confirmed by eyewitness testimony. On 1 January 1943 the weekly exile-German newspaper *Die Zeitung* reported:

"Now a man who escaped from the Riga Ghetto to neutral foreign soil [likely Sweden] reports that transports of Yugoslavian Jews have arrived in Riga."[122](#)

In the same news article we read that

"a report appearing in Gardista, the newspaper of Sano Mach, the Slovakian Minister of the Interior, informs that also Croatian Jews are detained in two towns in eastern Poland."

This would imply that the Jews sent to Riga were Serbian Jews. Since the surviving Serbian Jews were most likely deported to Transnistria or the Ukraine (cf. 2.4.5.), it seems more plausible that they were in fact Jews from "Greater Croatia" (considering that a Yugoslavian state of which Croatia was part had existed for more than twenty years prior to the war, confusion on this issue would be understandable). If so, they were part of the 4,972 Croatian Jews deported to Auschwitz in the summer of 1942 (cf. 2.4.4.).

It should be noted that "eastern Poland" could well refer to the western part of Generalbezirk Weissruthenien, which used to belong to Poland. We may also note in passing that, according to Reuben Ainsztein, Yugoslavian Jews were detained in the Janów camp near Lwów (Lviv) in the south-east part of the General Government (now in the Ukraine).[123](#)

The presence of Polish Jews in the Riga Kaiserwald camp and its subcamps is confirmed by one of the

leading Latvian Holocaust historians, Margers Vestermanis, who writes:

"The number of prisoners was reduced considerably through Selections, especially in the summer of 1944, as the front drew closer to Riga. Concerning the many Selections only a single, peculiar document has been preserved: an inscription in Russian on the inside of a locker in the subcamp Strasdenhof (Strazdumuiza): 'I, Abraham Grafman from Warsaw, am now on August 3 among a group of 900 Jews, who are being taken away to be shot.'" [124](#)

Here we may recall that the witness Jeanette Wolf states in her memoirs that Polish Jews were kept in the Strasdenhof camp, that another witness, Josef Katz, repeatedly mentions the presence of Polish Jews in the Riga Ghetto and the Kaiserwald camp (cf. §3.3.1.) and that Jack Ratz speaks of the arrival of Polish Jews (who had come "straight from Poland") at the Lenta camp outside Riga in the summer of 1943. We may also note that the Yad Vashem Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names [125](#) lists an Abraham Grafman from Warsaw (b. 1904), who supposedly perished in 1943—the entry states that he died in Warsaw, but the relative who filled in the form apparently did not know Grafman very well, since the form has the year of birth altered from 1900 to 1904. Could Abraham Grafman have been deported to Latvia via Treblinka?

Vestermanis further writes:

"Regarding Eleja-Meitene [a subcamp of KL Kaiserwald in the Mitau/Jelgava district] the following additional information may be found in the Historical Archives in Riga: The camp, consisting of 16 dilapidated barracks, was located near a 'Machine and Tractor Station' in Eleja. The approximately 3,000 Jewish prisoners from Lithuania and Poland were chiefly employed in laying rail tracks and with repairment of tracks. The camp was in use between October 1943 and June 1944. Nothing is known about the subsequent fate of the prisoners." [126](#)

How these Polish Jews had reached Latvia, Vestermanis leaves unexplained. According to information furnished by the International Tracing Service in Arolsen the inmates in the Eleja-Meitene camp (said to be located 40-50 km from Mitau) were employed by the firms Rippel, and Berger & Ottlieb. [127](#)

German historians Helmut Krausnick and Hans-Heinrich Wilhelm mention—without providing a source or any further explanation—that Jews were brought from Holland to the Baltic states. [128](#)

Historian and former German-Jewish Riga-ghetto inmate Gertrude Schneider has the following to say about Salaspils camp and the child inmates who reportedly became victims of medical experiments conducted there:

"By late summer of 1942, Salaspils had become primarily a camp for Latvian political prisoners and Russian prisoners of war. It also served as a transit center for subsequent Jewish transports on their journey to death in the forest. [...] Postwar examinations of exhumed bodies revealed that various poisons had been tested on the small victims. Tags worn by the children were found in the forest nearby and at Salaspils. They were made out of aluminum and were marked, in many cases, ohne Eltern (without parents), thus identifying the children as orphans. While many of the names on these tags were Jewish, there were quite a number that had to be of Slavic origin, due to the fact that some of the transports had come from Belorussia and from the Theresienstadt Ghetto in

Czechoslovakia. Most of the transports came from the Reich, but some had come from as far away as France."[129](#)

I will note here in passing that only one transport from Theresienstadt to Riga in the summer of 1942 is documented: it was given the transport code Bb and departed on 20 August 1942.

Elsewhere Schneider writes:

"While transports of Jews from all over Europe were going to be coming to Riga until late fall of 1942, they would be liquidated immediately, except for small children, who were then housed in one big barrack in Salaspils and used for medical experiments."[130](#)

Lotte Strauss recounts a conversation with Schneider in 1999 during which the Holocaust survivor-cum-historian told her that

"during the fall of 1942, 40,000 Jews, mostly from Germany and France, were sent to the woods around Riga. Among them was the '22nd Osttransport,' with 791 Jews from Berlin. They had been packed into regular passenger trains—not into cattle cars as was usual for Jewish transports. It must have given the prisoners a false sense of security and hidden from them that the Nazi authorities intended an especially gruesome end for them: mass execution. Before arriving in the Riga ghetto, the train was diverted to a village named Salaspils. There, at the ramp, the transport was divided: fifty young men were sent to work in a sugar factory in Mitau, and a few more were detailed to help build the concentration camp Kaiserwald. (One, at most two, members of the work details survived.) All the others—more than 700 people—were taken into the woods to the killing grounds, where mass graves had been dug by Russian POWs."[131](#)

The last known direct transport from the west to Riga was the abovementioned transport from Theresienstadt on 20 August 1942. The 22nd Osttransport is stated to have departed from Berlin on 26 October 1942 (the number of deportees is alternatively given as 801 or 808).[132](#) In preserved German documents no destination is listed for this transport.[133](#) The next Osttransport from Berlin, with 1,021 deportees, departed for Auschwitz on 24 November 1942. If we take a look at the succeeding Berlin transports things get even more curious. Raul Hilberg notes that

"the transport of November 29, 1942, with 1,001 Jews, is listed as destined either for Auschwitz or Riga, and the transport of December 14, 1942, with 811 deportees is allocated to Riga. The prosecutor could not find survivors of either transport, and proof of their arrival in Riga is lacking. It is likely that both were directed to Auschwitz (...)"[134](#)

The court document which Hilberg refers to[135](#)—which the author has not had the opportunity to access—apparently refers to other transport lists than those kept at NARA, because the latter lists three Osttransporte from Berlin departing in November and December 1942: One transport on 20 November with 1,021 deportees, a second on 14 December with 813 deportees and a third on 15 December with 1,061 deportees. For none of these transports is a destination listed. Danuta Czech in her *Kalendarium* lists no transports from Berlin as having arrived in Auschwitz during December or the last days of November; the next listed arrival from Berlin, with 1,000 deportees (no documentary source is stated for this entry), is on 13 January 1943[136](#)—this is most likely identical with the Osttransport listed in

the NARA transport lists as departing Berlin on January 12 (here the number of deportees is given as 1,190).

Here we may ask in passing whether being sent to Salaspils more or less meant certain death for Jewish prisoners, as implied by many exterminationist historians. Jack Ratz, who was briefly sent to Salaspils after the liquidation of the labor camp Lenta in 1944, states that the camp commandant of Lenta, the SS man Fritz Scherwitz—who in secrecy was a Jew who had been adopted by a German soldier during World War I and for that reason took care to treat the Jewish inmates well—"had been ordered to send all the Jews to Germany" at the time of the liquidation but instead sent the Jews in the Lenta camp to Salaspils: "He felt that we had a chance to survive at Salaspils, although it was a notorious death camp".¹³⁷ The contradiction is dumbfounding. Obviously Scherwitz knew that Salaspils was not a very dangerous place, and definitely not a "death camp"

As for Friedrich Jeckeln's claim that French and Dutch Jews had arrived in Salaspils we find a glimpse of a possible confirmation of it in an article which the Soviet journalist B. Brodovsky wrote after having visited a childrens' home in the Riga suburb of Bolduri (or Bulduri) some time in late 1944:

"Living at the home at the present time are boys and girls who were rescued from Salaspils, a German death factory near Riga. Although there are more than 400 children in the home, a death-like silence reigns in the rooms, for the children are still under the terrifying impression of their recent ordeals. [...]

In Salaspils there were special barracks for children with cots in four tiers. However, there were so many children that some of them had to sleep on the floor. The toilets were in the courtyard, but the children were expected to observe the same regulations regarding their use as the adults. Living in the same barracks were Alexei, Lenya, Valya and Kilya Kondratenko. Kilya, the youngest, was only a year and eight months. [...]

The Germans had a reason for organizing children's barracks in Salaspils. They needed a factory for the extraction of blood and the children were good raw material. The camp administration had an agreement with the German Red Cross to supply them with blood, and they did, by the bucketful, which was sent in ampules to the hospitals every day. This was an establishment of which the fascist vampires might well be proud; two hundred liters of children's blood a day.

We talked to young victims from Leningrad, Vitebsk, Poltava and Amsterdam. We even saw two little girls from Paris. From these children we learned of the inhuman practices of this factory."¹³⁸

The journalist then goes on to describe how he was shown "the findings of medical investigations of children in the Bolduri childrens' home and also quotes briefly from the files on five of the children, all of them apparently evacuees from Belarus: Natasha Panfilova (12 yrs), Pavel Levchenko (12 yrs), Grigori Senkevich (7 yrs), Dmitri Sakson (8 yrs) and Anya Karamish (1 yrs 7 months).¹³⁹ It is unfortunate that Brodovsky does not mention the name of any of the Dutch or French children, but his account indicates that their names and other personal data were recorded by Soviet investigators, and that they thus may still be retrievable from archived documents.

No documentary evidence confirming the allegation that child prisoners served as involuntary blood donors has ever been found, and the claims presented in the Soviet press that 7,000 children perished at Salaspils are viewed as absurd by contemporary Latvian historians.¹⁴⁰ This of course does not preclude that child inmates liberated from the camp were placed in Bolduri and examined by Soviet physicians.

In 1963 a book on Salaspils entitled *Salaspils naves nometne* (Death Camp Salaspils) was published in Riga; the following year a Russian translation appeared.¹⁴¹ This book contains a number of eyewitness accounts, most of which relate either to a nearby POW camp ("Stalag 350") rather than the Salaspils work reeducation camp (AEL, Arbeitserziehungslager), or to the final stage of the camp's existence, when it was used to detain Latvian political prisoners, "work-shies" and evacuees from Belarus. There are, however, two witness statements found in it that confirm the presence of Western and Polish Jews in Salaspils. Stanislav Rozanov, a Russian POW who worked in a sawmill near the camp, states that Jewish convoys "from Germany, Poland, Austria, France, Belgium, Romania, Holland and other countries" were sent there.¹⁴² Karlis Sausnitis, a Latvian journalist and political prisoner who arrived in Salaspils on 7 May 1942, repeatedly states that among the camp inmates there were Jews from "Czechoslovakia, Poland, Austria and other occupied countries".¹⁴³ As already mentioned, mainstream historians maintain that the Jewish inmates of Salaspils consisted of only Latvian, German, Austrian and some Czech Jews. As seen we have information confirming that an unknown number of Polish Jews were present in five Latvian camps: Kaiserwald (Mezaparks), Lenta, Strasdenhof (Strazdumuiza), Eleja-Meitene and Salaspils.

3.5. Further Witnesses Provided by Christian Gerlach

In his 1999 book *Kalkulierte Morde* (Calculated Murder) German Holocaust historian Christian Gerlach references several witnesses attesting to deportations of French and Dutch Jews to Belarus:

"That Jews were brought to Belarus not only from the Great German Reich and the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia, but also from other countries has until now [1999] been almost overlooked. Only some of the transports in question can be traced in detail, and often we know of them only from isolated witness statements, which means that they cannot be confirmed with certainty. Thus after the war, witnesses of a certain authority, for example the former Gebietskommissar of Borissov, [Karl] Bauer; Karl Buchner, a member of KdS Minsk Abteilung IVb specially responsible for gas vans; a surviving German Jew [identified only as "W.M."], and a member of the Arbeitsamt Minsk ["H.H."], stated that French Jews had arrived in Minsk. [...] The situation is similar when it comes to possible deportations of Dutch Jews, who are said to have worked in, among other places, the weapons workshop in Minsk."¹⁴⁴

As for the Dutch Jews, we learn in a footnote that their presence in Minsk was witnessed not only by the already discussed witness Inge Stolten (§3.3.17.), but also by "H.M.", who worked as a supervisor in the workshop in question; "A.M.", a member of the KdS (*Kommandeur der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD*) Minsk and the aforementioned "H.H." of the Arbeitsamt Minsk.¹⁴⁵ In another footnote we read that Anna Krasnoperko, a former inmate of the Minsk Ghetto, told Gerlach in October 1993 that there had arrived French as well as Dutch Jews at Minsk.¹⁴⁶

The reason why the transports of French and Dutch Jews to Belarus have hitherto been "overlooked" by the Holocaust historians is of course that they do not fit with the official historiography on the deportations of these groups of Jews. Christian Gerlach, however, is unaware—or pretends to be unaware—of the implications of the testimonies he refers to, and he completely refrains from discussing them in a broader context.

Gerlach further writes that it is a commonly held notion in Belarus that Jews from France and other Western European countries were sent to Minsk.¹⁴⁷ Indeed, his Belarussian colleague Marat Botvinnik writes, unfortunately without providing a source, that:

"Since the first transport [to Minsk from abroad] arrived from Hamburg, all the prisoners of the Sonderghetto [also called the "Hamburg Ghetto"] were usually called 'Hamburg Jews', even though they came from different cities of Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia, as well as Belgium and Holland. Each transport consisted of up to 1,000 people. The Sonderghetto held up to 24,000 Jews."¹⁴⁸

We note here that the number of Jews held in the Minsk Sonderghetto according to Botvinnik does not fit the notion, embraced by Western Holocaust historians, that the only Western Jews to actually reach the ghetto were the 7-8,000 Reich Jews from the initial transports in November 1941 (cf. §3.3.10).

3.6. Testimonies Concerning Postcards and Letters from Deported Jews

Next-to-last in this survey of testimonial evidence I will discuss the letters and postcards sent to the Warsaw Ghetto in the latter half of 1942 from Jews who had been deported to the east. Since, to the knowledge of the author, none of those have been preserved (perhaps due to the recipients being themselves deported east later on), I will address this issue here and not below in the survey of documentary evidence.

In an article titled "The Jews of Warsaw Are Murdered in Treblinka", published in the 20 September 1942 issue of the clandestine Bund organ *Oyf der rakh* (On Guard), we find the following passage:

"During the first weeks of the 'Evacuation Aktion,' [i.e. in late July and early August 1942] Warsaw was swamped by postcards written by Jews deported from the city. Greetings supposedly arrived from Bialystok, Brześć [Brest-Litowsk], Kosów, Malkinia, Pińsk, Smolensk. It was all a lie! All the trains with Jews from Warsaw went to Treblinka, where the Jews were exterminated in a horrifying way. The letters and the postcards come from people who managed to escape from the [train] cars or the camp itself. It is also possible that a few Jews included in the first deportations [...] were intentionally sent to Brześć or to Pińsk so that their postcards would deceive, mislead, and create false illusions in the Warsaw Jewish community."¹⁴⁹

It is worth noting here that Warsaw Jewess Mary Berg in her diary entry from 22 July 1942, the very first day of the great evacuation, wrote that "The transports are being sent in the direction of Brzesc"¹⁵⁰—a possible indication that some Jews in the ghetto, perhaps members of the Jewish Council, had more detailed information on the final destination of the transports. According to the witness Rachel Gurmanova, who rehashes the "decoy transport" story, five or six postcards arrived from Brest-Litovsk carrying the message "we are working."¹⁵¹

A report written by the underground later in the autumn of 1942 came up with an alternative explanation for the letters:

"Mysterious letters written by the deportees and dispatched from the vicinity of Bialystok, Pińsk, Brześć on the Bug River cropped up [in the ghetto]. They were supposedly brought to the ghetto by policemen and railroad workers. As later became clear, these were either poor forgeries or letters that were indeed written by the 'evacuees' as dictated by the Germans at the site of [their] death in Treblinka."[152](#)

How exactly it "became clear" that the letters were "poor forgeries" or dictated at Treblinka was never revealed by any of the underground spokesmen.

Further, in an appeal from January 1943 issued by the Jewish resistance organization in Warsaw we read:

"In the course of the last weeks, people of certain circles were spreading news about letters, which supposedly came from Jews who were evacuated from Warsaw and who are now supposed to be in labor camps at Pinsk or Bobruisk."[153](#)

According to the Jewish resistance member Yitzhak Zuckerman, letters which were part of "a German ruse", arrived in Warsaw "from the towns of Bessarabia, Smolensk and Minsk saying that the migrants had arrived safely and were satisfied."[154](#)

Needless to say these letters, if genuine, would pose an embarrassing problem to the Holocaust historians, who therefore have to dismiss them by making various unsubstantiated claims. Israeli historian Yisrael Gutman writes:

"We have no evidence to the effect that the transports were deliberately sent to a place that would abet the deception of Warsaw's Jews. It is likewise doubtful that the Germans had to bother with any such special circuitous action, since it was much simpler to compel the deportees to copy down dictated letters immediately upon their arrival at Treblinka. This system was used at a number of camps. In fact, it was a customary tactic of deception employed throughout the course of the 'Final Solution.' But it is also true that many escaped from the trains on the way to Treblinka. Youth movement members, for example, repeatedly escaped from the freight cars and returned to the ghetto. Thus it is highly probable that there were escapees who did not return to the ghetto and that they too wrote letters but deliberately failed to state that they had escaped from the train on the way to Treblinka and were living someplace illegally. It is logical that such letters would be deliberately vague, just as there were good reasons why they might be misunderstood or the true location of the sender might easily be misinterpreted. Yet in many cases the tales of greetings and letters were no more than hearsay, and the more one tried to track down the person who had actually seen the letter with his own eyes, or had received the letter himself, the clearer it became that the so-called source had only heard about such a letter from someone else, who had in turn heard about it. The true source of the rumors was evidently the Germans and their Jewish agents, though we can also presume that in a community starved for hope and trying to block out the horrible truth, rumors of this kind come into being even without an instigator at work."[155](#)

In order to support the claim that the existing letters were forgeries, Gutman then goes on to quote a

dismissing note written by Warsaw Jew and "underground archivist" Emanuel Ringelblum (1900-1944):

"A legend began to grow up about letters from the deportees, particularly from certain places—Brześć, Kowel [in north-western Ukraine], Pińsk, etc. Hard as you might try, you could never get anyone who had actually read a letter with his own eyes. It was always a third person who had heard from someone else that so-and-so had read the letter. These letters were always phrased in exactly the same way and appeared in the same form: a few words scrawled on a chit torn from a paper bag saying that we arrived safely to wherever. A letter like this never contained details about the living conditions of the deportees or how they occupied their time. But they always requested money and belongings and always mentioned that other deportees had asked to pass on their regards—and these others always happened to be wealthy people.

Such letters were always delivered by Polish Christians who 'managed to reach [the proper address] after overcoming various difficulties.' The amicable Poles were willing to take money and clothing back for the deportees. They were also prepared to aid in the search for others who had been deported—naturally, in return for the payment of hundreds or thousands of zlotys." [156](#)

Gutman's assertions are rather contrived, and some of Ringelblum's statements are demonstrably false. To begin with, the hypothesis that some of the cards came from evacuees who had escaped from the train on their way to Treblinka could perhaps explain the letters reportedly arriving from Małkinia (which is located approximately 10 km north of Treblinka) and Kosow, but hardly those sent from Belarus and the Ukraine.

Ringelblum's claim that the letters actually received were always delivered by Polish swindlers is incorrect, as shown by a diary entry from 4 August 1942 written by a certain Abraham Lewin:

"A letter from Baranowicze [in western Belarus]. The writer is working as a farm-laborer. She asks for underwear. Living is cheap, 7 zloty for white bread, 1.80 for potatoes. It would be good if she could be sent underwear. The letter came by post." [157](#)

Since the letter was delivered by mail, it must necessarily have been stamped by the local post office which first handled it, thus confirming its point of origin. We may also compare with the autumn 1942 underground report's statement that the letters were "dispatched" from locations in the east. This is obviously the reason why the Oyf der rakh writer had to come up with far-fetched idea that the Germans were sending some of the transports to the east just as part of a deception.

The reported contents of this letter further contradict Ringelblum's assertion that the messages "never contained details about the living conditions of the deportees or how they occupied their time". Also, if the letter had been a part of a swindle, how come the writer only asked for underwear, and moreover stressed that prices at the new place of residence were cheap—something which hardly would encourage the sending of large sums of money?

That Polish Jews were deported to Baranovichy is confirmed by a news notice which appeared in the Aufbau issue of 26 June 1942:

"There have been mass roundups of Jews in all of Poland in order to 'recruit' forced labor. In the district of Baranowicze Jews are working on draining the Pinsk swamps. New labor camps are constantly established."[158](#)

The hypothesis that the letters were written under duress by deportees who had just arrived in the "death camp" lacks, as far as this author has been able to determine, any basis in the testimonies left by former inmates and camp personnel from Treblinka.

