

Selection Amidst the Ghetto Police

After carrying out all the *akcje* of rounding up the Jews to be deported, which took six [sic three] weeks - from Yom Kippur to Simchas Torah – the turn of the ghetto police came.

In the beginning, the Jewish police were sure that, for their “loyal service to the devil”, they and their wives and children would remain alive. During the time of the “resettlements”, the Jewish ghetto police, with their wives and children, were billeted in the quarantine area on ul. Garibaldiego, along with the doctors’ families.

On an October day in 1942, at seven in the morning, a roll-call of all the ghetto police from both precincts was called. The roll-call took place in the First Aleja, in the presence of Hauptmann Degenhardt, his deputy Rohn and an entire array of SS men. Degenhardt went about among the ghetto policemen, standing in rows, inquiring of each one his occupation, age and family status. He then gave a speech, in which he cynically declared that the Führer’s wish had been finally carried out - Częstochowa had fallen into complete disarray.

After his speech, he ordered them to line up according to the following categories: married with children, singles and protégés¹. After they were split up into these three groups, the singles and protégés were joined into one group.

One ghetto policeman, who was in the married group, had a feeling that this was bad, and he attempted to dart across to the unmarried and protégés group. Degenhardt noticed this. He gave an order for him to be shot. An SS man immediately levelled his rifle, aiming at the ghetto policeman’s head. The ghetto policeman fell dead, covered in blood, in front of the whole ghetto police force, which numbered 250 individuals.

The protégés [and] singles were taken back to the quarantine area. At the entrance, only the protégés were allowed inside. They took the unmarried men’s [police] hats off, and transported them to HASAG-Pelcery in freight vans which had already been waiting for them.

The women and children of the ghetto policemen, who were married, were taken out of the quarantine area and led away to the *azyl* [shelter] in the Old Study-Hall at ul. Mirowska 9-11, where they found a large number of Jews, who had been captured in the hiding places and bunkers.

After they sat for two days in the *azyl*, Rohn arrived with SS men and Ukrainians. Everyone was taken out of the *azyl*, led away to the railway line and sent off to Treblinka. Thus, the Jewish ghetto police ended its career. Some 200 ghetto policemen, who had helped deliver their brethren into the arms of the murderers to be sent away to their deaths, ended up being transported to the gas chambers in Treblinka themselves.

¹ [TN: “Protegierte” (Ger.) in the original, which, in this context, is likely to mean those who received preferential treatment from the German authorities.]