Ringelblum's claim that the existence of the letters was, if not wholly, then for the most part, a "legend" is contradicted by the Oyf der rakh writer's statement that Warsaw was "swamped" by such postcards. That the letters delivered were indeed rather numerous is hinted by the already mentioned statement of Rachel Gurmanova, as well as the testimony of a certain Tokar-Warszawski according to which "three postcards that arrived from people who had been deported were passed around in the Többens' [workshop in Warsaw]".[159](#)

A further diary note of Lewin's from diary dated 30 July 1942 implies that some of the Jews deported from Warsaw were sent on from Treblinka to the Białystok district (similar to how some of the Jews sent to Sobibór were transferred on arrival to labor camps in the Lublin district; cf. §2.5.):

"A letter from Białystok that a Polish policeman brought, from a woman to her husband. She and her son are together with several other families and have to work in the fields, but they are receiving food."[160](#)

3.7. Entries of Interest from the Yad Vashem Central Database of Shoah Victims

The already mentioned Yad Vashem Central Database of Shoah Victims, the majority of whose records are based on forms submitted by relatives of the reportedly deceased, contains a relatively large number of entries that are clearly anomalous from an exterminationist point of view, but which fit well with the revisionist transit-camp hypothesis. Needless to say these entries do not have the evidential value of documents and, generally speaking, not even that of ordinary testimonial evidence. Nonetheless I will present them here as they may provide valuable hints as to the destinations of the transports departing from the "extermination camps".

3.7.1. Polish Jews

The 62 entries summarized in the table below concern Jews who were apparently deported from Poland to the German-occupied Baltic states. For obvious reasons I have omitted entries concerning Jews originating from the provinces of pre-WWII Poland that were incorporated into Lithuania and Belarus during the war.

Surname	Given name	Year of birth	Wartime residence	Place of death	Year of death
Aurbach	Chaim	1920	Sosnowiec	Riga	?
Baver	Aron	1903	Siedliszcze	Butrimants (Lith.)	?
Bimholz	David	1905	Łódź	Estonia	1944
Blumberg	Liber	1918	Warsaw	Siauliai (Lith.)	?
Brafman	Chilek	1916	Lublin	Riga	1943
Brener	Aba	1926	Grodziec	Riga	1943
Brener	Falek	1912	Grodziec	Riga	1944
Danhersch	Yakob	3/9 1917	Przemysl	Estonia	1942
Davidovitz	Araham	1923	Ozorkov (Leczyca Distr.)	Latvia	1944
Distelheim	Etti	?	Kosov Pokucki	Korsovka (Latvia)	1942
Drakhman	Hersh	1918	Slupca	Latvia	1943
Elterman	Josiph	1886	Warsaw	Subate (Latvia)	1942
Fajntuch	Haia	1920	Warsaw	Lithuania	1942
Flambaum	Eliy	1897	Siedliszcze	Sabila (Latvia)	1942
Friedman	Hugo	1875	Łódź	Riga	1943
Glikman	Mechel	1905	Izbica Lubelski	Sabila (Latvia)	1942
Goldberg	Mojsze	1916	Łódź	Riga	1943
Grimatlich	Mordechai	1898	Lubomierz	Riga	1942
Grosser	Chaja	1886	Tomaszow Lubelski	Mariampol (Lith.)	?
Gurewitz	Rakhel	?	Zambrow	Serene (Latvia)	Aged 3
Horovitz	Hirsch	1907	Warsaw	Klooga (Estonia)	?
Jelen	Ester	1916	Rembertow	Latvia	1943
Kam	Aharon	1931	Lucia (Kolomea Distr.)	Lithuania	1942
Kaplan	Pesakh	?	Pobianic (Lask Distr.)	Kelmai (Lith.)	Aged 60
Kaufman	Bumek	1916	Lwów	Kovno	1942/43
Keller	Leiser	?	Lwow	Estonia	?
Kerber	Brontza	?	Gombin	Kovno	?
Kerber	Zalman	1884	Gombin	Kovno	1943
Kretz	Mina	1898	Lwów	Merts (Lith.)	1942
Klaczkin	Chaja	1921	Łódź	Latvia	1943
Klaczko	Janina	1909	Warsaw	Riga	?
Knaperbaum	Yaakov	1916	Łódź	Lithuania	1943
Korek	Dov	1878	Slupca	Lithuania	1942
Leibler	Necha	1880	Myslenice (Krakow Distr.)	Balwa (Latvia)	1942?
Lejzerowicz	Yaakov	?	Lututow	Libau (Latvia)	1942
Lejzerowicz	Moshe	?	Lututow	Libau (Latvia)	1942
Lewin	Josef	?	Kalisz	Warna (Lith.)	Aged 45
Lichter	Temka	1908	Lotwa	Riga	1943
Milgrom	Miriam	1900	Miedrzycz	Lithuania	1942
Minc	Rudolf	1888	Warsaw	Lithuania	?
Model	Michel	1914	Warsaw	Riga	1942
Moncas	Yosef	1890	Pultusk	Lithuania	1944
Moncas	Rachel	1921	Pultusk	Lithuania	1944
Nudel	Tzvi	1885	Zamosc	Kovno	?
Rafalowitz	David	?	Dubienka	Daugavpils (Latvia)	Aged 40
Reif	Abraham	?	Krasnobrod	Tallinn (Estonia)	?
Rozenbach	Wolf	1911	Boryslaw	Latvia	1943
Rozenberg	Israel	1918	Leczyca	Lithuania	1942
Rutenberg	?	?	Leczyca	Liepaja (Latvia)	1942
Schonfeld	Hedwig	1899	Kolna (Lomza Distr.)	Riga	?
Semanski	Zvi	1924	Ozorków	Malta (Latvia)	1942
Shpirer	Yenta	1914	Prochnik	Valka (Latvia)	1942
Sondhov	Richard	13/11 1928	Bedzin	Lagedi (Estonia)	?
Spindler	Leibush	1877	Tamow	Krakes (Lith.)	?
Sungolowski	Heshel	1906	Tamowskie Gory	Riga	1946(?)
Szer	Gerszon	1900	Zilkowka	Sabila (Latvia)	1942
Sztorch	Szmuel	1910	Slupca (Konin Distr.)	Riga	1942
Tenenbaum	Moshe	1890	Krakow	Kovno	?
Tufman	Khaim	1920	Łódź	Lithuania	1943
Wagon	Freida	1917	Rejowiec	Lithuania	1942
Warum	Doba	1886	Warsaw	Svedasai (Lith.)	?
Zoler	Berl	1870	Kolomea	Livani (Latvia)	1942

The Jews listed in the table above resided in towns and cities all over Poland. If the information in the entries is correct, this would imply that transports went to the Baltic states from more than one of the "extermination camps". The many entries relating to Warthegau Jews (Łódź, Słupca, Łututów, Ozorków, Leczyca (Lentschütz) point to transports from Chełmno. As seen above (3.3.1. and 3.3.19.) the witnesses Kruk and Tory confirm that Jews were deported from Łódź to Lithuania (and transferred from there to Latvia). Sosnowiec, Tarnowskie Góry, Zambrow¹⁶¹ and Będzin point to Auschwitz, whereas Warsaw, Rembertów, Siedliszcze indicate transports from Treblinka. Lwów, Kolomea, Mysłenice and Przemyśl¹⁶² clearly point to Bełżec.

The entry for Berl Zoller, which is based on information submitted by his own daughter, is especially noteworthy. The vast majority of the Jews of Kolomea (Kolomyia) were deported to Bełżec on 3-4 April, 7 September and 11 October 1942.¹⁶³ From an exterminationist viewpoint it is simply unthinkable that this 72-year-old Jew for some reason would have been spared from certain death and transported to Latvia. Another remarkable entry is that of the Łódź Jew Hugo Friedman, born 1875, who is reported to have perished in Riga.

Another group of Jews deported to Bełżec appears to have ended up near the frontline in eastern Ukraine and Russia. In the June 1942 issue of the Contemporary Jewish Record we read:

"Meanwhile, all skilled and unskilled Jews in Ciechanów were reported April 15 [1942] to have been sent to labor camps, while thousands of former Lublin and Kraków Jews were said to have spent Passover digging trenches on the Taganrog-Kharkov sector of the Soviet front."¹⁶⁴

According to Yitzhak Arad, a total of 30,000 Lublin Jews were deported to Bełżec between 17 March and 14 April 1942, while a first group of 5,000 Kraków Jews were sent there in early June the same year.¹⁶⁵ Passover (*Pesach*) fell on 2 April in 1942.¹⁶⁶ How then could Kraków Jews have reached the Ukraine (no "gassings" of Kraków Jews had yet taken place in any other "extermination camp")? One possibility is that Arad is mistaken and that smaller transports of Kraków Jews to Bełżec actually took place during the period in question. A more likely explanation, though, is that Kraków Jews were among the Lublin Jews deported to the camp. More than 5,000 Kraków Jews were resettled to the Lublin district during the autumn of 1940.¹⁶⁷

All of the Baltic camps and towns mentioned in the entries are identifiable. To begin with the Latvian locations, Līvāni, where the elderly Berl Zoller reportedly died, is on the bank of the Daugava River some 30 km south-east of Jekabpils and 80 km north-north-west of Daugavpils (Dvinsk). Sabila, which is stated as the place of death in three entries concerning unrelated individuals from different towns, is most likely identical with Sabile, a town or village located about 35 km north-west of Tukums. Serene or Jaunjelgava is a town on the Daugava River in the Zemgale district, located about halfway between Riga and Jekabpils. Subate is a town or village located some 40 km north-west of Daugavpils, directly on the Latvian-Lithuanian border. Malta is the name of a village (and a nearby river) located approximately 25 km north-west of Rēzekne, a town in eastern Latvia. Valka (Walk) is a town located directly on the Latvian-Estonian border, some 110 km inland. Korsovka is the Russian name for Karsava, a town located northeast of Rēzekne, near the Russian border. Balva (Balvi), finally, is a town

in the north-eastern corner of Latvia, some 30 km from the Russian border. As for the Lithuanian locations, Merts is another name for Merkinė in Alytus county in southern Lithuania. Svedasai is located halfway along the road between Utena and Kupiškis. Kelmai or Kelme is located on the road between Siauliai and Taurage (Tauroggen). Warnā is another name for Varena in Alytaus county. Krakes, finally, is a small town in the Kedainiai district in central Lithuania.

The fact that the individuals who submitted the forms in question knew the names of these rather obscure locations in Latvia suggest that they themselves or their relatives had received communications of some kind or other mentioning the whereabouts of the deported person.

About the Łódź Jew Mojsze Goldberg, his cousin informs us that he was "Sent to Riga for slave labor. When standing in line for breakfast rations the Nazis made a 'selection' of 100 men. Mojsze, number 67, was forced to dig his own grave."

3.7.2. French Jews

Next I present a table of 8 similar entries relating to Jews deported from France:

Surname	Given Name	Year of birth	Wartime residence	Place of death	Year of death
Bloch	Edmund	5/9/1900	Saverne	Jassy (lasi)	5/7/1944
Cealac	Yakob	5/12/1911	France	Riga	?
Cohen	Israel	1890	France	Belarus	?
Faleski	Haim	1890	Paris	Transnistria	1942
Mai	Ludwig	21/1/1881	Paris	Riga	23/11/1944
Perelman	Mina	1893	Paris	Riga	?
Rozenberg	Maksimillian	1912	Brumath	Bershad (Transn.)	?
Schauman	Khaim	?	Nice	Transnistria	Aged 18 or 19

"Haim Faleski" is identifiable as Haim Faletsky, born in Calarasi, Romania, on 11 September 1890. He was on Convoy 20, which departed from Drancy with destination Auschwitz on 17 August 1942. It consisted of 1,000 deportees, whereof 878 were "gassed on arrival", i.e. transited.[168](#)

There is only one "Israel Cohen" in the transport lists (in Convoy 33), but he is stated to be born in Philipopoli, Bulgaria, in 1902, not in Berguent, Morocco in 1890 as the Israel Cohen found in the Yad Vashem database. There are two Cohens in the transit lists with the name "Isidore", which is given as Israel Cohen's second name: one born 18 October 1887 in Constantinople, the other born 5 July 1894 in Paris. The former was on Convoy 66, which departed from Drancy bound for Auschwitz on 20 January 1944, the latter was on Convoy 23, which departed from Drancy with the same destination on 24 August 1942. If one of these two individuals is identical with "Israel Cohen", it is more likely the "Isidore Cohen" born in Paris in 1894, since it seems improbable that Jews would have been transported to Belarus as late as January or February 1944.

The persons in the six other records are not to be found in the extant transport lists. This, however, does not necessarily mean that these individuals were not deported from France. It is possible that they went under other names at the time of their deportations, that their surnames were misspelled in the transport lists, or that they were last-minute additions to convoys and therefore do not appear in the extant copies of the transport lists. Such additions can be inferred from the fact that the numbers of deportees in the convoy lists in some cases differ slightly from the corresponding figures given in the telegrams sent to Auschwitz by the Jewish section of the French Gestapo. As Serge Klarsfeld explains,

"it was always possible for them [the Gestapo] to add on a few more people at the last minute putting the correct number in the telex without transferring these names to the two lists entrusted to the head of the convoy."[169](#)

The four entries stating Transnistria as the place of death are especially noteworthy in context of the news report from November 1942 according to which thousands of Jews deported from France had arrived in Bessarabia and the ghettos of Calarasi (Kalarash) and Kishinev (Cf. §3.1.2.). Moreover the bi-monthly news review Contemporary Jewish Record wrote in its issue of December 1942 that

"In occupied France, deportations proceeded swiftly and ruthlessly. Within three months after the initial arrests, about 35,000 Jewish families were broken up. In Paris, 4,000 Rumanian Jews were arrested on Sept. 24 and taken to the Drancy internment camp, the Rumanian Government having enacted a special law under which they could be apprehended. One of the Paris deportees, who managed to survive a nightmarish journey to Bessarabia, told a horrible story (Oct. 15) of his arrest and of his trip in a sealed car marked 'War materials, explosives - transit to Russia.' Those who met the transport at its destination saw a ghastly sight. More than half of the occupants in some cars were dead, and their bodies, already in a state of decomposition, fell out as the doors were opened."[170](#)

This remarkable report implies that the Jews of Romanian nationality deported from France were sent to the Romanian-annexed Bessarabia, from which in turn all or some of them may have been transferred across the Bug to the "Transnistrian Reservation". Indeed, some pages on in the same issue we read:

"Sealed cattle cars, containing Jews deported from France, arrived in Rumania, it was reported in Lisbon, Oct. 15, and those not dead from starvation or exhaustion were immediately shipped to Transnistria."[171](#)

Needless to say the Western Jews deported to Transnistria may not have stayed there permanently; it would not take much effort to transport them across the Bug River and into Reichskommissariat Ukraine. In this context we may note that the Jewish Telegraph Agency reported the following on 23 July 1943:

"At present, the Jewish population of Mohilev [in Transnistria] is about 15,000, of whom 3,000 are natives of the city and the others deportees from Rumania, Germany and Bulgaria. These figures vary from day to day, one report points out, since new groups of deportees are constantly arriving and others are sent farther eastward to construct fortifications on the Russian front under the supervision of Nazi officers."[172](#)

Also, on 2 January 1944 the Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter reported that an estimated 55,000 Jews in Romanian camps had been sent to work on the Russian front; of these about 50% had perished due to lack of food, clothing and medical care.[173](#)

As mentioned in §2.4.3., Jews from the Bulgaria-annexed regions of Macedonia and Thrace were deported to Treblinka and Sobibór in March and April 1943. According to mainstream historiography the only Jews ever deported to Transnistria were from Bessarabia, Bukovina and "Old Romania". Was Transnistria from that time on used as a sort of transit area for Western and Balkan Jews within the framework of the Generalplan Ost, similar to the Lublin "reservation"?

Bershad, where "Maksimilian Rozenberg" is reported to have perished, was the location of a Jewish ghetto which was part of the "Transnistrian Reservation".[174](#) About this "reservation" we read in the 6 November 1942 issue of the weekly *Aufbau*:

"The province of Transnistria will soon become a single large collection reservoir [Sammelbecken] for Jews. Freight trains from France, Holland and Belgium constantly arrive, bringing half-starved and sick deportees who are then left there to their fate."[175](#)

On 24 September 1942, a total of 1,594 Romanian Jews were arrested in the Paris region and detained at the Drancy collection camp. On the following day 729 of them were deported to Auschwitz on Convoy 37, which consisted of in all 1,004 deportees. At Kosel, some 100 km west of Auschwitz, 175 men from the convoy were selected for work. The transport is reported to have arrived at Auschwitz on 27 September. Upon arrival, another 40 men were selected for work, whereas the rest of the deportees were immediately "gassed". On 28 September 1942 Convoy 38 departed with 856 Jews on board; 594 of them were of Romanian nationality. Of the Jews from this transport some 685 were "gassed" on arrival at Auschwitz on 29 September.[176](#)

The abovementioned Haim Faletsky was the only Romanian Jew on Convoy 20, which as already mentioned departed on 17 August, and was, as far as the author of this article has been able to determine from the transport lists, the very first Romanian Jew to be deported from France. The reason for this is mentioned in the above quoted news article and explained more fully by Serge Klarsfeld:

"Romania was allied with Germany, but under the pressure of Gustav Richter, Eichmann's representative in Bucharest, the Romanian Jews living in France lost the protection of their government. On September 17, the German embassy had told the Gestapo that Romania and Bulgaria were no longer interested in their Jews. They thus became deportable [...]. The next day, the Gestapo informed the RSHA in Berlin that the deportation of Romanian Jews would not exceed 3,000 persons."[177](#)

In the end a total of 2,958 Romanian Jews were deported from France.[178](#) That Faletsky was deported already in August could be explained either as a mistake or (perhaps more likely) that for some reason he was not recognized as a citizen by the Romanian embassy. Of the three other Jews listed as having died in Transnistria all were reportedly born in France. I will return to the deportation of French Jews to Transnistria later in this study.

3.7.3. Dutch Jews

Surname	Given name	Year of birth	Wartime residence	Place of death	Year of death
Bromet	Helena	1912	Amsterdam	Riga	?
Cohen	Ester	1871	Veendam	Riga	1942
Goldschmidt	Max	1870	The Netherlands	Lithuania	?
Linderman	Nico	1910	Amsterdam	Utyany (Lith.)	1944
Magnus	Regina	1892	Amsterdam	Lithuania	1943

There are five entries of interest relating to Dutch Jews:

An online database¹⁷⁹ based on the Dutch transport lists a Helena Bromet-Root, born 3 October 1912 in Amsterdam, as murdered in Auschwitz on 23 July 1942. There is also an Esther Cohen-Zion, born 26 June 1871 in Eibergen, listed as murdered in Auschwitz on 17 September 1942. We may recall here Hilde Sherman-Zander's testimony (3.3.2.) according to which one or more convoys of Dutch Jews arrived in Riga in the summer of 1942.

A Max Goldschmidt, born 6 December 1873 in Singhofen, is listed as murdered in Sobibór on 23 July 1943. A Regina Magnus-Kirsch, born 24 August 1892 in Berlin is listed as murdered in Sobibór on 26 March 1943, yet two entries in the Yad Vashem Database, submitted by her brother (James Isaac Kirsch) state (while adding a question mark) that she was deported to Lithuania.

There is no Nico or Nicolaus Henny Lindeman, stated to be born in Hengelo, the Netherlands, to be found in the database, but if one searches for victims from this town one finds a David Herman Lindeman (b. 27 March 1903) and a Dina Lindeman (b. 8 December 1867), both from Hengelo and allegedly gassed in Sobibór, David on 11 June 1943 and Dina on 13 March 1943. Was "Nico" a relative of theirs? The Yad Vashem entry is based on information submitted by his brother, Mordekhai. Utyany, the place where "Nico Lindeman" reportedly perished, is undoubtedly the same as Utena¹⁸⁰, a city in north-eastern Lithuania. Avraham Tory wrote that German bombardment during the first weeks of Operation Barbarossa had "destroyed the road between Vilkomir and Utena".¹⁸¹ Were Dutch Jews sent to carry out road work at this location? One may recall here Herman Kruk's April 1943 diary entries (3.3.1.) according to which a large number of Dutch Jews were deported to Lithuania, most of them apparently via Sobibór.

It may well be that the first transports of Dutch Jews to Lithuania took place already in the summer of 1942, around the same time that one or more convoys arrived in Riga. In the October 1942 issue of *Contemporary Jewish Record* we read:

"Mass deportation to Eastern Europe of the 60,000 Jews now in Amsterdam ghettos began at the rate of 600 per day, it was learned July 23. [...]. On Aug. 19 [1942], the BBC stated that several hundred [Dutch-Jewish] deportees had been slain in Wilno by Nazis."¹⁸²

Something curious appears if we map out the above Latvian and Lithuanian locations (Illustration 3). We immediately note that Balwa, Karsava, Malta, Livani, Subate, Svedasai, Utena, Varena and Merkinė as well as Vievis are all located more or less along an imagined line running in NNE-SSW direction

from Pskov to the south of Lithuania, not far from the Russian border. All of these locations also had direct or indirect access to the main railroad line Warsaw-Vilna-Daugavpils-Pskov-Leningrad. This suggests the construction of fortifications along the Baltic-Russian border, similar to the "Otto Line" in eastern Poland, or a network of armament factories placed along a supply route. Interestingly the German Jewess Jeanette Wolf, who was deported to Riga in early 1942, writes in her memoirs that Jews from the camps in and near the Latvian capital were sometimes transferred to "so-called Stützpunktkommandos" (reinforcement point commandos) near "the front" (likely meant is the Leningrad front) from which they usually did not return.¹⁸³ Tory mentions in his diary entry from 20 August 1942 a (later rescinded) German demand that 700 Kovno Jews be sent to, among other locations, "Lake Ilmen near Leningrad" (south of Novgorod).¹⁸⁴

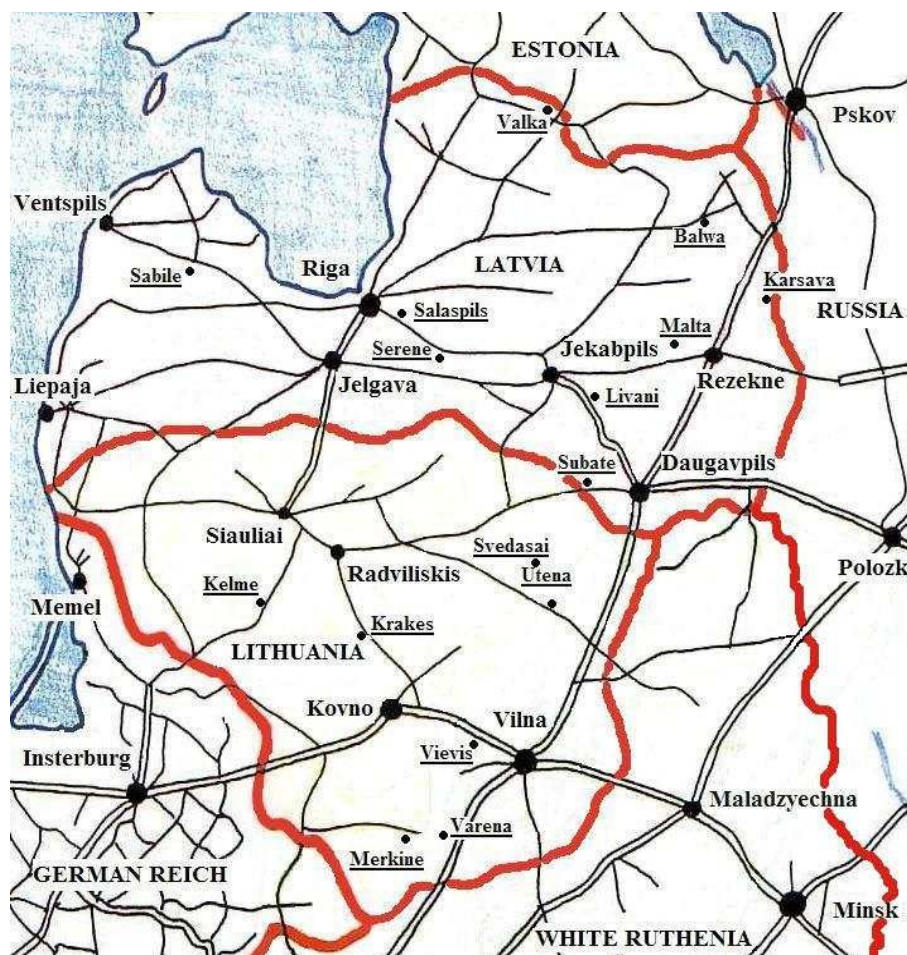


Illustration 3. Latvian and Lithuanian locations (underlined) appearing in the anomalous Yad Vashem database entries (also included are Vievis and Salaspils). Based on the railway map of Eastern Europe in A. Knipping, R. Schulz, *Reichsbahn hinter der Ostfront 1941-1944*.

3.7.4. Reich Jews

Next I have summarized below 17 entries relating to German and Austrian Jews apparently deported to the Ukraine. As mentioned above (§2.1.) it is an established fact that a large number of German, Austrian and Czech Jews were deported to Reichskommissariat Ostland in the period 1941-1942.

Mainstream historians however do not acknowledge any transports of such Jews to *Reichskommissariat Ukrain*.

Surname	Given name	Year of birth	Wartime residence	Place of death	Year of death
Allina	Rosa	1880	Vienna	Kiev	1942
Bergsmann	Mor	1897	Loretto (Austr.)	Voroshilovgrad	1944
Dreschler	? (female)	1895	Vienna	Kiev	?
Gutman	Lia	1884	Vienna	Kiev	1942
Haas	Walter	?	Frankfurt a M	Kiev	?
Hacker	Lea	?	Vienna	Kiev	Aged 49
Horowitz	Yehoshua	1877	Vienna	Ukraine	1942
Lantner	Czarna	1892	Rohatyn	Ukraine	?
Levy	Beti	1881	Altona	Kupel	?
Lewkowicz	Julius	1876	Berlin	Krasnoameysk	1943
Lichtensztejn	Elza	1910	Graz	Ukraine	1942
Tobias	Irene	?	Hamburg	Ukraine	1943
Tobias	Kathe	?	Hamburg	Ukraine	1943
Federlein	Augusta	1883	Frankfurt	Ukraine	1942
Perle	Chaim	1907	Breslau	Krasnoameysk	?
Stern	Hedwig	1897	Frankfurt	Kiev	1943
Stern	Sally	1889	Frankfurt a M	Kiev	1943
Toprower	Bernhard	?	Vienna	Ukraine	1943

It is noteworthy that several of the individuals listed above were between 60 and 70 years old at the time of their reported death.

Voroshilovgrad is a city in south-eastern Ukraine now called Luhansk. Krasnoarmeysk (more commonly spelt Krasnoarmiysk) is located in eastern Ukraine, about halfway between Kharkov and Dnepropetrovsk, while Kupel is located directly on the Ukrainian-Belarusian border, north-north-west of Zhitomir.

3.7.5. Jews from Belgium and Luxembourg

Finally I give 3 entries relating to Jews deported from Belgium and Luxembourg:

Surname	Given name	Year of birth	Wartime residence	Place of death	Year of death
Goldberg	Hellen	Sept. 1927	Antwerpen	Russia	1942
Kohn	Pesach	1902	Brussels	Ukraine	1942
Levi	Esther	29/12/1889	Luxembourg	Minsk	?

The appearance here of Ukraine is noteworthy. In the December 1942 issue of *Contemporary Jewish Record* we read the following concerning the deportations of Jews from Belgium (which commenced in August that year):

"Jews from Malines were sent to Calais and other French coastal points to work on fortifications (Oct. 14), while those from the province of Limburg and other cities were shipped (Oct. 5) to the Nazi-occupied Ukraine. Several hundred others, including women from sixteen to fifty years of age, were exiled (Oct. 29) to the coal mines of Silesia. A report on Oct. 21 stated that 5,500 Antwerp Jews had been deported to the east."[185](#)

In the June 1943 issue of the same periodical we read:

"Over 14,000 Jews from Belgium and Holland arrived in Nazi-occupied Ochakov, in Kherson, to do slave labor, Geneva sources reported on April 29."[186](#)

These Jews had most likely been transited via Auschwitz (in the case of the Belgian Jews) and Sobibór. Ochakov in the Mykolaiv Oblast is a Ukrainian town by the Black Sea, located about halfway between Kherson and Odessa. During the war the district of Ochakov (Ochakov) was part of the Transnistrian reservation.

German railway historians Andreas Knipping and Reinhard Schulz contend that Belgian as well as Austrian Jews were deported to the Ukraine; unfortunately they do not provide a source for this assertion.[187](#) The Belgian exile newspaper *Onafhankelijk België* reported on 15 October 1942:

"Many cases of the deportation of Jews have been reported in occupied Belgium. In Liège, in particular, one family has suffered much. The father was sent to a workcamp in France. The daughter and two of her brothers were ordered to go to a meeting-place from where Jews are sent to the Ukraine."[188](#)

To be continued.

Notes:

1. Maly means "small", and therefore this camp is sometimes referred to in German literature as "Klein Trostinetz".
2. Paul Kohl, *Der Krieg der deutschen Wehrmacht und der Polizei 1941-1944. Sowjetische Überlebende berichten*, Fischer, Frankfurt am Main 1995, p. 105.
3. *Protocols for Inquest Witness Lev Saevich Lansky*, Special State Commission Document 124, lines 149-53, quoted in: Ilya Ehrenburg, Vasily Grossman (eds.), *The Complete Black Book of Russian Jewry*, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick London 2002, p. 195.
4. Ibid.
5. Cf. Jürgen Graf & Carlo Mattogno, *Treblinka. Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2004, p. 201.
6. Gertrude Schneider, *Exile and destruction: the fate of Austrian Jews, 1938-1945*, Greenwood Publishing, Westport 1995, p. 95.
7. Ibid., p. 100.
8. Ibid., p. 101.
9. Ibid., p. 102.
10. Christian Gerlach, *Kalkulierte Morde. Die deutsche Wirtschafts- und Vernichtungspolitik in Weißrußland*, Hamburger Edition, Hamburg 1999, pp. 751-752.

- 11.Ibid., pp. 758-759.
- 12.Ibid., p. 759, note 1397.
- 13.Cf. Lukáš Přibyl, "Die Geschichte des Theresienstädter Transports 'Be' nach Estland", in *Theresienstädter Studien und Dokumente 2001*, Institut Theresienstädter Initiative, Prague 2001.
- 14.Liste aller Transporte aus Theresienstadt,
http://www.terezinstudies.cz/deu/ITI/database/tr_out_to
- 15.Cf. Jürgen Graf, Carlo Mattogno, *Concentration Camp Majdanek. A Historical and Technical Study*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2003, p. 91.
- 16.Hans Safrian, *Die Eichmann-Männer*, Europaverlag, Vienna/Zürich 1993, p. 186.
- 17.H.G. Adler, *Theresienstadt 1941-1945*, Tübingen 1955, p. 638.
- 18.H.G. Adler, *Der verwaltete Mensch. Studien zur Deportation der Juden aus Deutschland*, J.L.B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), Tübingen 1974, p. 443.
- 19.M. Kary, "Das Schicksal der Theresienstaedter Osttransporte im Sommer und Herbst 1942", *Judaica Bohemiae* vol. XXIV, no. 2, Prague 1988, p. 96, note 36.
- 20.Gitta Sereny, *Into That Darkness. An Examination of Conscience*, Vintage Books, New York 1983, pp. 175-176.
- 21.Yitzhak Arad, *Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka. The Operation Reinhard Death Camps*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington/Indianapolis 1987, p. 143.
- 22.Paul Kohl, *Der Krieg der deutschen Wehrmacht und der Polizei 1941-1944*, op.cit., p. 109.
- 23.H.G. Adler, *Der verwaltete Mensch.*, op.cit., p. 198.
- 24.Christian Gerlach, *Kalkulierte Morde*, op.cit., p. 756.
- 25.Karl Loewenstein, Minsk. *Im Lager der deutschen Juden*, Bundeszentrale für Heimatsdienst, Bonn 1961, p. 15.
- 26.Testimony of Isak Grünberg to Rudolf Baumann, department chief in the Vienna Jewish Community, Vienna, 4 January 1962, DÖW 2563, reproduced in: Henry Friedlander, Sybil Milton (eds.), *Archives of the Holocaust*, Volume 19: Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes, Vienna, Garland Publishing, New York/London 1991, p. 357.
- 27.Ibid, pp. 358-359.
- 28.Ibid., p. 360.
- 29.Liste aller Transporte aus Theresienstadt, op.cit.
- 30.Marat Botvinnik, *Pamjatniki genocida evreev Belarusi, Belaruskaja Navuka*, Minsk 2000, p. 21, 27.
- 31.Testimony of Isak Grünberg, op.cit., p. 360.
- 32.Ilya Ehrenburg, Vasily Grossman (eds.), *The Complete Black Book of Russian Jewry*, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick London 2002, p. 443.
- 33.Rachel Margolis, Jim G. Tobias (eds.), *Die geheimen Notizen des K. Sakowicz. Dokumente zur Judenvernichtungen in Ponary*, Antogo Verlag, Nuremberg 2003, pp. 97-98.
- 34."Die JTA meldet", *Aufbau*, 24 August 1942, p. 10.
- 35.Reuben Ainsztein, *Jewish Resistance in Nazi-Occupied Eastern Europe*, Paul Elek, London 1974, p. 704.
- 36.*The Black Book. The Nazi Crime Against the Jewish People*, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New

- York 1946, p. 324.
37. Aba Gefen, *Ein funke Hoffnung. Ein Holocaust-Tagebuch*, Bleicher Verlag, Gerlingen 1987, p. 215.
38. *Latvija pod igom natsizma. Sbornik arkhivnykh dokumentov*, Evropa, Moscow 2006, pp. 50-51.
39. Bernhard Press, *The Murder of the Jews in Latvia 1941-1945*, Northwestern University Press, Evanston (IL) 2000, p. 159.
40. For Hungarian Jews in Latvia cf. §2.2.3.
41. Anita Kugler, Scherwitz. *Der jüdische SS-Offizier*, Kiepenheuer & Witsch, Cologne 2004, p. 617.
42. Ibid., p. 371.
43. Monatsbericht der Arbeitsverwaltung des Gebietskommissariats für April 1943 an den Generalkommissariat Lettland, LVA 69/2/74, sheet 49; quoted in Anita Kugler, Scherwitz. *Der jüdische SS-Offizier*, op.cit., p. 326.
44. Avraham Tory, *Surviving the Holocaust. The Kovno Ghetto Diary*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge (MA)/London 1990, p. 69, 148, 275-278.
45. Ibid., p. 209.
46. "Lettische Partisanen befreien 600 Juden", *Aufbau*, 25 August 1944, p. 3.
47. Kalman Linkimer, Nineteen months in a cellar: How 11 Jews eluded Hitler's henchmen, Jewish Community of Riga/Latvian Jewish Museum, Riga 2008, p. 68.
48. Lerner states in his interview with Lanzmann that the leader of the Sobibór uprising, Alexander Pechersky, was already in the camp when he arrived. The transport with Pechersky in turn departed from Minsk on 18 September 1943.
49. Miriam Novitch, *Sobibor. Martyrdom and Revolt*, Holocaust Library, New York 1980, p. 112.
50. At the end of the text Lerner states that "today I am an officer in the Israeli police" (ibid., p. 113). Lerner began working for the Israeli police in 1951; cf. Jules Schelvis, *Sobibór. A History of a Nazi Death Camp*, Berg Publishers, Oxford/New York 2007, p. 236. Novitch's book was originally published in French in 1978.
51. Miriam Novitch, *Sobibor. Martyrdom and Revolt*, op.cit., p. 111
52. Claude Lanzmann, *Sobibor*. 14 octobre 1943, 16 heures, Cahiers du Cinéma/récit, Paris 2001.
53. Transcript of the Shoah Interview with Yehuda Lerner, p. 1. Online:
http://resources.ushmm.org/intermedia/film_video/spielberg_archive/transcript/RG60_5030/91645B27-8317-421E-A32C-50450DC5BDC4.pdf
54. Ibid., p. 2.
55. Ibid., p. 3.
56. Christian Gerlach, *Kalkulierte Morde*, op.cit., p. 762, note 1421.
57. Ibid., pp. 762-763.
58. Krystyna Marczevska, Władysław Wazniewski, "Treblinka w świetle akt Delegatury Rządu RP na Kraji", in: *Biuletyn Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Hitlerowskich w Polsce*, Vol. XIX, Warsaw 1968, p. 137.
59. Raul Hilberg, Stanisław Staron, Josef Kermisz (eds.), *The Diary of Adam Czerniakow*, Stein & Day, New York 1979, pp. 339-340.

- 60.Ibid., p. 340.
- 61.Ibid., p. 341.
- 62.Ibid.
- 63.Ibid., p. 343.
- 64.Ibid., p. 344.
- 65.Ibid., p. 347.
- 66.Ibid., p. 358.
- 67.Ibid., p. 381.
- 68.Needless to say the young Jews deported to Treblinka I may also have been sent to the east after first having passed through delousing at Treblinka II.
- 69.Yisrael Gutman, *The Jews of Warsaw, 1939-1943: ghetto, underground, revolt*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington/Indianapolis 1989, p. 214, 448 note 34.
- 70.Christian Gerlach, *Kalkulierte Morde*, op.cit., p. 763, note 1424.
- 71.Jüdisches Leben in Mönchengladbach, http://www.cjz-moenchengladbach.de/body_in_m_gladbach.html
- 72.Andrej Angrick, Peter Klein, *The 'Final Solution' in Riga: Exploitation and Annihilation*, Berghahn Books, New York/Oxford 2009, p. 203.
- 73.Inge Stolten, *Das alltägliche Exil. Leben zwischen Hakenkreuz und Währungsreform*, J.H.W. Dietz, Berlin/Bonn 1982, p. 73
- 74.Ibid., p. 83.
- 75.Joshua Rubenstein, Ilya Altman, *The Unknown Black Book: the Holocaust in the German-Occupied Soviet Territories*, Indiana University Press/USHMM, Bloomington & Indianapolis 2008, p. 257.
- 76.A. Tory, *Surviving the Holocaust*, op.cit., p. 111.
- 77.Ibid., p. 116.
- 78.Ibid., p. 117.
- 79.Ibid., pp. 117-118.
- 80.Entry for 14 June 1943; Ibid., p. 389.
- 81.Ibid., p. 119.
- 82.Ibid., p. 407.
- 83.Online:
http://www.mapywig.org/m/German_maps/German_WIG/Gb_324_Koschedoren_1944.jpg
- 84.Avraham Tory, *Surviving the Holocaust*, op.cit., p. 159.
- 85.http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY_HON_Welcome
- 86.http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal!/ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_S5?New_WCM_Context=http://namescm.yadvashem.org/wps/wcm/connect/Yad+Vashem/Hall+Of+Names/Left+Links/en/3HON_FAQs
- 87.The Jews of Klodawa were reportedly deported to Chełmno in early January 1942; cf. <http://www.iajgsjewishcemeteryproject.org/poland/klodawa.html>
- 88.The form filled in by Zelda's sister, Paula Syzling Kempinski, a resident of Freehold, New Jersey, states that Zelda was gassed in Chełmno in December 1940. This "death camp",

- however, did not open until December 1941. Zelda Zysling's supposed death date should thus rather be December 1941, aged 15.
89. Also on this form Paula Syzling Kempinski gives the erroneous date December 1940.
 90. Bradley F. Smith, Agnes F. Peterson (eds.), *Heinrich Himmler. Geheimreden 1933 bis 1945 und andere Ansprachen*, Propyläen Verlag, Frankfurt/Main 1974, p. 200.
 91. Martin Weinmann (ed.), *Das nationalsozialistische Lagersystem (CCP)*, Zweitausendeins, Frankfurt am Main 1990.
 92. Christoph Dieckmann, "Das Ghetto und das Konzentrationslager in Kaunas 1941-1944", in: Ulrich Herbert, Karin Orth, Christoph Dieckmann (eds.), *Die nationalsozialistischen Konzentrationslager: Entwicklung und Struktur*, Wallstein Verlag, Göttingen 1998, p. 467, note 69.
 93. According to the editor of the Kruk diary, a report on Biała Waka dating from 18 August 1942 is found in the YIVO Archive, Sutzkever Collection, no. 250.
 94. *The Tragedy of Lithuania 1941-1944*, Alex Yakovlev, Yaroslav 2008, pp. 215-216.
 95. *Ibid.*, pp. 104-106, 159.
 96. Christoph Dieckmann, "Das Ghetto und das Konzentrationslager in Kaunas 1941-1944", *op.cit.*, pp. 469-470, note 103.
 97. *Ibid.*, p. 467, note 69.
 98. *Ibid.*, p. 470, note 109. Harry Gordon, *The Shadow of Death. The Holocaust in Lithuania*, University Press of Kentucky, Lexington 1992, p. 135.
 99. *Ibid.*, p. 136.
 100. Reska Weiss, *Journey through Hell*, Valentine Mitchell, London 1961, p. 81.
 101. *Ibid.*, p. 95.
 102. H. Gordon, *The Shadow of Death*, *op.cit.*, p. 119.
 103. Cf. Christoph Dieckmann, "Der Krieg und die Ermordung der litauischen Juden", in: Ulrich Herbert (ed.), *Nationalsozialistische Vernichtungspolitik 1939-1945. Neue Forschungen und Kontroversen*, Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag, Frankfurt am Main 1998, p. 293.
 104. H. Kruk, *The Last Days of the Jerusalem of Lithuania*, *op.cit.*, pp. 327-328.
 105. *Contemporary Jewish Record*, vol. 5, no. 2 (April 1942), p. 190.
 106. Cf. <http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/rumsiskes/>
 107. Wolfgang Benz, Barbara Distel (eds.), *Der Ort des Terrors: Geschichte der nationalsozialistischen Konzentrationslager*, vol. 8, C.H. Beck, Munich 2008, p. 58, note 74.
 108. A. Angrick, P. Klein, *The 'Final Solution' in Riga*, *op.cit.*, p. 200.
 109. *Ibid.*, p. 235.
 110. *Ibid.*, pp. 235-236.
 111. *Ibid.*, pp. 238-239.
 112. *Ibid.*, p. 239.
 113. Gunita Nagle, "Sapiga patiesība", online: <http://vip.latnet.lv/LPRA/salaspils.htm>
 114. Andrew Ezergailis, Harold Otto, Gvido Augusts, *Nazi/Soviet Disinformation About the Holocaust in Nazi-Occupied Latvia*, Latvijas 50 Gadu Okupācijas Muzeja Fonds, Riga 2005, p. 95.

115. *Judisk Krönika*, vol. 14, no. 2 (February 1945), p. 27.
116. *Contemporary Jewish Record*, vol. 6, no. 1 (February 1943), p. 67.
117. The Einlieferungsbuch of the Stutthof camp has entries for 13 Austrian and 1,125 Reich German Jews (the vast majority female) who had arrived from Riga or Kovno in the summer and autumn of 1944. Unpublished survey compiled by Carlo Mattogno.
118. *Ibid.*, p. 115.
119. A. Angrick, P. Klein, *The 'Final Solution' in Riga*, op.cit., p. 243.
120. Karlis Kangeris, Uldis Neiburgs, Rudite Viksne, "Salaspils nometne: vestures avoti un historiografiskais materials" (The Salaspils Camp: Historical Sources and Historiographic Material), in: *Okupācijas Rezīmi Baltijas Valstīs 1940-1991, Latvijas Vēsturnieku Komisijas Raksti*, 25 sešums, Latvijas vēstures institūta apgads, Rīga 2009, p. 201, 204.
121. Bernhard Press, *The Murder of the Jews in Latvia 1941-1945*, op.cit., pp. 159-160.
122. "Das Ende der Balkan-Juden", *Die Zeitung* (London), 1 January 1943, p. 2.
123. R. Ainsztein, *Jewish Resistance in Nazi-Occupied Eastern Europe*, op.cit., p. 708.
124. Margers Vestermanis, "Haftstätten und Todeslager im okkupierten Lettland", in: U. Herbert, K. Orth, C. Dieckmann (eds.), *Die nationalsozialistischen Konzentrationslager*, op.cit., p. 487.
125. http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_2KE?last_name=Grafman&first_name=Abraham&location=Warsaw&next_form=results
126. Margers Vestermanis, "Haftstätten und Todeslager im okkupierten Lettland", op.cit., p. 488. Vestermanis gives as his source LVA, P-132/26/13, Bl. 197.
127. M. Weinmann, *Das nationalsozialistische Lagersystem*, op.cit., p. 661.
128. H. Krausnick, H.-H. Wilhelm, *Die Truppe des Weltanschauungskrieges*, Deutsche Verlagsanstalt, Munich 1981, p. 612.
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132. Elisabeth Kraus, Die Familie Mosse. *Deutsch-jüdisches Bürgertum im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert*, C.H. Beck, Munich 1999, p. 581.
133. NARA A3355, Reel 1, as summarized online:
<http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/capturedGermanRecords.html>
134. Raul Hilberg, "Auschwitz and the Final Solution" in: Y. Gutman, M. Berenbaum (eds.), *Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death Camp*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis 1994, p. 91, note 29.
135. Compilation in the indictment of Berlin Gestapo officials, February 22, 1969, 1 Js 9/65, Leo Baeck Institute microfilm 239.
136. Danuta Czech, *Kalendarium der Ereignisse im Konzentrationslager Auschwitz-Birkenau 1939-1945*, Rowohlt, Reinbek 1989, p. 382.
137. Jack Ratz, *Endless Miracles*, Shengold Publishers, New York 1998, pp. 50-51.

- 138.B. Brodovsky, "Children's Blood Factory", *Soviet Russia Today*, April 1945, p. 23.
- 139.Ibid., p. 23, 32.
- 140.K. Kangeris, U. Neiburgs, R. Viksne, "Salaspils nometne: vestures avoti un historiografiskais materials", op.cit., pp. 206-208.
- 141.Karlis Sausnitis (ed.), *V Salaspilsskom lagere smerti*, Perevod, Riga 1964.
- 142.Ibid., p. 114.
- 143.Ibid., p. 126, 128, 152.
- 144.Christian Gerlach, *Kalkulierte Morde*, op.cit., p. 761.
- 145.Ibid., note 1414.
- 146.Ibid., note 1413.
- 147.Ibid.
- 148.M. Botvinnik, *Pamjatniki genocida evreev Belarusi*, op.cit., p. 13.
- 149.Quoted in Yisrael Gutman, *The Jews of Warsaw*, op.cit., p. 219.
- 150.Mary Berg, *Warsaw Ghetto. A Diary*, L.B. Fischer, New York 1945, p. 175.
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- 154.Abraham Lewin, *A Cup of Tears. A Diary of the Warsaw Ghetto*, Basil Blackwell, Oxford 1988, pp. 271-272, note 168.
- 155.Yisrael Gutman, *The Jews of Warsaw*, op.cit., p. 220.
- 156.Ibid., pp. 220-221.
- 157.Ibid., p. 147.
- 158."Die JTA meldet", *Aufbau*, 26 June 1942, p. 3.
- 159.Quoted in ibid., p. 219.
- 160.Abraham Lewin, *A Cup of Tears*, op.cit., p. 143. Previously, on 26 July 1942, Lewin made the lapidary note "'Good news' from Brześć", likely referring to another letter; ibid., p. 138.
- 161.Cf. Y. Arad, *Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka*, op.cit., p. 133.
- 162.Ibid., p. 51.
- 163.Ibid., p. 386.
- 164.*Contemporary Jewish Record*, vol. 5, no. 3 (June 1942), p. 310.
- 165.Y. Arad, *Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka*, op.cit., p. 383, 387.
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- 167.Krakow Ghetto, <http://www.deathcamps.org/occupation/krakow%20ghetto.html>
- 168.Serge Klarsfeld, *Memorial to the Jews Deported From France 1942-1944*, Beate Klarsfeld Foundation, New York 1987, p. xxvi, 176.
- 169.Ibid., p. xx.
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172. *JTA Daily News Bulletin*, vol. 10, no. 170 (23 July 1943), pp. 1-2.
173. "Rumäniska judar hem från fronten", *Dagens Nyheter*, 2 January 1944, p. 1.
174. http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejud_0002_0003_0_02804.html
175. *Aufbau*, 6 November 1942, p. 16.
176. S. Klarsfeld, *Memorial to the Jews Deported From France 1942-1944*, op.cit., pp. xxvi-xxvii, 312, 319.
177. Ibid., p. 312.
178. Ibid., p. xxxvi.
179. http://www.dutchjewry.org/inmemoriam/InMemoriamN_search.asp
180. Cf. <http://www.yivo.org/uploads/files/Lithuania.htm>
181. A. Tory, *Surviving the Holocaust*, op.cit., p. 6.
182. *Contemporary Jewish Record*, vol. 5, no. 5 (October 1942), p. 530.
183. Jeanette Wolf, *Mit Bibel und Bebel (Gedenkbuch)*, Verlag Neue Gesellschaft, Bonn 1980, p. 40.
184. A. Tory, *Surviving the Holocaust*, op.cit., p. 126.
185. *Contemporary Jewish Record*, vol. 5, no. 6 (December 1942), pp. 630-631.
186. *Contemporary Jewish Record*, vol. 6, no. 3 (June 1943), p. 300.
187. Andreas Knipping, Reinhard Schulz, *Reichsbahn hinter der Ostfront 1941-1944*, Transpress Verlag, Stuttgart 1999, p. 220.
188. *Onafhankelijk België*, no. 42 (15 October 1942), p. 5.

Evidence for the Presence of “Gassed” Jews in the Occupied Eastern Territories, Part 3

Thomas Kues

The following article is a continuation of Thomas Kues's [Evidence for the Presence of "Gassed" Jews in the Occupied Eastern Territories, Part 2](#). Thomas Kues's analysis takes up the revisionist proposal that Jews sent to the "extermination camps" and allegedly gassed there were in fact deloused and then sent away, the vast majority of them to the occupied eastern territories. The camps therefore actually functioned as transit camps. The transit camp hypothesis is in perfect harmony with documented National Socialist Jewish policy as expressed in official and internal reports, documents on the Jewish transports, and even in classified communications between leading SS members.

4. Information Furnished by Mainstream Historians

4.1. Possible Western Jews among Soviet Partisans

In his book *The Second Babylonian Captivity*, Steffen Werner presents in support of his theory that the “gassed” Jews were resettled in a part of Belarus the following extract from a book on the Soviet partisan movement published in East Germany in 1976:

“Within the brotherhood of the Belorussian partisans, Czechs and Slovaks, Frenchmen and Yugoslavs, Greeks and Dutchmen, Spaniards and Austrians, Germans and members of other nations fought courageously against fascism. The Communist Party and the Soviet government attached great importance to the heroic fight of these true internationalists. For their antifascist fight alongside the partisan units of Belorussia and for the heroic deeds they accomplished, orders and medals of the USSR were conferred i.a. to 703 Poles, 188 Slovaks, 32 Czechs, 36 Greeks, 25 Germans, 24 Spaniards and 14 Frenchmen.”¹

The presence of Polish nationals in Belarus, Jewish or non-Jewish, could be explained by the territorial history of Belarus as well as the large number of Polish Jews who had escaped there in 1939. While it is not out of the question that partisan fighters from Czechoslovakia could have covered the distance to Belarus, it seems rather unlikely. The presence of fighters from neutral Spain is puzzling. The most likely explanation seems to be that they were antifascists who had fled to the Soviet Union after the victory of Franco. According to a news notice in the German Riga newspaper *Deutsche Zeitung im Ostland* from 1941 there were 3,000 Spanish nationals fighting in the Red Army.² The German nationals could have been German Jews deported to Minsk in 1941-1942 who had escaped from the ghetto, but also in some cases deserted German Wehrmacht soldiers. As for the Dutchmen, Frenchmen, Yugoslavs, it is extremely unlikely that any *Waffen-SS* soldiers from those nations, who may have served in Belarus, ever deserted to the partisans, and even less likely that any of them would have been accepted by the partisans (generally speaking those groups did not take prisoners).

Were some of these partisans originally Western European settlers recruited by the Germans? In a final report from the *Wirtschaftsstab Ost* we learn that a total of 608 Dutch farmers, agronomists, gardeners,

fishermen and “female laborers” were settled in *Reichskommissariat Ostland* and the military zone “Wi” from 1942 onward. A further 365 Dutch “pioneer” farmers were employed in the Ukraine between October 1942 and August 1943, chiefly in the districts of Kiev and Shitomir. Similar employment was planned for French, Belgian and even Norwegian farmers but was never carried through; at most some agricultural work was entrusted to Belgian and French companies.³ The settlers could thus hypothetically account only for the Dutch partisans. On the other hand we know from the same German economic report that the settlers were often attacked by partisans and that 33 (i.e. some 5%) of the *Ostland* Dutchmen as well as 9 of the settlers in the Ukraine were killed by them; a further 297 of the former group returned to the Netherlands long before the German retreat from Belarus and the Baltic states.⁴ Considering these figures it seems highly unlikely that more than a rare renegade from this group would have joined the Soviet partisan movement.

A much more likely explanation is that we are dealing with Jews who had been deported east from these countries via the “extermination camps” and later escaped from German camps or ghettos. Also in the case of the Greek nationals, it seems likely that we are dealing with deported Jews.

In another East German publication, a voluminous documentation on the partisan movement during World War II, written by the same Heinz Kühnrich as edited the previously quoted volume, we find the following information:

“On the territory of Belarus 413 Czechs and Slovaks and 211 Yugoslavs fought in the partisan divisions, in the Ukraine there were 1,848 Poles, 418 Czechs and Slovaks, 61 Yugoslavs. At the beginning of 1944, 2,000 Polish citizens fought in the Byelorussian partisan movement. In April 1944 there were more than 5,000 Poles operating on Soviet territory.” ⁵

The information we find in the note that Kühnrich provides for this passage is still more interesting:

“In more recent research, M.I. Semiryaga presents partially diverging, partially more concrete numbers. According to his investigations, 1,216 foreigners fought in the Byelorussian partisan movement, whereof 413 Czechs and Slovaks (39 fallen), 275 Poles (22), 195 Yugoslavs (2), 69 Hungarians, 61 Frenchmen (4), 31 Belgians (6), 16 Dutchmen, 10 Romanians (9), 6 Italians (1), 3 Spaniards, 2 Bulgarians (1). In the Ukrainian partisan movement there were more than 2,500 foreigners: 1,848 Poles, 418 Czechs and Slovaks, 47 Hungarians, 61 Yugoslavs, 27 Greeks, 18 Frenchmen, 11 Romanians, 6 Bulgarians, 4 Spaniards and others.” ⁶

Thus there were in total 79 French, 31 Belgian and 16 Dutch nationals among the partisans of Belarus and the Ukraine – or at least in the partisan units surveyed (and one could easily suspect that the Soviet source regarded only pro-Soviet or at least Communist-oriented groups as “partisans”). For a likely origin of the Hungarian nationals, see §3.3.3. Needless to say, it would require access to Semiryaga’s source material – provided that he actually had personal data on the people counted in the above survey – to ascertain whether these individuals were deported Western Jews or not.

4.2. Information on deportations of Polish Jews to Belarus furnished by C. Gerlach

In previous articles of this series I discussed the information provided by German Holocaust historian

Christian Gerlach on testimonial evidence confirming the presence of French and Dutch Jews in Minsk. Here I will scrutinize what Gerlach has to say about the deportation of Polish Jews to Belarus. I give here first this passage from Gerlach's book *in extenso* with enumerated and bracketed notes inserted following each statement I have chosen to comment on.

“Most extensive were probably the deportations of Polish Jews to Belarus. Also in this case it was the question of labor forces. The offices and enterprises of the SS and Police in the so-called “*Rußland-Mitte*”, roughly corresponding to the eastern [military administered] part of Belarus, were to be concentrated in two cities: Mogilev and Bobruisk. In Mogilev there existed the already described forced labor camp of the HSSPF, in Bobruisk there was in early 1942 a need for manpower in connection with the construction of a large base planned for the *Waffen-SS*. The head of the supply commander's office of the *Waffen-SS* and Police of *Rußland-Mitte*, *SS-Standartenführer* Georg Martin, got the idea to establish a “KL” (concentration camp) and have Jews sent to it from Warsaw.[i] On the intervention of the RSHA 960 Jewish men and youths, part of them summoned by an appeal, part of them arrested during razzias in the Warsaw Ghetto, were then transported to Bobruisk on 30 May 1942.[ii] On 28 July a further train with Warsaw Jews reached Bobruisk; part of the Jews were sent on to Smolensk.[iii] In Bobruisk the Jews also had to perform work for units of the *Wehrmacht*. [iv] Of the approximately 1,500 deportees only 91 male Jews were involved in the retreat to Lublin in September 1943, since all the others had fallen victims to the constant Selections, the toil, the starvation and the terrible maltreatment. Moreover there were possibly one or more transports whose passengers were shot immediately at arrival.[v] Among these transports were possibly at least one transport with German Jews.[vi] Of interest in this context are some witness statements, according to which in 1942-43 larger mass shootings of Jews took place in or near Bobruisk with a victim figure in the range of 12,000 to 15,000, which, however, the author has not been able to verify.[vii] This goes to show to how large an extent these events remain unknown to us still today.

Polish Jews were brought by train also to Minsk. On 31 July 1942 a train arrived with 1,000 Warsaw Jews destined to work for the *Luftwaffe* in the Minsk area. Kube threatened to immediately exterminate all further transports arriving without pre-authorization. It is unclear, however, if this happened.[viii] Many Polish Jews were de facto kept prisoners at Trostinez in October 1942, apparently supervised by *Organisation Todt*; some 250 of these were transferred to the *SS-Bauleitung* in Smolensk.[ix] It is reported that Polish Jews were present also in the Minsk Ghetto.[x] It is not clear how many trains with Polish Jews reached Minsk.”⁷

Below my notes and comments:

i) The source provided by Gerlach is a letter from the supply headquarters (*Nachschubskommandantur*) of the *Waffen SS* and Police of *Rußland-Mitte* to the *SS-Führungshauptamt* dated 27 March 1942, as well as follow-up letters from 7 and 11 April that same year.⁸ Here we have to ask ourselves: Why did Martin specifically request the deportation of Warsaw Jews to Bobruisk? Why not use Belarus Jews as labor, thus eliminating the need for long railway transportations? From an exterminationist viewpoint this seems decidedly odd, but not from a revisionist: As the Warsaw Jews were going to be deported to the Occupied East later that year, it would make sense for Martin to act in advance and ensure that he got the skilled Jews he needed before someone else did. In that case his initiative may have been

triggered by the commencement of deportations from the *Generalgouvernement* (via Belżec) ten days prior to the writing of the original letter.[9](#)

ii) The source given for this statement is the diary of Adam Czerniaków, the head of the Warsaw Jewish Council (already mentioned in this article series). The exact route of this transport appears to be unknown.

iii) The only source Gerlach gives here is the testimony of Yehuda Lerner. This witness and the transport in question has already been discussed by me in §3.3.16.

iv) The sources here consist of a testimony from a certain Walther Hansen, a former member of the *Kommandeur der Osttruppen* who was attached to the *Kosaken-Abteilung* 600 in Mogilev (IfZ, Zs 405/III, p. 31) and the recollections of a “covert Jew” named Schlomo Spira.

v) It would indeed appear that the transports in May and July 1942 were not the only convoys of Polish Jews to reach Bobruisk. In 1993 the American-Jewish writer Joseph J. Preil interviewed Jack Spiegel, born in Łódź in 1918. According to Preil's summary of the interview, Spiegel was deported in October 1942 from Warsaw to Minsk, and from there sent on to Bobruisk, where he was detained in a camp until March 1944:

“He remembers a ‘horrible welcome.’ The officer said, ‘If you work, all will be fine. If not...’ He took a pistol and killed a person. After two months in Bobruisk, only one hundred of the three hundred men who had been in his bunk remained alive. The others were regularly murdered, especially on Sundays. [...]. In that camp, only ninety-one people were left alive from the original three thousand.

After Bobruisk, JS moved quickly from camp to camp: ‘Minsk - a very short stay; Majdanek - one week; Bedzin - April until November or December 1944; Mielec - two weeks; Wieliczka - two weeks.’ [...]. JS was then moved from Poland to Germany: ‘Flossenbürg - two weeks; Hersbruck - summer 1944 until March 1945; Dachau - until liberated by Americans on April 29, 1945.’”[10](#)

By October 1942 the great evacuation of the Warsaw Ghetto had ceased. However, the last Jewish transport from Warsaw in 1942 departed on 21 September (carrying 2,196 Jews). According to mainstream historians these Jews were gassed at Treblinka. Could it be that Jack Spiegel was part of the 21 September 1942 convoy but erroneously remembered the departure as having taken place in October? It seems very unlikely, on the other hand, that Spiegel would have erroneously recalled a May or July transport as having taken place in October.

One should recall here that Jewish resistance leaders admonished the Jews of the Warsaw ghetto to not believe in letters from the deportees, letters according to which the writers were detained “in labor camps near Minsk or Bobruisk”.[11](#)

Yitzhak Arad gives a considerably higher estimate for the number of Warsaw Jews deported to Bobruisk:

“In the course of the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto, 3,000-4,000 of its residents were

moved in the summer of 1942 to the Forest Camp (*Waldlager*) in the woods near the city of Bobruysk. This camp served as an SS supply base. The Jews traveled by train from Warsaw to the Bobruysk railway station, and from there were driven in trucks to the *Waldlager*. In the camp itself these Jews were separated and kept in an area surrounded by barbed wire, and put to work under inhuman conditions. Executions in the camp began in the early fall of 1943, and by the end of summer-early fall of 1943, most of the Jewish inmates of the *Waldlager* had already been shot. Ditches dug along the Bobruysk-Minsk railway line served as the execution site.”[12](#)

Curiously, in the German edition of the *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust* the camp in Bobruisk is described as “a transit camp for Jews from the West”.[13](#)

vi) For this information Gerlach lists two witnesses: a testimony[14](#) from an “H.S.” who claimed to have participated in the killing of a transport of 1,500 Jews from Germany, and the statement[15](#) of “H.K.”, who testified to having had a conversation in the Bobruisk labor camp with a Jew from Mönchengladbach. As already noted (3.3.16) the Jews from Mönchengladbach were deported to Auschwitz, Riga, Łódź and Theresienstadt. From the latter two locations German Jews were sent to Chełmno, Auschwitz, and Treblinka.

vii) The sources for this consist of references to three German court witnesses,[16](#) as well as a letter and a court testimony left by a certain Reinhold Grabow, an official of the economic administration, the latter being partially reproduced in a well-known collection of testimonies and documents.[17](#) In the reproduced passage the location is indeed Bobruisk or its vicinity, but the timeframe specified by Grabow is not “1942-43” but specifically a period of some days in April or May 1942, and the nationality of the Jewish victims is not mentioned. According to the official version of events all Jews in Bobruisk and its vicinity had been exterminated by November 1941;[18](#) there thus should have been no Jewish massacres for Grabow to witness. Now we may ask ourselves: If the massacre described really did take place, and if the Jews that were murdered had been brought to Bobruisk from Poland, why had not the Germans killed these Jews on-site in Poland? Moreover: Why kill all these Jews if there was “a need for manpower” in the Bobruisk area during the same period (as mentioned by Gerlach)? While interesting as an anomaly, Grabow’s testimony clearly has little to say about deportations from Poland to Belarus. What is important here is not Grabow’s statement itself, but Gerlach’s comment on it, which implies that this major expert on the fate of the Jews of Belarus believes it fully possible that tens of thousands of Polish Jews were deported to the area of Bobruisk in 1942-1943 – a notion that is clearly irreconcilable with orthodox holocaust historiography. Gerlach’s speculation is no doubt informed by the fact that Bobruisk frequently appears in reports and supposedly forged letters as a destination of Jews evacuated from Warsaw in 1942 (cf. §3.3.16, 3.6.).

viii) The transport of 1,000 Polish Jews arriving in Minsk on 31 July 1942 – one week after the opening of the Treblinka “death camp” and the beginning of the great evacuation of the Warsaw Ghetto – has already been discussed by Jürgen Graf and Carlo Mattogno.[19](#)

In a telegram sent 31 July 1942 the *Generalkommissar* for Weissruthenien, Wilhelm Kube wrote to his superior, the *Reichskommissar* for the Ostland, Heinrich Lohse, about the arrival of 1,000 Warsaw

Jews. These Jews had been sent to the Minsk military airport without himself or the “relevant leader of the SS and Police” being informed in advance, Kube protested, maintaining that the Jews could cause outbreaks of epidemics and might also contribute to partisan activity.²⁰ On 5 August Lohse replied, stating that “the practical realization of the solution of the Jewish problem is exclusively a matter for the police”, that protests were thus futile, and that it was Kube’s responsibility to see to that the herding together (*Zusammenballung*) of Jews did not create a threat of epidemics.²¹

While it cannot be proven at this point that the convoy in question passed through Treblinka the documented fact that it took place proves beyond any doubt that Warsaw Jews who were deported during the period of operation of the Treblinka “death camp” ended up to the east of it, across the Bug River.

That Kube in his 31 July 1942 telegram protested against “further independent import of Jews” (*weiterer selbständiger Judeneinfuhr*) implies the implementation of other transports in cooperation with his authority, and that the arrival of further transports might be acceptable provided that he be notified beforehand. Considering the date of this transport it most likely departed from Warsaw during the first week of the ghetto evacuation. Could it be that this was the first of a series of transports of Warsaw Jews to Minsk, but that information concerning it had not yet reached Kube by the end of July? One should recall here that the first commandant of the Treblinka “extermination camp”, Dr. Irmfried Eberl, was reportedly sacked due to incompetence.

That the deportation of Jews to the occupied eastern territories was to continue regardless of the protests of local satraps is clear also from another incident. In his footnote to the discussed passage Gerlach writes that “A further complaint of Kube’s regarding a transport of 400 Polish Jews to Baranovichi depended on false information.” The document referred to, however, does not concern Polish Jews, but Reich Jews. On 11 August 1942 the *Generalkommissar* of Weissruthenien again wrote to the *Reichskommissar* of the Ostland, stating that

“The *Gebietskommissar* of Baranowitsche has reported to me that the *OT-Gruppe Nürnberg*, Construction Office Baranowitsche, has been allotted 400 Jews from the Reich for labor by their superior administrative office on the instruction of assistant secretary of state [*Ministerialdirektor*] Schönlebe.

The *Gebietskommissar* of Baranowitsche correctly points out that he has declined the reception of Jews to Baranowitsche because of the manifest reason that the possibility of accommodation is lacking but also due to the need for a general decrease of the Jewish labor force in Baranowitsche.

I fully share the viewpoint of the *Gebietskommissar* and further refer to the fact that there exists no work-related need for the reception of Reich German Jews into Weissruthenien; to the contrary, an increase of Jewry in Weissruthenien would give rise to serious political concerns. Only a minute number of the Reich German Jews are skilled workers, and experience moreover shows that their capacity for labor is very small. It is intolerable that individual higher administrative offices [*einzelne höhere Dienststellen*] are able to bring Jews from the Reich into specific parts [*einzelnen Gebieten*] of Weissruthenien without making advance inquiries to me.

I therefore ask that appropriate measures are taken to inhibit on principle further Jewish transports from the Reich and further for an instruction that such transports are not to be let into my *Generalbezirk*.”²²

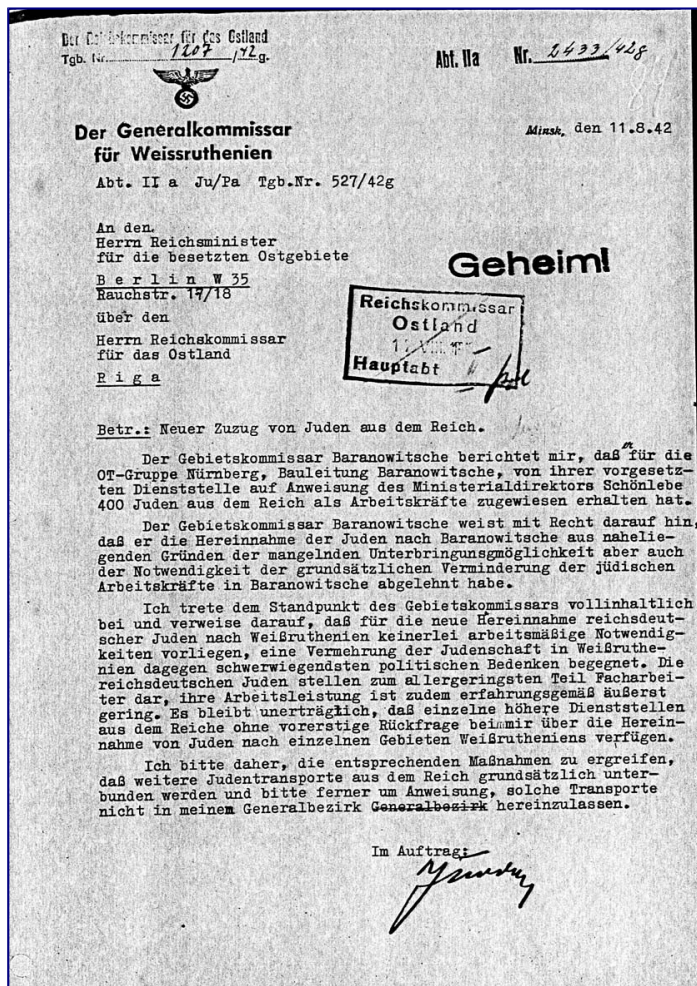


Illustration 1: The 11 August 1942 letter from the Generalkommissar of Weissruthenien to the Reichskommissar for the Ostland.

After erring about the nationality of the Jews in question Gerlach continues his footnote by giving a reference to a letter of apology from Kube to Lohse dated 25 August,²³ which supposedly makes it clear that the news of the transport of the 400 Jews was all a misunderstanding. The author has not been able to review this document and can therefore not make any statement regarding its content. However, on 24 August 1942 the *Reichskommissar* wrote a letter,²⁴ in which he stated that he would allow the Jewish transports carried out on instruction of the *Reichsführer SS* and the *Sicherheitshauptamt* without further protests unless contrary orders were received, despite Kube's protests that the arrival of "further Jewish transports from the Reich to Weissruthenien" would "significantly increase the partisan danger", the local security police already being busy fighting partisans. On the other hand Lohse concurred with the suggestion that Jewish transports to the Ostland for the purpose of labor ("*aus Gründen des Arbeitseinsatzes*") should be "handled and decided on only by a central office" ("*nur eine Zentralstelle die Hereinnahme weiterer Juden in das Ostland bearbeiten und entscheiden darf*").

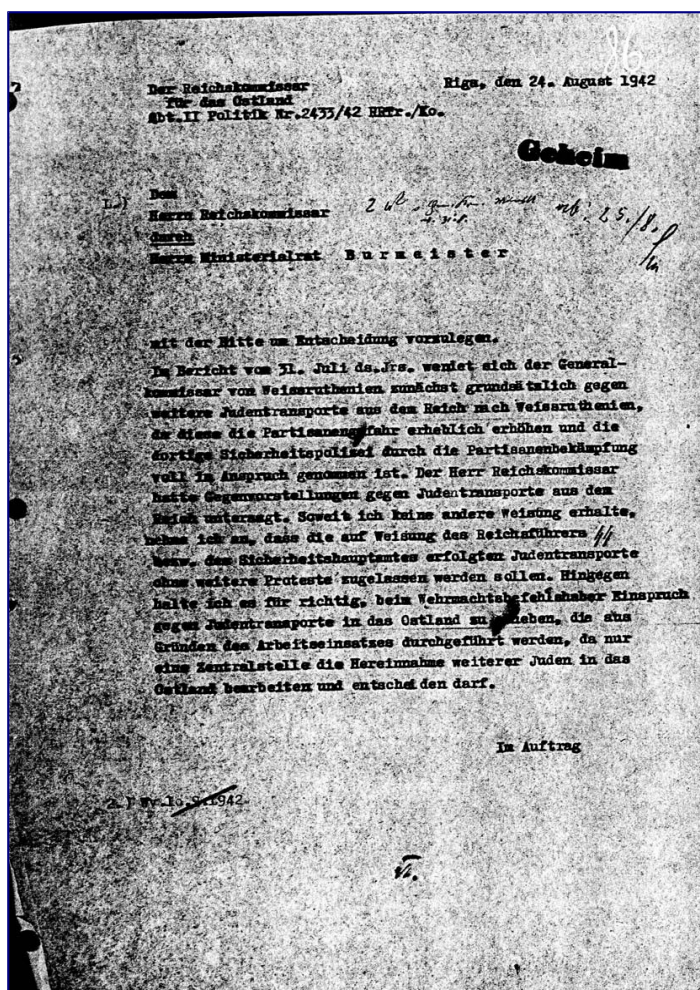


Illustration 2: Lohse's letter from 24 August.

Finally, in a classified letter dated 30 September 1942 we read that the *Reichskommissar*, i.e. Lohse had personally decided not to voice any objections “against further Jewish transports to the Ostland.” Here again it is confirmed that “This question is exclusively the responsibility of the security police” and that accordingly it was up to the Commander of the Security Police (KdS) in Weissruthenien to file objections against the arrival of transports.²⁵

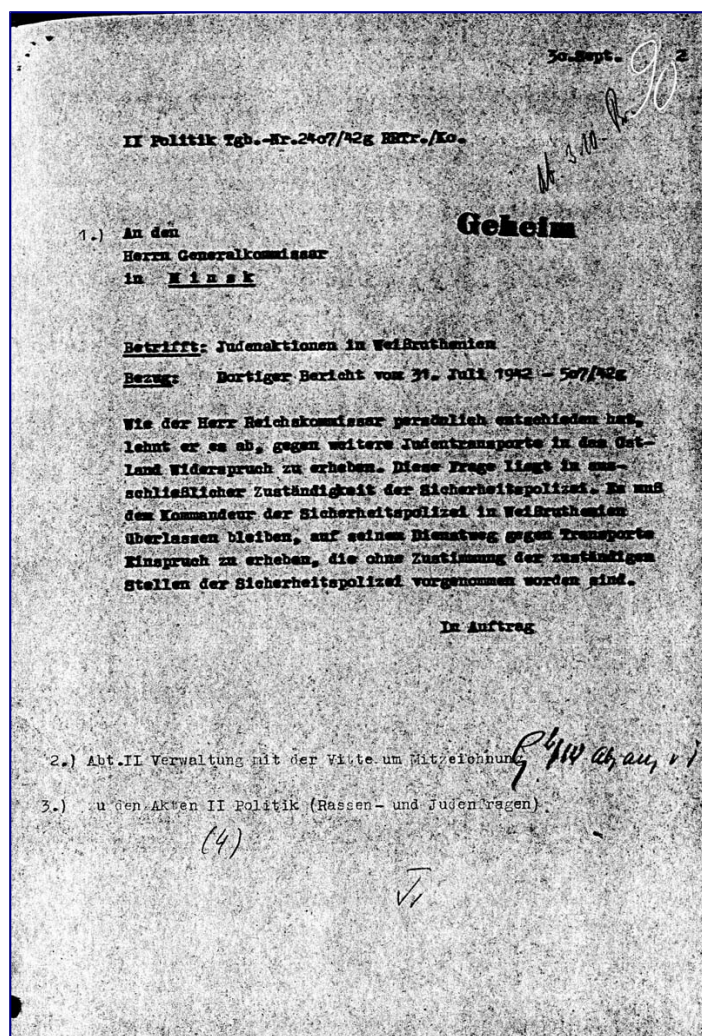


Illustration 3: Letter from 30 September 1942 on the allowance of further transports to Reichskommissariat Ostland.

Two things are especially noteworthy about the contents of the three documents quoted above. First, the orthodox and judicially sanctioned version of events has it that following March or April 1942, all Jewish transports to *Generalbezirk* Weissruthenien from the Reich and the Protectorate were exterminated immediately on arrival on the orders of Heydrich and/or Himmler.²⁶ This mass murder was allegedly carried out at the Maly Trostenets “death camp” south-east of Minsk,²⁷ or in one instance on the outskirts of Baranovichi. But if this was indeed the case, why did Kube complain about the arriving Jews comprising a danger in regards to epidemics and possible partisan activities. Wouldn’t such a complaint have been moot?

Second, it follows from the third letter that continued transports to *Reichskommissariat* Ostland were expected as late as 30 September 1942. This does not fit very well with the established version of events, according to which at the most three further transports arrived following that date (in October and November 1942).²⁸ However, as we have already seen in §3.3.14, the labor administration department of the *Gebietskommissariat* Riga emphatically recommended in April 1943 the influx of foreign Jews into the *Generalbezirk* of Latvia, which was a constituent part of the *Reichskommissariat*

Ostland.

The suggestion regarding a “central office” for the handling and decision-making *vis-à-vis* the Jewish transports to the Ostland brings up an important question, namely how the resettlement of the Jews was practically administered. From documents such as the correspondence of Ganzenmüller and Wolff²⁹ and the Reuter memo³⁰ it appears that the transports to the transit camps were carried out according to schedules, with a set number of Jews sent to the Reinhardt camps daily or weekly. Testimonial as well as archeological evidence indicates that the arrivals in these three camps underwent some form of registration.³¹ According to a 15 November 1942 report on Treblinka the deportees after their arrival at the camp were subdivided according to their professions:

“To make the Jews believe that actual classification according to trades would take place at the arrival-square in order to send occupational groups for labor, they placed small signs with the inscriptions: Tailors, Shoemakers, Carpenters, etc. It goes without saying that such segregation never took place.”³²

Then there is the documentary and testimonial evidence showing that transports of Jewish skilled workers were specifically requested by various authorities and organizations, in particular *Organisation Todt* and affiliated enterprises (e.g. Baltöl). Most likely the personnel in the transit camps and Globocnik’s Reinhardt organization were focused on the practical handling of the operation. As for the decisionmaking and overall logistics, the correspondence of Kube and Lohse suggests that it was far from ideally organized and moreover carried out with little cognizance on the part of the local civilian administrations. Hopefully future research will shed more light on this issue.

ix) This statement is based on the March 1960 interrogation of “H.W.”, a member of the SS-*Zentralbauleitung Rußland-Mitte*, the interrogation of Karl Buchner from October 1945, as well as a statement from the Minsk ghetto inmate Anna Krasnoperko and the 1962 testimony of “E.S. (Trostenets survivor)”, no doubt identical with Ernst Schlesinger,³³ who claims to have been deported from Dachau to Maly Trostenets in June 1942.³⁴ The presence of Polish Jews in Trostenets is further corroborated by the testimony of the inmate Isak Grünberg (§3.3.10.).

x) As source for this is given a reference to an early post-war testimony³⁵ from none other than the already mentioned City Commissar of Minsk, Wilhelm Janetzke, a man who certainly was informed about the Jewish population of the city. That Jews from Poland had been deported to Minsk in great numbers was apparently acknowledged as a common fact by the local population, because in an “Address of the citizens of Minsk to Stalin” published in *Pravda* in August 1944, we read the following:

“The German fascist invaders had driven 50,000 people from Minsk and the surrounding districts into the so-called ghetto; in addition, over 40,000 Jews had been brought to the Minsk ghetto from Hamburg, Warsaw and Lodz.”³⁶

The mention of Łódź besides Warsaw indicates that Minsk served as the destination for transports from not only Treblinka, but also from Chełmno. As seen below (§4.5.) Zionist authorities had been informed in spring 1942 of deportations of Jews from Łódź to Minsk.

Gerlach's comment that "this goes to show to how large an extent these events remain unknown to us still today" perfectly sums up the situation. Here we have a prominent holocaust historian who admits that tens of thousands of Polish Jews may have been sent to Minsk, Bobruisk, Mogilev and other locations in Generalbezirk Weissruthenien, and that we know little about the number and nature of the Jewish transports to these locations. In light of this, how are we to take seriously the official claim that no mass resettlement of Polish Jews to the east took place, and that documented instances of transports of Polish Jews to Minsk and elsewhere constitute singular exceptions?

4.2.2. Gerlach on Plans for Deportations to Mogilev

In a 1997 article Christian Gerlach puts forth the hypothesis that the German authorities in late 1941 were planning to open a camp in Mogilev in eastern Belarus, to where Jews from western and central Europe were to be deported. Gerlach begins his discussion of this "labor and extermination camp" by quoting a statement made by Heydrich at a 10 October 1941 conference in Prague on "Jewish questions" in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. Heydrich here states that the heads of *Einsatzgruppen* B and C, "SS-Brigadeführer Nebe and Rasch could take Jews into the camps for communist prisoners in the operational area. According to [a] statement from SS-Sturmbannführer Eichmann this is already in process [eingeleitet]." [37](#) Gerlach comments:

"For a long time no one believed that that camp existed, so Heydrich's remark seemed to make little sense. Historians have ignored his comment or interpreted it as camouflage for the 'destruction in the East.' But such a camp in fact existed, not under the control of *Einsatzgruppe* B (headquartered in Smolensk) but the Higher SS and Police Leader (HSSPF) 'Russia Center,' Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski, who had his headquarters in Mogilev. This camp had been set up shortly before Heydrich's meeting. The commander of the rear area of Army Group Center, General von Schenckendorff, informed his troops that, 'Since 29 September a labor camp for suspicious vagabond civilians (men, women, teenagers) has been set up by the Higher SS and Police Leader in Mogilev. If arrested civilians are not brought to the next POW camp, they must be taken to the labor camp. Similar camps are planned in Vitebsk and later in Smolensk.'" [38](#)

Smolensk as well as Vitebsk and Mogilev were located in the operational area, i.e. the conquered territories under military jurisdiction.

Gerlach suggests – based exclusively on testimonial evidence – that plans for the installation of a homicidal gas chamber in the Mogilev camp were hatched following Himmler's (documented) visit to Mogilev on 23-25 October 1941. He goes on to write:

"The general context suggests that Himmler's journey to Mogilev and Smolensk had something to do with plans for deportations of Jews. On October 23 he wanted to meet the Generalkommissar for so-called 'White Ruthenia,' Wilhelm Kube, and possibly intended to officially inform him on the planned transports to Minsk. At about the same time civil administration officials in Riga and Berlin were officially informed. It is not known if a meeting between Himmler and Kube took place, but in any case the *Reichsführer* met the SS and Police Leader of White Ruthenia, Carl Zenner, in Mogilev. Zenner may have given him a report on the massacre of Borissov carried out two days before by a unit of Security Police and SD from Minsk under the command of Zenner, who was not in charge of the

city. [...]. In Borissov there were rumors among the civil population ‘that the houses of the Jews which have become empty now shall be prepared for Jews from Germany, who shall also be liquidated like the Jews from Borissov earlier!’”³⁹

Gerlach next outlines a vague yet intriguing hypothesis posed by two other holocaust historians:

“Götz Aly has argued that the German authorities pursued at times a project to deport a portion of European Jewry by ship to ‘reception camps in the East’⁴⁰ because the occupied Soviet territories’ railways were overburdened. Aly also suggested that the Jews were to be brought to Mogilev on the rivers Pripet and Dnieper; he could not prove it, but reached the conclusion deductively. Richard Breitman has also considered the possibility that Himmler sent for Eichmann during a visit to Kiev on October 2 and 3, to talk to him about shipping Jews to the German-occupied part of the Soviet Union. Kiev is situated on the river Dnieper as is Mogilev. In fact, there is another hint of this plan.

On August 16, 1941, *SS-Standartenführer* Fritz Allihn was hired by the Reich Ministry of Transportation as the manager of an extensive ship construction program. As head of the ‘Staff for the construction of wooden ships,’ later under the command of the *Generalkommissar* of Volhynia and Podolia, he was commissioned to build a large number of ‘makeshift’ (*‘behelfsmäßige’*) inland wooden ships with a short life span for ‘the Dnieper-Bug system,’ the only waterway between the Reich and Ukraine. This construction program was supposed to complete an extension of the river Bug, a project that had been already started under the control of the General Inspector of Water and Energy, Albert Speer. Allihn’s main plant for the project was the ‘state shipyard’ in Pinsk, a factory with nearly 1,000 employees.”⁴¹

Gerlach goes on to mention that “on September 11, 1941, the *Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle* (VoMi) began looking for ethnic Germans in their camps who had come from the Soviet Union and were ‘inland boatmen with exact knowledge of the Russian streams and canals’”⁴² and that “Various sources emphasized how important and urgent Allihn’s mission was.”⁴³ According to Gerlach, the only “important Soviet canal” conquered by the Germans was the Dnieper-Bug canal, between Kobryn and Pinsk.⁴⁴

Aly’s source that Jews were to be sent by ships to “reception camps in the East” is a note of the chief of the “Judenreferat” at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Franz Rademacher, dated 25 October 1941, which refers to the fate of the remaining Serbian Jews.⁴⁵ As already mentioned in the first installment of this article series (§2.4.5.) these Jewish women, children and elderly were allegedly murdered in “gas vans” near the Sava River in March–May 1942. This could be a hint that they were in fact sent along this river, which joins the Danube. A possible alternative destination for these Jews could thus be Romania, and likely Transnistria. Needless to say they could have been brought by ship to Belarus, something which indicates that the German plans for deportations of Jews using waterways were *not* limited to the Dnieper-Bug canal.

The apparent plans for waterway mass deportations using barges or similar eventually came to naught, at least if we are to believe our cautiously semi-heretical German Holocaust historian:

“The ‘great’ projects did not succeed, the economic aims failed, as did plans for

deportations of Jews by ship, if they had ever existed. There was no slack in the German war economy – so there was not only a shortage of railway engines and cars but also ships. In the summer of 1942, Fritz Allihn was relieved of his position by the Reichskommissar of Ukraine, after his methods alienated other authorities. (...). By that time the partisans were able to paralyze the Bug-Dnieper almost completely anyway. By the end of March 1942 its extension was officially considered unimportant to the war effort, and the project was shelved. The Dnieper-Bug Canal remained silted up. Only a few ships ever passed this waterway on a trial basis under German rule, and even that was possible only during floods. Shipping on the Dnieper from the South was decisively hindered because the Soviets had blown up the huge dam near Dniepropetrovsk.

[...].

Any plans to transport Jews to the East by water never even came close to realization. In the autumn of 1941 time was too short, then the rivers froze over, and before they thawed out in 1942, transportation and economic authorities had already abandoned the projects to extend the Dnieper-Bug Canal. The SS apparently did not give up the idea of an extensive extermination camp in Mogilev until 1942, when the crematoria intended for Mogilev were delivered to Auschwitz. Transportation of Jews across the Black Sea and upstream to Kiev or Mogilev was practically impossible before April 1943, but by then the German retreat from the Ukraine was already under way.

[...].

Despite two testimonies on the contrary, no train with German or Polish Jews ever seems to have arrived in Mogilev. Whether the SS could have carried out major construction in this half-destroyed city remains unknown. But considering the construction of the Waffen-SS and police Supply Command in nearby Bobruisk, it should not have been impossible. In 1942 at least two transports with about 1,500 Jewish workers from Warsaw arrived in Bobruisk (only 91 were alive one year later).

Mogilev's labor camp, intended for service as an extermination center, was dissolved in September 1943 upon the partial withdrawal of Army Group Center. According to eyewitnesses, the number of prisoners may have remained as high as 4,000 or fallen to 1,000."[46](#)

The testimonies concerning the presence of "German or Polish Jews" in Mogilev which Gerlach refers to are 1) a "letter of R.S., 25 March 1959, and his interrog[ation], 5 August 1958" which reportedly speak of "a supposed execution of 300 German Jews in October 1941", and 2) a "Report of M. Nicaise, Belgian Consul in Stockholm, based on an eyewitness account of August 1944, US National Archives, Record Group 226, Plain Number File, Document 102832(NND 750140)". As for the first source, the date of the alleged execution (at least one week before the first direct transport of Reich Jews to the East) clearly speaks against its veracity. As for the second source the author has not yet been able to access it. It is worth noting, however, that according to Yitzhak Arad, 400 Jews "from Baranovich or from the General Government region" were brought to the Mogilev civilian prisoner camp (*Zivilgefangenenlager*) sometime in 1942.[47](#) Unfortunately Arad provides no source for this statement. Gerlach writes in an endnote that besides the two testimonies already mentioned, "There are other hints at the arrival of German Jews in Borissov and Bobruisk, but no proof".[48](#)

In the context of waterway transports of Jews it should be pointed out that both Treblinka and Sobibór are located less than 10 km away from the Bug River, which formed part of the 1939 Soviet-German

demarcation line. Although most likely the Jews transited east via these two camps were sent on trains, the possibility that some Jews may have been sent away on ships should not be entirely excluded. It should be recalled here that more than 100,000 Romanian Jews were shipped across the Dniestr in the period September 1941 – June 1942.

4.3. Wendy Lower on the 12 January 1942 Koch-Prützmann Memoranda

In a book from 2005, Holocaust historian Wendy Lower mentions that *Reichskommissar* Erich Koch and the SS and Police leader Hans-Adolf Prützmann in early 1942 were involved in drawing up plans for the deportation of German Jews to the Ukraine:

“Beyond Ukraine’s borders, the genocidal approach to ghettoization was also applied to Western European Jewry. At the Lodz, Riga, and Minsk ghettos, for example, German Jewish deportees stayed briefly before being shot or gassed. Koch and Higher SS and Police Leader Hans-Adolf Prützmann (Jeckeln’s successor) considered Ukraine as a possible dumping ground for Europe’s Jews. In a joint memorandum of 12 January 1942, Koch and Prützmann stated that the policy for establishing ghettos was still not defined, but they asked the regional commissars as well as the SS-policemen to identify possible future ghettos near railway links where Reich Jews could be brought. As it turned out, Reich Jews were not deported to Ukraine, but the Koch-Prützmann memo reveals that by late 1941 or early 1942 ghettos in Ukraine and elsewhere in Eastern Europe had been transformed into something unprecedented in Europe’s long history of anti-Judaism. Under the Nazis ghettos became transit centers and holding ‘pens’ for facilitating the mass murder.”[49](#)

Lower provides the following source and elucidation:

“Joint memo from Koch and Prützmann to the *Generalkommissare*, BdO, BdS, and SSPF. They asked that the information about remaining Jews, their locale, and accessible train routes for Reich Jews be provided by 1 Mar. 1942. Memo dated 12 Jan. 1942, ZSA, P1151-1-137, p. 8.”[50](#)

It is interesting to compare the above information with a letter from Eichmann dated 14 April 1942. Some two months earlier, at the beginning of February 1942, Romanian authorities deported 10,000 Jews from the Romanian-occupied western part of the Ukraine known as Transnistria over the Bug River at Vosnessensk into the Generalkommissariat Nikolajew, which was part of *Reichskommissariat* Ukraine. The Romanians had planned for the expulsion of a further 60,000 Jews, but this was promptly stopped by the Germans, since the Romanians apparently had never asked the Germans (or at least not the right German authorities) for permission in the first place. In his letter Eichmann made the following comment on the event (emphasis added):

“(…) through this planless and premature [*vorzeitige*] expulsion of Romanian Jews into the Occupied eastern territories the already ongoing evacuation of the German Jews is strongly inhibited [*stärkstens gefährdet*].”[51](#)

Here Eichmann not only implies that the Jews collected by the Romanians in Transnistria would eventually be moved further east – something which I will return to later on in this survey – but also states that the uncontrolled expulsion of Romanian Jews into RK Ukraine would “inhibit” the “already

ongoing” evacuation of Jews from the German Reich. From the viewpoint of mainstream historiography this does not make much sense, as it denies transports of German Jews to the Ukraine. If considered together with the memoranda referenced by Lower, however, it makes perfect sense and moreover indicates that the plans for such transports were still on the table by mid-April 1942, if not later. Needless to say, it would be a major obstacle for the Germans, and the RSHA in particular, if ghettos in the Ukraine that they were preparing for Reich Jews were suddenly swamped by 70,000 Romanian Jews arriving unannounced.

As no German Jews were being “gassed”, i.e. transited east, during the first four months of 1942, it seems likely that by “ongoing evacuation” Eichmann was referring to the initial stage of the deportation, i.e. the transfer of Reich and Protectorate Jews to Warsaw, Łódź and the Lublin District, from where they were to continue east by way of the “extermination camps”.

It may be of importance that the Jews expelled from Transnistria in February 1942 crossed the Bug into *Generalkommissariat* Nikolajew, near the Black Sea. This indicates that they crossed over not far from the town of Ochakov (Oceacov), where it is reported that 14,000 Dutch and Belgian Jews had arrived by April 1943 (cf. §3.7.5). Was Ochakov a transit point for Jews deported from Transnistria to *Reichskommissariat* Ukraine?

4.4. Dieter Pohl

Christian Gerlach, Wendy Lower and Götz Aly are not the only exterminationists who have made mention of concrete plans for the deportation of Reich Jews to Belarus and the Ukraine. Holocaust historian Dieter Pohl describes the pre-Barbarossa plans thus:

“In conjunction with preparations for the campaign against the Soviet Union, early in 1941 new plans arose in Berlin for the ‘Solution of the Jewish Question.’ For the first time, however, they concerned more than the Jews in Germany or Poland. Under consideration were plans to expel all Jews from territories under German rule to the occupied Soviet Union, either to the Pripyat marshes in Belorussia or to the Arctic Sea. Accordingly, on 17 March 1941 Hitler remarked to Hans Frank that all Jews were to be expelled from the General Government eastward. Thereafter the General Government administration halted until further notice all plans for Jews. In particular, plans to construct more ghettos were put on hold.”[52](#)

In another text Pohl writes:

“On 10 October [1941] Heydrich himself was still speaking about camps in the operational area of *Einsatzgruppe* Commander Rasch to which Jews could be deported. Up to the present these hints have not been followed up, nor are any corresponding deportations known. It is a fact that in January 1942 the deportation of Jews into the *Reichskommissariat* was foreseen, in particular to Shepetovka, where they were to be put to work building roads. Apparently this intention was stopped by the *Gebietskommissar* responsible for the area.”[53](#)

The town of Shepetovka is located in western Ukraine, between Rovno and Zhitomir. The source given by Pohl for this “apparently” abandoned deportation plan consists of two documents, one from a

Ukrainian archive, another from a German archive, together with an interrogation statement dating from 1959.⁵⁴ The author has not yet had the opportunity to view these documents. This issue clearly warrants further research.

4.5. Jean-Claude Favez's Study on the Red Cross and the Holocaust

In 1988 French historian Jean-Claude Favez published *Une mission impossible?*, an interesting study on the International Committee of the Red Cross and its involvement in wartime aid operations targeting Jews in Europe, and in particular the contemporaneous knowledge of the ICRC concerning the German treatment of Jews. In 1999 an English translation of Favez's book appeared under the title *The Red Cross and the Holocaust*.⁵⁵

In Favez's survey of wartime ICRC memoranda and documents concerning the Jews we find the following three passages relevant to the theme of our study:

- On 14 November 1942 Roland Marti, the chief ICRC delegate in Germany, “reported from Berlin that French-speaking Jews had been seen in the Riga area 'herded together', and the weakest eliminated.”⁵⁶
- In mid-October 1942 the Geneva representative of the World Jewish Congress, Gerhart Riegner, passed on to the ICRC a report written by the Jew Isak Lieber on 6 October that year. Favez summarizes: “Lieber had been arrested on 12 August [1942] in Brussels and deported first to Upper Silesia, then to the Eastern Front, where he learned from a German officer that Jews unfit for work were being exterminated. Lieber managed to escape, and reached Geneva via France at the end of an incredible two-month odyssey.”⁵⁷ During this period all Jewish convoys departing from Belgium had as their destination Auschwitz – which is located in Upper Silesia.
- “On 15 April 1943 [Roland] Marti reported that only 1,400 Jews were left in Berlin and would soon be evacuated to Auschwitz, Pless, Lublin, *Riga and Reval* [Tallinn]” (emphasis added).⁵⁸ By this point in time more than seven months had passed since the last known (direct) Jewish transport from the Reich to the occupied Baltic States.

As for the testimony of Isak Lieber this cannot be admitted as evidence for our hypothesis, as good as it may sound. In an article⁵⁹ on Riegner the late revisionist researcher Jean-Marie Boisdefeu has pointed out that Lieber in his testimony to Belgian authorities stated that he had been sent not to Stalingrad, but to the coast of France to work on construction of the “Atlantic wall”. Moreover, the name of Isak Lieber is not to be found in the transport lists of Jews deported east from the Malines collection camp. The author has confirmed that no Isak Lieber (or any variant of that name) appears in the transport lists for the relevant period (July-August 1942). While it cannot be 100% ruled out that Lieber was on a transport under another name, or (as Klarsfeld and others confirm sometimes happened) he was a last-minute addition to one of the transports, and that for some reason he later lied about his deportation to the Belgian authorities, we cannot accept his testimony as evidence for the present hypothesis on grounds of unreliability.⁶⁰

As for the “French-speaking Jews” seen in Riga this fits well with the 16 October 1942 report in

Israelitisches Wochenblatt für die Schweiz according to which “of late, transports of Jews from Belgium and other western European countries were observed in Riga, but they moved on immediately to other destinations” (§3.1.2) as well as the statements from A. Jablonski (§3.2.3), Szema G. (§3.3.14.) and Friedrich Jeckeln (§3.3.5.) concerning transports of Jews from Belgium and/or France to the Riga area. It is worth noting that the French-speaking Jews were seen “herded together”, implying detainment in camps or ghettos.

4.6. Walter Laqueur's *The Terrible Secret*

In his 1980 book *The Terrible Secret* holocaust historian Walter Laqueur chronicles how the “facts” concerning the alleged mass extermination of Jews were disseminated during the war years, and the reasons why these “facts” were more often than not disbelieved or at least met with cautious skepticism. In his survey of contemporary news reports Laqueur manages to exclude those most blatantly contradicting the extermination camp hypothesis, but there is still one passage of interest to us, namely his description of the 1942 reports of Zionist delegate Meleh “Noi” Neustadt:[61](#)

“May 1942 he [Neustadt] returned to Palestine and in two long addresses [on 25 and 27 May], in closed session, he gave the most detailed and authoritative account available at the time to the Jewish leadership.[62](#) There was no one better informed at the time. Noi had established contact from Turkey with fifty Jewish communities in Poland and with virtually every other European country. He had discovered, much to his surprise, that with certain exceptions (the Baltic countries and eastern Poland) communication could easily be established. Air letters from occupied countries took ten to twelve days, cables were sent and received, and one could even book long-distance telephone calls.[63](#) Noi noted that Jews in Eastern Europe did not like to use the telegraph so as to not attract attention. On the other hand, he said that inside Nazi-occupied Europe Jewish emissaries were frequently traveling from one place to another, that illegal newspapers were published and that there were regional and even nationwide meetings.

The bad news was the fate of Croatian and part of Romanian Jewry of which he was fully informed. There had been victims in Eastern Galicia. Lodz was more or less cut off from the outside world. There was no direct contact but it had been learned that 'unproductive elements' had been deported from Lodz to Minsk, Kovno and Riga. Noi said that it was pointless to comment on the rumours concerning the fate of the Jews of eastern Poland (and the Baltic countries); one simply did not know. But he also said that 'nothing was more harmful than 'exaggerated information' which weakened or even put into doubt correct news about real atrocities.”

Laqueur goes on to remark[64](#) that “Chelmno was not taken seriously and the beginning of 'evacuation' from most Polish ghettos was not reported” - elsewhere he points out[65](#) that “Chelmno (...) was opened on 8 December 1941; the news was received in Warsaw within less than four weeks and published soon afterwards in the underground press.”

But Neustadt did indeed report ghetto deportations: the evacuation of “unproductive elements” from the Łódź ghetto to “Minsk, Kovno and Riga” – a population transfer which is unknown to exterminationist historians but which is confirmed, as for Latvia and Lithuania, by the diaries of Kruk (§3.3.1.) and Tory (§3.3.19.) and in regards to Minsk by the testimony of Nikolayev Prilezhaev.[66](#) One

should also recall the above quoted (§4.2.) “Address of the citizens of Minsk to Stalin” mentioning the deportation of Łódź Jews to the Minsk Ghetto.

The deportation of these Jews from the Warthegau District to the Occupied eastern territories no doubt went via Chełmno, even though the name of this transit camp may not have been known to Neustadt’s informants. Laqueur’s remark is further flawed by the fact that by the beginning of May 1942 only two other major Polish ghettos had been affected by deportations to “extermination camps”, namely Lublin and Lvów (to Bełżec).

As for the “bad news” reported by Neustadt it must be noted that Croatian Jews by that time had not yet been deported to Auschwitz. In Romania the Jews of the annexed Bessarabia and Bukovina had been deported to crowded and disease-ridden ghettos in Romanian-occupied Transnistria.

Neustadt’s description of how easy it was to establish contacts with Jews in German-occupied Europe speaks for itself. Would the Germans really have allowed this situation if they were trying to conceal a mass extermination program directed against Europe’s Jews?

In the conclusion to his book Laqueur maintains that:

“After July 1942 (the deportations from Warsaw) it is more and more difficult to understand that there still was widespread confusion about the Nazi designs among Jews in Poland, and that the rumours were not recognized for what they were – certainties.”[67](#)

In fact, as shown in this article series, the Jews in occupied Poland had ample reason to believe that they were indeed being transferred to the occupied eastern territories. It would thus appear that the Zionist delegate Meleh Neustadt in 1942 was more accurate and objective in regards to these events than the later-lionized historian Laqueur thirty-eight years later.

Survey: JTA Daily News Bulletin reports on deportations to the Occupied Eastern Territories

The 1942 reports of Meleh Neustadt raise the question: What did contemporary Zionist leaders know about the fates of the deported Jews? This question could no doubt only be answered by research into archives that skeptical inquirers are barred from consulting. However, some hints may be gleaned from what was reported by one of the major Jewish-Zionist news sources of that era, the *Daily News Bulletin* of the New York-based Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA).[68](#) Below I will present a number of news items relating to the deportation of Jews to the Occupied Eastern Territories[69](#) in chronological order interspersed with brief commentary.

25 September 1941 (p. 1):

“Nazis plan to transfer Polish Jews to occupied Soviet territory

ZURICH, Sep. 24 (JTA) – Jews in Nazi-held Poland will be transferred to various sections of Soviet territory now occupied by the German military forces, it is reported in the *Krakauer Zeitung*, official Nazi organ in Poland, reaching here today.

The Nazi newspaper reveals that an expedition of German professors and students has reached Warsaw for the purpose of making an extensive study of Jewish life in the ghetto there. The Warsaw ghetto will, according to the *Krakauer Zeitung*, be studied as ‘an experimental station’ to establish to what extent the Jews can support themselves when

completely isolated from the rest of the population. Upon the completion of the survey in Warsaw, the Nazi administration in Poland will receive instructions from Berlin, with specific plans for the distribution of Polish Jews in various sections of Nazi-occupied Russia, the paper states.”

20 October 1941 (p. 1):

“Thousands of Jews Expelled from Germany to Pinsk Swamps in Poland

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 19 (JTA) – Five thousands Jews, the majority of them between 50 and 80 years of age, have been expelled from Berlin to Nazi-held Poland since Friday in a renewed wave of mass-expulsions of Jews from the Reich, it is reported here today by the Berlin correspondent of the Swedish newspaper *Social Demokraten*.

The expulsion is being conducted under the supervision of the Palestine-born Gestapo leader, Eichmann, who supervised similar expulsions of Jews last year from Vienna and the Czech Protectorate. The Berlin correspondent states that the aged Jews from Berlin were shipped in cattle trains to Lodz, Poland, from where they will be transported to Pinsk to work in the Pinsk swamps in the district of Rokitno.

The correspondent also reports from Berlin that raids on Jewish homes have been conducted in the German capital during the last two days with Jews being evicted from their houses with only several hours notice. They are not permitted to take with them any of their furniture or other belongings. According to the report similar raids are going on all over the country with a view toward expelling as many Jews as possible to the Pinsk swamps.”

As already mentioned Pinsk was part of Poland until 1939 but was at this time part of *Reichskommissariat* Ukraine. According to orthodox historiography the Reich Jews deported to the Łódź ghetto in late 1941 were sent to be gassed in Chełmno beginning May 1942. In an article published by the JTA two days later (22 October 1941, p. 1) the same information about deportations to Pinsk was repeated. In the issue from the following day (23 October, p. 2) the following is reported:

“Expelled Jews Will Be Used to Drain Marshes, Nazi Officials Announce

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 22 (JTA) – Nazi officials today announced in Berlin that the Jews expelled from Germany, Luxemburg and Prague will be used for draining the Rokitno marshes near Pinsk, on the former Polish-Soviet frontier, the Berlin correspondent of the Swedish newspaper *Social Demokraten* reports.

‘It is only logical that Jews should do hard labor in occupied Russian territory, since Russia attacked Germany under Jewish leadership,’ Nazi officials are quoted by the correspondent as stating. Other officials explained the mass-deportation of Jews with the fact that ‘it is intolerable for Germans to continually encounter Jews wearing a yellow star.’ Despite the approach of winter a large area of the Rokitno marshes can still be drained now, the Nazi spokesmen declared.”

10 February 1942 (p. 3):

“Nazis proceeding with plan for ‘Jewish reservation,’ Berlin reports

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 9 (JTA) – Berlin correspondents of Swedish daily newspapers report that the Nazi authorities in the German capital are still determined to create a vast ‘Jewish reservation’ in Eastern Europe and are going ahead with detailed plans for such a set-up. They report that these plans are being drawn up by the Department of Jewish Questions in

the Ministry for the German-occupied territories of the East, which is headed by Dr. Alfred Rosenberg.

Based on the Nazis avowed aim 'of ridding Europe of the Jews,' the Rosenberg project contemplates a huge Jewish-inhabited region enclosed by barbed wire and guarded by Nazi sentries, in which Jews will be completely isolated from the rest of the world and will be exploited to meet the Nazis' economic needs."

See §3.1.2 of this series for an October 1942 report on plans for a "Jewish settlement rayon for all the Jews of Western Europe" in "the former Polish-Russian border zone".

26 March 1942 (p. 1):

"Lublin and Cracow Jews will spend passover digging trenches on the Nazi-Soviet front
STOCKHOLM, Mar. 25 (JTA) – Thousands of Polish Jews will spend their Passover under Soviet artillery fire digging trenches for the Nazi army on the Taganrog-Kharkov front as a result of the mass-transportation of Jews from the Lublin and Cracow districts to the front lines of the German-Soviet battlefront, a report reaching here today from Nazi-held Poland reveals.

The shifting of Lublin and Cracow Jews to the front in the Nazi-held Ukraine started several days ago as part of the final preparations which the German military command is making for the contemplated Spring offensive, the report states. While on one hand the local Nazi authorities are mobilizing more and more Jewish skilled workers for the German war industries the military authorities insist that all Jews who are not fit for factory work should be rushed to the farthest points of the German-Soviet front to build fortifications there under fire of the Red Army, the information discloses.

As a result of the pressure from the military authorities, the Jewish Councils in Lublin and Cracow districts have received orders to deliver able-bodied Jews for transportation to 'unknown destinations.' The first transports, which left this week, led to the tragic separation of many families, the report states, since it is almost certain that none of the deported Jews will ever return to their homes. In the meantime, the Jewish Councils, already overburdened with relief problems with which they are not able to cope because of the acute shortage of funds, are faced with the new problem of caring for the women and children whom the deported Jews left behind without any means of support."

A shorter version of this piece of news appeared in the June 1942 issue of *Contemporary Jewish Record*, cf. §3.7.1 of this series for commentary.

29 May 1942 (p. 3):

"Germans Will Rule over Deported Slovakian Jews in Concentration Camps in Eastern Europe

ZURICH, May. 31 (JTA) – Slovakian Jews, the bulk of whom are to be deported under the provisions of a law adopted last week by the Slovakian parliament, will be handed over to German authorities who will be in charge of concentration centers in the East (probably the Nazi-held section of the Ukraine) because 'the Germans have more experience with this sort of work,' it is reported today by the *Grenzboten*, Nazi-controlled daily published in Bratislava, the Slovakian capital.

According to the *Guardista*, organ of the Hlinka Guard, initial contingents of young Jews will be deported to these concentration centers to build accommodations for those who will

follow. Once the camps are established, the *Guardista* reports, the Jews will be employed as tailors, shoemakers, etc, to supply the Nazi army in Russia. A Council of Elders will be set up with whom the Germans will deal exclusively, in matters concerning conditions at the camps, delivery of manufactured articles and payment for such products.

The Jews will be assigned food and household goods only in return for manufactured goods, the report states. They will be allowed to bring only 100 pounds of luggage with them to these camps. The State will receive first choice of all possessions which the Jews are forced to leave behind; the Hlinka Guard will have next chance at the confiscated goods; then the municipalities will be allowed to choose and, finally, tradesmen and public employees.

About 9,000 Jews, approximately 10% of the entire Slovak Jewish population, will be allowed to remain in the country, the *Grenzboten* discloses. These fall into the 'economically indispensable' categories – such as doctors, professionals and their families – and baptized Jews, of whom there are about 2,500. All of these, however, will be governed by the 'Jewish Code' and will have to reside on segregated streets."

As will be seen further on in this article series, the above report fits perfectly with a plan for the deportation of the Jews of Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary reportedly presented to the Romanian government in the autumn of 1941 by the German Legation in Bucharest, and according to which these Jewish populations were to be sent to the eastern part of Ukraine.

21 June 1942 (p. 1):

"200,000 More Jews herded into labor camps in Poland following new raids

ZURICH, Jun. 19 (JTA) – Mass raids on Jewish residences are reported today to be taking place throughout Nazi-held Poland for the purpose of rounding-up Jews and sending them to forced labor camps where they are compelled to work at difficult jobs under inhuman conditions.

The report says that more than 200,000 Polish Jews have recently been herded into thirty-seven 'Jewish' labor camps. Of them, twelve were opened only last week, including two in the Baranovici district, where the Jews are compelled to work at draining the Pinsk swamps."

While this article does not make it clear whether Polish Jews were sent from the *Generalgouvernement* or the Warthegau into the former Polish territory that had become part of the *Reichskommissariat Ostland*, one thing is noteworthy about it, namely the statement that Jews were sent to work at draining the Pinsk swamps in southern Belarus/northern Ukraine. On 28 April 1942 the JTA reported that "Jews in occupied Wolhynia will be sent to work in Pinsk swamps", the source for this being the pro-German Ukrainian newspaper *Krakiwski Visti*. Drainage work in the Pinsk swamps is a recurrent theme in early reports on the Jewish deportations.

15 July 1942 (p. 1):

"330,000 German Jews deported to Russia; deportations from Vienna resumed

STOCKHOLM, Jul. 14 (JTA) – More than 330,000 German Jews have already been deported from Germany to Nazi-occupied parts of Russia, it was reported today from Berlin.

At the same time Swedish newspapers today carry reports from their Vienna

correspondents disclosing that mass-deportations of Jews from Vienna to occupied Poland were resumed this week under the most brutal circumstances, resulting in many sick and blind Jews committing suicide.

No distinction is made as to age and sex in the renewed deportations, the Vienna correspondents report. Even the 'green letters' giving the deportees three days' notice to prepare for expulsion are no longer sent. The victims are taken from their homes directly to transportation centers from where they are sent in cattle trains to Eastern European territories.

A number of Jewish patients in a Vienna hospital committed suicide when the Nazi police came to drag them from their beds to the transportation center. Inmates of the Jewish Home for Blind similarly took their lives when informed that they were being deported. Not a single Jew of those still remaining in Vienna is certain that within a few hours he may not be among the victims held for deportation, the neutral correspondents relate.

The suspension of the deportation of Jews from Vienna during the winter months was due chiefly to the lack of freight cars, the Swedish journalists emphasize. They describe Jewish life in Vienna today as a constant torture, with Jews being completely isolated from any contact with the rest of the world."

Up to 7 July 1942 a total of 43,341 Jews from the Reich, including the Protectorate, had been deported directly to the Occupied Eastern Territories.⁷⁰ A further 10,933 Reich Jews were sent east via Chełmno in late spring/summer 1942 (cf. §3.3.1). Some 33,500 Jews from the Reich and the Protectorate were transferred via Sobibór in the period April-June 1942.⁷¹ Some additional thousands of Reich Jews may have been deported via Belżec and Treblinka (during its first weeks of operation). It is clear however that at most only some 100,000 Reich Jews could have reached the Occupied Eastern Territories by this point in time. The figure of 330,000 deportees mentioned in this news item is therefore much exaggerated.

20 July 1942 (p. 1):

"Jews of Europe will be deported to 'colonial reservations,' Nazi chief says
STOCKHOLM, Jul. 19 (JTA) – All Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe will definitely be deported to 'colonial reservations' outside of Europe, Alfred Rosenberg, ruler of Nazi-occupied Russia, announced at a public meeting in Riga, according to a Riga newspaper reaching here today.

The paper adds that the question of whether the Jews of Europe should be deported to colonial camps in Africa, or isolated in the wilderness of Siberia is now being studied by Nazi officials in Berlin. Since neither Siberia nor any important section of Africa is in Nazi hands, it is obvious that the Nazi report is propaganda aimed at instilling in the population of the Baltic countries the feeling that Germany is certain of victory, to a point where she can even make plans with regard to continents other than Europe."

The above statement of Rosenberg's, if correctly reported, could be taken as an indication that the Madagascar plan, or a similar but unknown plan regarding a Siberian "colony", had not been shelved completely but rather deferred until the projected German victory. It is worth noting in this context the following item which appeared in the *JTA Daily News Bulletin* on 22 March 1942:

"Hitler Backs Japan's Demand for Madagascar; Urges 20,000 Shanghai Jews Be Sent There
LONDON, Mar. 20 (JTA) – Hopeful that he can eventually have all Jews of occupied

Europe deported to Madagascar, Hitler is now backing Japan in its attempt to force the Vichy Government to permit the landing of Japanese forces on the French-administered African island which the Nazis would like to convert into a 'reservation' for the Jews of the European continent.

Trustworthy reports reaching here today reveal that the Nazi authorities in Berlin are making every effort to impress the Vichy regime with the necessity of 'cooperating' with Japan regarding Madagascar. At the same time, they have suggested to Japan that it 'become the instrument for saving the civilization of Europe from the Jewish danger.'

One of Hitler's suggestions to Japan, the report states, recommends that the 20,000 German-Jewish refugees in Shanghai who fell into Japanese hands, as well as all other Jews in Japanese-occupied territories, be sent to Madagascar 'to form the nucleus' for the contemplated Jewish reservation."

26 July 1942 (p. 1):

"Nazis begin large-scale deportations of Dutch Jews to Poland and occupied Russia
ZURICH, Jul. 26 (JTA) – Large-scale mass-deportations of Jews from Holland to Poland and occupied sections of Russia began this week, according to reports reaching here today. Special trains each carrying six hundred Jews are reported to be leaving Amsterdam daily for Eastern Europe.

At the same time it was learned here that the property of all deported Jews will be confiscated by the Germans. The deportees are allowed to take along only thirty-five pounds of luggage, each. Scores of Jews in Amsterdam, fearing that their deportation to Poland and Russia is imminent, are committing suicide daily, the reports state. It is estimated that there are about 160,000 Jews in Holland at present – about 80,000 Dutch Jews and approximately an equal number of Austrian, German and Czech Jews who fled to the Netherlands as refugees."

28 July 1942 (p. 1):

"Women, children, aged massacred in Warsaw ghetto as Nazis send Jews to Russian front
LONDON, Jul. 27 (JTA) – Hundreds of Jewish women, children and aged men in the Warsaw ghetto were massacred last week by Gestapo agents in a pogrom that lasted for several days and may still be going on - according to information reaching the Polish Government here today through underground channels. The exact duration of the pogrom and the number of Jews that fell victim to the Gestapo executioners is not yet known.

At the same time thousands of able-bodied Jewish men were seized and sent to occupied Russian territory for forced labor at constructing fortifications behind the Nazi lines, the Polish sources report.

Early last week, these sources state, the Gestapo agents posted signs throughout the ghetto streets announcing that the ghetto inhabitants would be deported eastward and that 'the first contingent of 6,000 would leave in a few days.' Several days after this announcement two trains did leave Warsaw carrying thousands of Jews jammed together in freight cars.

Meanwhile, the Gestapo ordered all Jews in the ghetto to remain in their homes on a specific night, the Polish Government spokesman here stated. That evening the Nazi authorities sent raiding parties into the ghetto which entered the houses of the Jews and selected those men whom they felt were able to be used for hard labor by the Nazi army on the Eastern front. Jews who were too aged or infirm to be useful as forced labor, as well as

women and children, were mercilessly slaughtered.”

A mere two days later, on 29 July 1942, the JTA reported, based on the statement of a Polish government-in-exile spokesman, that the deported Warsaw Jews were “executed in the woods”, with no details given regarding the method of killing (p. 1).

18 August 1942 (p. 1):

”Special police for Jews in unoccupied France demanded by Germany
LISBON, Aug. 17. (JTA) – (...) From all indication it becomes more and more obvious that Nazi Germany, short of labor, is determined to deport all Jews from the occupied countries of Western Europe to be used for fortification and building work in occupied Russia. To make Western Europe completely ‘judenrein,’ the Nazis are determined to include the Jews of unoccupied France also.”

In the issue from the following day it was mentioned in passing (19 August, p. 3) that Dutch-Jewish girls “are being sent to German army camps on the Russian front”.

4 September 1942 (p. 2):

“Nazis in Holland plan to deport young Jews to Russia, others to Germany
LONDON, Sep. 3 (JTA) – Nazi authorities in Holland have issued an announcement stating that all Jews between 18 and 40 years of age will be deported to the devastated areas of occupied Russia, while all physically fit Jews between 40 and 60 years of age will be sent to Germany for forced labor after undergoing a physical examination.

The announcement, which reached Dutch government circles here today, warns non-Jewish doctors in Holland not to furnish medical certificates of disability to Jews between 40 and 60 who are sufficiently healthy to be sent for work in the Reich. The warning implies that doctors found guilty of issuing such disability certificates may themselves be sent to labor camps in Germany.”

15 September 1942 (p. 1):

“All Jews between 18 and 65 will be deported from Poland
BERN, Sep. 14 (JTA) – All Jews in Nazi-held Poland aged between 18 and 65 will be deported to devastated sections of Nazi-occupied Russian territory, it is announced in the *Krakauer Zeitung* reaching here today from Poland.

The announcement adds that certain categories of able-bodied Jews may be sent to work in industrial enterprises in Germany instead of to Russia. At the same time the *Krakauer Zeitung* reports that Jewish doctors in the Warsaw ghetto were ordered to discontinue issuing documents certifying a person's inability to perform hard labor. The order is explained by the charge that ‘the Jewish doctors have issued false certificates in order to save Jews from being sent to work in Germany.’”

20 September 1942 (p. 1):

“Unprecedented pogroms raging in Poland; large scale deportations of Jews reported
SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE, Sep. 18 (JTA) – (...) Unable to give any details because of the manner in which it was smuggled out of Poland, the sketchy report reads: ‘In addition to mass-deportations of Jews from the Warsaw ghetto, the Nazis have started hunting down

Jews in all large and small towns throughout the Government-General, including Lwow, Przemyśl, Radom and other places where Jews are concentrated, Jewish families are being torn apart. The men are assembled in camps prior to deportation. Some are sent to the devastated areas of occupied Russia and others to coal mines in German territory. The women and children are being sent to unknown destinations. Large-scale pogroms of unprecedented ferocity are proceeding, at the same time, throughout Poland. The Nazis have started carrying out their program of total extermination of Polish Jewry. Save us from death.'

Previous reports reaching here from Poland this month stated that more than 300,000 Jews already have been deported by the Nazis from the Warsaw ghetto to unknown destinations. Though they constitute about one-half of the entire Jewish population in the ghetto, the merciless deportations continue at the rate of several thousand a day, one report said.

ONE THIRD OF DEPORTED JEWS DIE, NAZI OFFICIAL REPORTS

Mass deportations to the German-conquered regions of Eastern Europe have resulted in terrible 'wastage of human life' amounting in many instances to 30 per cent of the deportees, according to information received from underground sources in Germany. The underground informants give the gist of a report by S.S. special detachment leader Ferdinand Riege to Heinrich Himmler, head of the Nazi Gestapo and Europe's police dictator. Riege was in charge of the first mass deportations of Western European Nazi victims to Eastern Europe. The report states that 'unexpected difficulties arose as a result of which wastage of human life due to illness, suicide, etc., amounted to 30 per cent.'"

These Jews were "gassed" at Treblinka and Belzec if we are to believe the official version of events. In the book-length WJC report *Hitler's Ten-Year War on the Jews*, published in August 1943, the report mentioned is attributed to an "*Obersturmführer Hiegs*", of whom there exists no trace.⁷² "Ferdinand Riege" likewise appears to be an invented or misrendered name.

25 September 1942 (p. 3):

"Nazis drive Jews and Poles hundreds of miles on foot to devastated Russian areas
ZURICH, Sep. 24 (JTA) – Jews and Poles who are now being sent by the Nazis from occupied Poland to the devastated sections of occupied Russia for slave labor are no longer transported in trains but must make the several-hundred-mile journey on foot under the supervision of Nazi guards, it was revealed in a report reaching here today from Cracow.

Railroad facilities being overburdened, the Nazi authorities in Poland have instituted a system whereby the Jewish and Polish deportees must cover at least forty miles a day on foot. Underfed and exhausted, hundreds of them are unable to stand the strain and collapse on the roads. They are left there by the German guards as 'human junk.' Polish peasants from the neighboring villages do their best to provide them with food and shelter."

It is a known fact that the mass expulsions of the Jews of Bessarabia and Bukovina into the Transnistrian "reservation" by Romanian authorities were often undertaken on foot. This involved the crossing of the Dniestr river via either bridges or barges.⁷³ It does not seem impossible that the Germans in charge of the deportations in some exceptional cases had to resort to a similar manner of transportation, driving columns of Jews across the Bug river.

4 October 1942 (p. 1):

“Gestapo raids Warsaw synagogues; seizes 2,000 Jews for forced labor

LONDON, Oct. 2. (JTA) – (...) A spokesman of the Polish government today declared that information received in London reveals that Hitler has decided to ‘dissolve’ all Jewish ghettos in Poland by transferring the Jews from there to Nazi-held Russian territory where they are to do forced labor.”

6 October 1942 (p. 1):

“Trains with Jewish deportees leave Belgium for Nazi-held Ukraine

LONDON, Oct. 5 (JTA) – A special train crowded with Jews deported from the province of Limbourg in Belgium left during the week-end for the Nazi-occupied Ukraine, according to information reaching the Belgian Government here today.”

7 October 1942 (p. 3):

“Only 100,000 Jews left by the Nazis in Warsaw ghetto; mass-deportations continue

GENEVA, Oct. 6 (JTA) – Only about 100,000 Jews have been left by the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto where only a few months ago 500,000 Jews were concentrated, it was reliably reported here today on the basis of information reaching Switzerland from occupied Poland.

Large-scale mass-deportations of Jews from the Warsaw ghetto have been going on during the last few months. The Jews are being deported to unknown destinations. Families are being torn apart, probably never to be reunited. The deportations have increased since the dissolution by the Gestapo of the Jewish Council in the Warsaw ghetto which followed the suicide of Adam Chorniakev [sic], president of the Council, who preferred to take his life rather than sanction the first mass-deportation of 100,000 Jews from the ghetto to the devastated sections of Nazi-occupied Russia.

Deportations of Jews from the Warsaw ghetto are now taking place every day, the information reaching here states. It emphasizes that the Nazis have definitely embarked on a program of ‘dissolving’ all ghettos in Poland by deporting the Jews from there to unknown destinations in devastated regions.”

15 October 1942 (p. 1):

“Nazis resume mass-deportations of Jews from Holland and Belgium; suicides reported

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 14 (JTA) – Mass-deportations of Jews from The Hague and from Amsterdam were resumed this week by the Nazi authorities in occupied Holland according to reliable reports reaching here today.

In Amsterdam, the reports disclose, Jews faced with deportation to the East are committing suicide. Information received by Jews in Holland whose relatives were deported several weeks ago, reveals that many of the expelled Dutch Jews have been executed by the Nazis in occupied Russian territory to where they were originally sent for forced labor.”

16 October 1942 (p. 1):

“Train carrying 20,000 Jews deported from France arrives in Bessarabia; many dead

LISBON, Oct. 15 (JTA) – Twenty thousand Jews who were deported from France in filthy,

sealed cattle cars without adequate supplies of food and water, have arrived in Rumania, according to a reliable report received here today from Bucharest. They were immediately sent to the 'Jewish reservation' in Transnistria, the Nazi-occupied part of Ukraine which is at present under Rumanian administration.

German and Rumanian officials were awaiting the arrival of the Jewish deportees at the railway station in Kishinev, capital of Bessarabia, to supervise their further transportation to Transnistria. They were amazed at the state of the Jewish victims when they opened the sealed carriages in which the deportees were held for more than two weeks on route from France. They found a large number of the Jews dead, their corpses already in a state of decomposition. The corpses tumbled from the cattle cars as soon as the sealed doors were opened.

Those of the deportees who reached the Kishinev station still alive were starved and sick and horrified traveling with corpses for many days. Many of them were dying of exhaustion. The train arrived with a sign posted on each car reading: 'Explosive war materials - transit to Russia.' At no time during the entire trip were any of the cars unsealed to permit the unfortunate deportees to get fresh air or see the light."

A condensed version of this report appeared in the December 1942 issue of *Contemporary Jewish Record*, cf. §3.7.2 for commentary. By the beginning of October 1942 a total of 18,650 French Jews had been "gassed" at Auschwitz, i.e. transited east.⁷⁴ The deportations from France were then halted for a month until the beginning of 4 November 1942. Could this temporary stop in transports possibly have been due to the catastrophe described in the above news report? Needless to say it stands to reason that all these Jews cannot have been sent to Bessarabia in one single convoy, as implied by the article.

22 October 1942 (p. 2):

"1,850 Jews from Poland and Western Europe executed by Nazis in Smolensk area
MOSCOW, Oct. 21 (JTA) – The Moscow radio today reported that 1,850 Jews were recently executed in new Nazi massacres in the Smolensk district.
The executed Jews, it was believed, were deportees brought from Poland, Belgium and Holland for forced labor building roads in Nazi-occupied Russian territory."

Smolensk is located in western Russia, not far from the border with Belarus. As we have already seen (§4.2, 3.3.16) Polish as well as likely also German Jews were deported to this city to do forced labor.

30 October 1942 (p. 1):

"Nazis deport Jewish women from Belgium; many sent to coal mines in Silesia
LONDON, Oct. 29 (JTA) – (...) Underground information reaching the Belgian Government states that the Jews are being deported from Belgium to two destinations. Certain groups are being sent to work in the coal mines in Silesia, while others are transported to the Nazi-occupied Ukraine for hard labor there."

1 November 1942 (p. 1):

"Trains with Jewish deportees from France, Belgium, Holland continue to reach Rumania
SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE, Oct. 30 (JTA) – Freight trains crowded with Jews deported from France, Holland and Belgium continue to reach the city of Jassy, Rumania, on route to Transnistria, the Axis-occupied part of the Ukraine administered by Rumanian authorities,

it was reliably reported here today from Bucharest.

The trains arrive with many Jews dead from starvation as the result of travelling for several weeks without any food. The dead are removed from the cars when the trains reach Jassy, while the other victims are sent on to Transnistria. Upon reaching their destination, they are isolated in camps where, together with Jews from Bessarabia and Bukovina, they are virtually condemned to a slow death because they are not in a position to secure any food.”

As already mentioned, these Jews would necessarily have reached Romania and Transnistria via Auschwitz.

6 November 1942 (p. 1):

“Norwegian Jews will be deported to Lithuania; German refugees sent back to Reich
STOCKHOLM, Nov. 5 (JTA) – Nazi authorities in Norway today announced that all arrested Norwegian Jews will be transported to occupied Lithuania. Jewish refugees from the Reich are being transported either to the extreme northern part of Norway or to Germany, they stated.”

20 November 1942 (p. 2):

“Nazis decide to make Latvia ‘judenrein’; deport all Jews from Riga ghetto
LONDON, Nov. 19 (JTA) – Jewish relief organizations here today received information that all Jews living in the ghetto in Riga, Latvia, are being deported to Nazi-held Russian territory and that the Nazi administration has decided to make Latvia ‘judenrein’ within the next few weeks.

Jews from Holland, Belgium and Germany who were deported to the Riga ghetto are among those being sent further east, Neutral non-Jews who visited the Baltic States recently attempted to ascertain to where the Jews from the Riga ghetto were being exiled, but no information could be secured from the local non-Jewish population which is afraid to furnish any information about the fate of their former Jewish neighbors. Letters sent to Jews in the Riga ghetto from neutral countries have been returned recently stamped with a notice from the postal authorities that the recipient has ‘left for the East.’”

While orthodox historiography knows of the deportation of a large number of Reich Jews to Riga, it reports no transports there of Dutch or Belgian Jews.

22 December 1942 (p. 1):

“Nazi press reports Sosnowiec is ‘judenrein’; Jews slaughtered in Rowno
STOCKHOLM, Dec. 21 (JTA) – (...) Quoting the *Berliner Boersen Zeitung* which carries a report on the executions of Jews in Rowno, the Swedish newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet* says that many Jews from Nazi-occupied countries of Central and Western Europe are now being transported to the Rowno district which constituted the Polish-Russian border before the war and are undergoing there ‘a biological extermination.’”

Rovno (Rivne) is located in northwestern Ukraine. It was part of *Reichskommissariat Ukraine* as the capital of *Generalbezirk Volhynia-Podolia*.

7 January 1943 (p. 1):

“Deported Warsaw Jews held by Nazis in Pinsk district isolated from world

Geneva, Jan. 6 (JTA) – Meager reports reaching here today from occupied Poland on the fate of the tens of thousands of Jews who were deported from the Warsaw ghetto during the last few months discloses that the majority of these Jews have been sent to the Pinsk district, in the area of the Pinsk swamps.

The Jews in the Pinsk area are completely isolated from the rest of the world, but the fate of many of them who perished en route has aroused the Polish population throughout the Government General. The general feeling among the Poles is that similar severe measures will now be taken against them.”

Once again the Pinsk region appears as the destination of Jews allegedly gassed at Treblinka.

11 April 1943 (p. 1):

“5,000 Greek Jews reach Poland en route to unknown destination

LONDON, Apr. 9 (JTA) – A transport of 5,000 Greek Jews from Athens and Salonica has reached Poland in cattle trains under Nazi guard, it was reported today by Polish official circles on the basis of underground information reaching here.

This is the first transport of Jews deported by the Nazis from Greece to East-European occupied territory. The victims were brought to Lwow, where they were kept in a concentration camp for a few days and later transported to an unknown destination. The majority of them are men over forty years of age, including rabbis. There are also a number of women and children among them.”

The first convoys of Greek Jews departing for Auschwitz in spring 1943 followed the route Salonika–Belgrade–Zagreb–Vienna–Auschwitz. Another Salonika transport departing in late March 1943 travelled the route Salonika–Vrbica–Cracow–Małkinia–Treblinka. The transports from Bulgarian-occupied Thrace to Treblinka went the route Salonika–Bulgaria–Vienna–Cracow.⁷⁵ According to the official version of events none of these Jews ever reached Lvov (Lemberg) in Eastern Galicia (then part of the *Generalgouvernement*, now in Ukraine).

It is worth noting in this context that according to Reuben Ainsztein German as well as Belgian, Dutch and Yugoslavian Jews were detained in the Janow/Janovska labor camp near Lvov.⁷⁶ Did this camp serve as a second transit station for Jews being routed from Auschwitz and other “extermination camps” to the Occupied Eastern Territories? Belgian revisionist Jean-Marie Boisdefeu has also collected a number of indicia pointing to the anomalous presence of Belgian and French Jews in Eastern Galicia.⁷⁷

In the issue of 15 April we read regarding the deported Greek Jews that “it is not known to where these deportees were sent, after they were taken from the reception camps at Lwow” (“45,000 Greek Jews deported to Poland; homes, property confiscated”, p. 2).

21 November 1943 (p. 2):

“Jews deported from Aegean islands; more Jews wanted for Minsk fortifications

Bern, Nov. 19 (JTA) – (...) Swiss newspapers also report that anticipating a retreat from the Minsk area in Russia, the German military command has requested that more Jews be sent

from Poland and other occupied territories to the Minsk district to work on fortifications, German settlers in that district were simultaneously ordered to move into the interior of the Reich.”

23 November 1943 (p. 2):

“Germans reported planning to deport 15,000 Italian Jews to Russia for forced labor
Bern, Nov. 22 (JTA) – Ten thousand to 15,000 Italian Jews will probably be sent shortly to the Minsk area to construct fortification under the supervision of the German Todt Organization, according to a report received here today. The German military authorities, the report says, have cleared the Minsk district of most of its inhabitants in preparation for a German stand there and, consequently, there is an acute shortage of labor.”

While it might seem unlikely that the German authorities would have planned as late as in November 1943 to deport tens of thousands of Italian Jews to Belarus, this possibility should not be wholly rejected, especially considering the well-documented fact that several thousands of Hungarian Jews were sent to Latvia and Estonia in the summer of 1944 (cf. §2.2.3). The city of Minsk was held by German forces until the end of June 1944. In February 1944 it was reported by Polish underground sources that “3,000 Italian Jews arrived at the Trawniki labor camp last Nov. 15”.⁷⁸ If the Italian Jews indeed reached Trawniki in the Lublin district, they could easily have continued by train from there to Minsk.⁷⁹

9 July 1944 (p. 2):

“Deportation of All Jews from Hungary by July 15 is Feared by King of Sweden
STOCKHOLM, Jul. 7 (JTA) – (...) The Swedish newspapers today report that the 11,000 Jews whom the Nazis hurriedly removed from the Dvinsk ghetto ‘to an unknown destination,’ had all been deported from central European countries to Latvia for forced labor.”

Dvinsk is the Russian name of Daugavpils, a city in eastern Latvia (Dünaburg in German). For a witness statement relating the deportation of Dutch Jews to the Daugavpils area, see §3.3.8 of this series. According to the official version of events the Daugavpils ghetto was liquidated in May 1942, while the last few remaining Jews in the city were transferred to Riga in October 1943.⁸⁰ The liquidation of the Dvinsk ghetto and the deportation of “the 11,000 Jews remaining there” to an “unknown destination” was originally reported by the JTA on 6 July (p. 2).

16 August 1944 (p. 2):

“About 1000 Jews Survive in Kaunas; Many Burned Alive by Germans Before Their Retreat

MOSCOW, Aug. 15 (JTA) – Less than 1000 Jews have survived in the liberated city of Kaunas, capital of Lithuania, it was reported here today. Of the thirty thousand Jews who lived there before the war and of the many thousands that were brought there by the Germans from Holland, Belgium, and Austria, only three thousand were yet living during the last days of the German occupation. This number was further reduced to one thousand when the Gestapo demolition units broke into the ghetto and blew up house after house prior to the retreat of the German army.”

The “many thousands” of Jews who were brought to the Kaunas ghetto “from western Europe” had been mentioned previously by JTA in passing on 3 August 1944 (p. 3). This news item stated that the retreating Germans had murdered 10,000 Jews in Kaunas (Kovno).

20 August 1944 (p. 2):

“Moscow Jewish Committee issues report on Nazi extermination of Jews in Kaunas
MOSCOW, Aug. 18 (JTA) – Kaunas, the liberated capital of Lithuania, where only about 1,000 Jews have survived under the German occupation, had been used by the Nazis as an extermination center for Jews from western Europe, it was reported here today by the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in a comprehensive survey of more than three years of Jewish life under the Nazi regime in Lithuania.

There were forty thousand Jews in Kaunas when the Germans invaded Lithuania, the report said. Not more than nine thousand managed to leave with the Russian Army.

‘In Gestapo documents which have fallen into Russian hands,’ the report continues, ‘the city of Kaunas was referred to as ‘extermination point of the Eastland.’ In the common graves near the forts of Kaunas are buried not only local Jews, but also thousands of other Jews driven into Kaunas from other Lithuanian towns and villages, and executed there by the Gestapo. It was in Kaunas that the Germans executed Jews from Berlin, Vienna and Prague, from France and from Holland.’ (...)”

22 August 1944 (p. 2):

“Latvian Partisans Rescue 600 Jews; 4,000 Jews Held in Baltic Coastal Town
STOCKHOLM, Aug. 21 (JTA) – Six hundred Jews who had been forced by the Germans in occupied Latvia to work on fortifications were recently liberated by Latvian partisans when transferred to Liepaja [in Latvia], it was reported here today by the newspaper *Baltiska Nyheter*.

No details of the liberation were given, but the report says the Jews who were rescued from German hands are deportees from Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Holland. All joined the Latvian partisan units immediately upon their liberation. (...).

About 4,000 Dutch and Belgian Jews are now still alive in a concentration camp which the Germans established in the coastal town of Krestinga some six weeks ago, the paper reveals. They are engaged in the heaviest manual labor. The worst is feared for them when the Germans are forced soon by the Russian Army to withdraw from that area, the paper declares.”

“Krestinga” is almost certainly a misspelling of Kretinga (in German Krottingen) a Lithuanian coastal city some 25 km north of Klaipeda (Memel).^{[81](#)} There existed a subcamp to the Riga-Kaiserwald concentration camp in Kretinga until the summer of 1944, when the camp was liquidated and its inmates deported to Stutthof in Poland. The inmates of the Krottingen camp worked in a military-clothing factory (the *Armeebekleidungsamt* Krottingen).^{[82](#)} There also existed a camp known as Dimitrava near Kretinga.^{[83](#)} The Hungarian-Jewish sisters Sarah, Tamara and Irina Genzor were deported to the Krottingen camp after spending a month in Auschwitz in June 1944.^{[84](#)}

28 December 1944 (p. 3):

“Germans Liquidated Twenty-one ‘Jewish Camps’ in Riga District Prior to Retreat
MOSCOW, Dec. 27 (JTA) – Eighteen-thousand Jews – 15,000 of them deportees from western Europe – were murdered or sent to unknown fates from 21 camps in the Riga district between July and October of this year, according to a report published here today by the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee.

As the German military situation in Latvia deteriorated, the Nazis first began to move Jewish forced laborers from factories to concentration camps and strengthened the guards at all camps. As the Red Army drove closer, they began evacuating the camps. At the end of July, 3,000 Hungarian Jewish women were evacuated, but there is no indication that they ever arrived in Hungary.

In August, the Germans began liquidating some camps and on August 4, two thousand Jews were gassed to death, of whom 400 had been residents of Riga. Eventually all 21 camps in Riga and its environs were closed down. Thousands of Jews were moved by boat and train to various destinations and have not been heard of since. It is known that many were transferred to eastern Kurland, in Latvia, and murdered in the woods there.”

In conclusion to this survey it will suffice to observe that the notion of the deportations to the “East” being a cover for systematic mass murder did not really establish itself until 1943. The allegation that a majority of the deported Jews was murdered in “death camps” would gain credence only following that, in late 1943 and 1944 – although mass murders in Treblinka were reported by the JTA on 25 November 1942, a longer piece on Chelmno appeared in the issue of 2 August 1942 and the claim of 700,000 massacred Polish Jews was dutifully reported on 26 June 1942. Even by 1944, however, there still appeared reports indicating that French, Dutch and Belgian Jews had been deported to camps and ghettos in the Occupied Eastern Territories.

To be continued.

Notes:

1. Heinz Kühnrich (ed.), *In den Wäldern Belorusslands. Erinnerungen sowjetischer Partisanen und deutscher Antifaschisten*, Dietz, East Berlin 1976, p. 9.
2. *Deutsche Zeitung im Ostland*, 11 October 1941, p. 4.
3. Rolf-Dieter Müller (ed.), *Die deutsche Wirtschaftspolitik in den besetzten sowjetischen Gebieten 1941-1943. Der Abschlussbericht des Wirtschaftsstabes Ost und Aufzeichnungen eines Angehörigen des Wirtschaftskommandos Kiew*, Harald Boldt Verlag, Boppard am Rhein 1991, pp. 139-142.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 139, 141.
5. Heinz Kühnrich, *Der Partisanenkrieg in Europa 1939-1945*, Dietz Verlag, East Berlin 1968, p. 383.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 512, note 13. The two studies by M.I. Semiryaga (м.и. семиряга) that Kühnrich refers to in this context are вторая мировая война и пролетарский интернационализм, Moscow 1962 and интернациональная солидарность трудящихся в борьбе против фашизма (1939-1945 гг.), Kharkiv 1962. The author of this article has not yet had the opportunity to access those volumes.

7. Christian Gerlach, *Kalkulierte Morde*, op. cit., pp. 762-763.
8. Gerlach note 1419: “*Nachschubskommandantur der Waffen-SS und Polizei Russland Mitte an SS-Führungshauptamt v. 27.3.1942, BA NS 19/3519, Bl. 262f.; ebenso, Betr.: Aufstellung v. 7.4.1942 und v. 11.4.1942, BA F 3341, Bl. 797f. und 803f.*”
9. Bełżec, the first “extermination camp” in the Generalgouvernement, began operating on 17 March 1942.
10. Joseph J. Preil (ed.), *Holocaust Testimonies. European Survivors and American Liberators in New Jersey*, Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick 2001, p. 122.
11. Paul R. Mendes-Flohr, Jehuda Reinharz (eds.), *The Jew in the Modern World: a Documentary History*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 1995, p. 674.
12. Yitzhak Arad, “The Holocaust of Soviet Jewry in the Occupied Territories of the Soviet Union”, *Yad Vashem Studies*, vol. XXI (1991), pp. 34-35. As source Arad gives Shalom Cholvsky, *In the Eye of the Hurricane* [possibly a translated title], pp. 224-226. I have not yet been able to view a copy of this book.
13. Israel Gutman (ed.), *Enzyklopädie des Holocaust*, vol. 3, Argon 1993, p. 1752.
14. Interrogation of H.S. dated 27 August 1963, StA Hannover 2 JS 299/60, Bd. 12.
15. Interrogation of H.K. dated 9 June 1971, StA Hamburg 147 JS 22/70, p. 938.
16. The interrogations of “K.H.” from 6 December 1966 and 29 January 1971, “H.B.” from 11 June 1971, and “F.W.” from 23 November 1970.
17. Ernst Klee, Willi Dreßen, Volker Rieß, “*Schöne Zeiten*”. *Judenmord aus der Sicht der Täter und Gaffer*, S. Fischer, Frankfurt am Main 1988, p. 118
18. Cf. *Encyclopedia Judaica*, 2nd ed., Thomson Gale 2007, vol. 4, pp. 24-25.
19. Jürgen Graf, Carlo Mattogno, *Treblinka. Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2004, p. 280.
20. GARF, 7445-2-145, p. 80. Facsimile in *ibid.*, p. 336.
21. GARF, 7445-2-145, p. 81. Facsimile in *ibid.*, p. 337.
22. GARF 7445-2-145, p. 84.
23. “Entschuldigungsschreiben Kubes v. 25.8.1942, BA R 90/146”.
24. GARF 7445-2-145, p. 86.
25. GARF 7445-2-145, p. 90.
26. Cf. *Justiz und NS-Verbrechen*, vol. XIX, p. 192
27. On this see my two-part article in the 2011 spring and summer issues of *Inconvenient History*, “The Maly Trostenets ‘Extermination Camp’ – A Preliminary Historiographical Survey”.
28. Cf. J. Graf, C. Mattogno, *Treblinka. Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*, op. cit., p. 201.
29. Cf. *ibid.*, p. 277.
30. Cf. Carlo Mattogno, *Bełżec in Propaganda, Testimonies, Archeological Research, and History*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2004, pp. 103-104.
31. Jürgen Graf, Thomas Kues, Carlo Mattogno, *Sobibór: Holocaust Propaganda and Reality*, TBR Books, Washington DC 2010, pp. 100-101, 331-333.
32. Quoted in J. Graf, C. Mattogno, *Treblinka. Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*, op.cit., p. 55-56.

- 33.Cf. Thomas Kues, "The Maly Trostenets 'Extermination Camp' – A Preliminary Historiographical Survey", Part 1, §2.6.; online:
http://www.inconvenienthistory.com/archive/2011/volume_3/number_1/the_maly_trostenets_extermination_camp.php
- 34.Gerlach note 1427: "Vern. H.W. (SS-Zentralbauleitung Rußland-Mitte) v. 12.3.1960 und 21.3.1960, StA Koblenz 9 Ks 2/62, Bl. 2321 und 2628; Vern. E.S. (Überlebender von Trostinez) v. 12.12.1962, ebd., Dok.Bd. 9; Safrian, S. 187, auf Grund eines Überlebendenberichts. Auch Vern. Karl Buchner v. 29.10.1945, IfZ Fb 101/16; mündl. Mitt. A.D. Krasnoperko v. 16.10.1993."
- 35.Gerlach note 1428: "Vern. des ehemaligen Stadtkommissars Wilhelm Janetzke 28.10.-4.11.1947, ZStL 202 AR-Z 184/67, LO Übersetzungen zu Dok.Bd. 2, zu Bl. 802-811."
- 36.Quoted in Solomon M. Schwarz, *The Jews in the Soviet Union*, Syracuse University Press 1951, p. 340.
- 37.Christian Gerlach, "Failure of Plans for an SS Extermination Camp in Mogilev, Belorussia", *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, vol. 11 (1997), issue 1, p. 62. The source given for the Heydrich statement is "Notizen aus der Besprechung am 10.10.41 über die Lösung von Judenfragen, Eichmann Trial, Document No. 1193". Needless to say this statement does not square well with the notion that the *Einsatzgruppen* were at this time carrying out the wholesale extermination of Soviet Jewry.
- 38.Ibid. The source given for the von Schenkendorff directive is "Commander of Rear Area Center, Department VII/War Administration, Administration Orders No. 8 (sic), 10 October 1941, Central State Archives Minsk, 570-1-1, p. 137."
- 39.Ibid., p. 64. Source for the statement on Borissov: "Oberwachtmeister Soennecken's report, 24 October 1941, cited by Wilhelm in Wilhelm and Krausnick, p. 578."
- 40."The officer for Jewish affairs in the Foreign Ministry, Franz Rademacher, in a note of 25 October 1941. Quoted from [Götz] Aly [*"Endlösung": Völkerverschiebung und der Mord an den europäischen Juden*, S. Fischer, Frankfurt am Main 1995], p. 341; see also pp. 340-47."
- 41.C. Gerlach, "Failure of Plans for an SS Extermination Camp in Mogilev, Belorussia", op.cit., pp. 65-66. Source on Allihn: "See Reich Ministry of Transport (RVM), Certificate of Employment, 28 October 1942, Berlin Document Center (BDC), personal record Fritz Allihn; RVM, Eastern Branch, Inland Shipping Department B Ost I 48/41, Binnenschiffahrt im grossen Feld des Dnjepr-Bug-Systems, 10 September 1941 (two documents, one for the public, one for Allihn), BA MA RW 19/2186 (quotation)."
- 42.Ibid., p. 66. Source given: "Quotation from Aly, p. 340."
- 43.Ibid., p. 67.
- 44.Ibid., pp. 66-67.
- 45.R. M. Kempner, *Eichmann und Komplizen*, Europa Verlag, Zürich, Stuttgart, Wien 1961, p. 293.
- 46.C. Gerlach, "Failure of Plans for an SS Extermination Camp in Mogilev, Belorussia", op. cit., pp. 67-68.
- 47.Yitzhak Arad, *The Holocaust in the Soviet Union*, University of Nebraska Press/Yad Vashem, Lincoln (Neb.)/Jerusalem 2009, p. 188, 570 note 25.

- 48.C. Gerlach, "Failure of Plans for an SS Extermination Camp in Mogilev, Belorussia", op. cit., p. 77, note 85.
- 49.Wendy Lower, *Nazi Empire-Building and the Holocaust in Ukraine*, University of North Carolina Press 2005, p. 89.
- 50.Ibid.
- 51.Léon Poliakov, Josef Wulf, *Das Dritte Reich und seine Diener*, K.G. Saur /arani, Munich 1978, p. 132. See also the letter from Luther on 11 February 1942, reproduced on p. 130.
- 52.Ulrich Herbert (ed.), *National Socialist Extermination Policies. Contemporary German Perspectives and Controversies*, Berghahn Books, New York/Oxford 2000, p. 86.
- 53.Christian Hartmann (ed.), *Der deutsche Krieg im Osten 1941-1944: Facetten einer Grenzüberschreitung*, Oldenbourg Wissenschaftsverlag 2009, p. 175.
- 54.USHMM, Derzavnyj Archiv Zytomyrskoi Oblasti, R-1151-1-137, Bl. 8, Runderlass RKU, 12.1.1942, BAL, II 204; AR-Z 21/58, Band IX, Bl. 219, Vernehmung Kurt Syplie, 27.11.1959.
- 55.Jean-Claude Favez, *The Red Cross and the Holocaust*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1999.
- 56.Ibid., p. 40. Source: ICRC Archives, Geneva (AG), G 3/26f, note of 14 November 1942.
- 57.Ibid., p. 39. Source: AG, G 59/8.
- 58.Ibid., p. 41. Source: AG, G 59/8.
- 59.Jean-Marie Boisdefeu, "Schon 1942 wußte man, daß...", *Vierteljahreshefte für freie Geschichtsforschung* 4(2) (2000), p. 150f.
- 60.For those interested, Lieber's testimony to Riegner can be read (in French) in *Dubitando*, no. 14, January 2008, pp. 33-34 (online: <http://www.vho.org/aaargh/fran/revu/dubitando/dubitando14.pdf>)
- 61.Walter Laqueur, *The Terrible Secret*, Penguin Books, New York 1982, pp. 188-189.
- 62.Laqueur here notes that the addresses took place on 25 May 1942 before the Mapai (Ihud) World Secretariat and on 27 May 1942 before the Histadrut (Trade Union) Council. "A stenogram was taken, and the speeches were, in early July, circulated ('restricted') among a limited number of people."
- 63.Laqueur notes: "It is known from various sources that Slovak Jewish leaders were in fairly frequent telephonic contact with the Jewish representatives in Switzerland".
- 64.Ibid., p. 189.
- 65.Ibid., p. 197.
- 66.<http://www.revblog.codoh.com/2010/12/addendum-to-%E2%80%9Cevidence-for-the-presence-of-gassed-jews-in-the-occupied-eastern-territories-part-2%E2%80%99D/>
- 67.W. Laqueur, *The Terrible Secret*, op. cit., pp. 198-199.
- 68.The contents of the *JTA Daily News Bulletin* are available online at <http://archive.jta.org/>
- 69.I have not considered the numerous news reports about Jews being sent to "unknown destinations" in the "East" or "occupied East" where no more exact geographic area is specified, as these two terms could be interpreted as applying to Poland just as well as to the German-occupied parts of the Soviet Union and the Baltic states.

- 70.Cf. Jürgen Graf, Carlo Mattogno, *Treblinka. Extermination Camp or Transit Camp?*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2004, p. 201.
- 71.Jules Schelvis, *Sobibor. A History of a Nazi Death Camp*, Berg Publishers, Oxford/New York 2007, p. 198. Also: http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/The_Deportation_of_Austrian_and_German_Jews.html
- 72.Cf. Thomas Kues, "Halfway between Reality and Myth: *Hitler's Ten-Year War on the Jews* Reconsidered", *Inconvenient History Journal* Vol. 2, No. 4 (Winter 2010), online: http://www.inconvenienthistory.com/archive/2010/volume_2/number_4/halfway_between_reality_and_myth.php
- 73.Walter Laqueur (ed), *The Holocaust Encyclopedia*, Yale University Press, New Haven/London 2001, p. 637.
- 74.Cf. Serge Klarsfeld, *Memorial to the Jews Deported from France 1942-1944*, Beate Klarsfeld Foundation, New York 1987, p. xxvi.
- 75.Steven B. Bowman, *The Agony of Greek Jews, 1940-1945*, Stanford University Press, Stanford (Cal.) 2009, p. 80, 83, 85.
- 76.Reuben Ainsztein, *Jewish Resistance in Nazi-Occupied Eastern Europe*, Paul Elek, London 1974, p. 708.
- 77.Jean-Marie Boisdefeu, *La controverse sur l'extermination des juifs par les allemands*, vol. 2, ch. V, "Les grandes deportations de 1942" - C – "Preuves de la reimplantation a l'Est", point 17. Online: <http://www.vho.org/aaargh/fran/bsdf/bdf2/preuves.html>
- 78.Thomas Kues, "Addendum to 'Evidence for the Presence of 'Gassed' Jews in the Occupied Eastern Territories, Part 1'", online: <http://www.revblog.codoh.com/2010/09/addendum-to-%E2%80%9Cevidence-for-the-presence-of-gassed-jews-in-the-occupied-eastern-territories-part-1%E2%80%9D/>
- 79.Cf. Thomas Kues, "The Maly Trostenets 'Extermination Camp'—A Preliminary Historiographical Survey, Part 1", §2.3, online: http://www.inconvenienthistory.com/archive/2011/volume_3/number_1/the_maly_trostenets_extermination_camp.php
- 80.http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daugavpils_Ghetto
- 81.<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kretinga>
- 82.Wolfgang Benz (ed.), *Der Ort des Terrors*, vol. 8, C.H. Beck, Munich 2008, p. 69.
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