

The Jewish Police (Inspectorate of Street Traffic & Jewish *Ordnungsdienst*¹)

The *Judenrat*, which conducted broad, intensive activity and had an entire array of institutions and warehouses at its disposal, was in need of a security service so as to keep order within the bureaus and storerooms, as well as to see to the traffic² in the streets. The security service was also required to guard against unpleasant consequences which could arise from not following the regulations regarding movement in the streets during the police hour [viz. curfew]. It was also required to keep wealthy Jews from promenading in the streets dressed in fine clothes, in order to prevent potential attacks on the part of the Jew-haters.

The security service was given the name "Inspectorate of Street Traffic"³. The commanders of the Inspectorate were Galster, a former expeditor [viz. shipping agent] in Częstochowa, and Cederbaum, a former expeditor from Łódź. The Inspectorate numbered fifty individuals. This was an unpaid "honorary service". Those who belonged to it were the young sons of the city's wealthy, assimilated. Their purpose was to be protected against forced labour, deportation to the camps and to support their families.

The Inspectorate of Street Traffic only served during the day until the curfew - meaning until six in the evening – and keeping order in the bureaus and storerooms. Movement in the streets was later prolonged until eight in the evening.

Sometime later, the *Judenrat* received orders, signed by the *Kreishauptmann* Dr Wendler and his deputy Kadner, regarding the formation of a Jewish police. Based upon these orders, the Jewish police (*Żydowska Służba Porządkowa*⁴) was established.

Two service institutions were formed: the Inspectorate of Street Traffic, which continued occupying itself with guarding the *Judenrat's* institutions and warehouses, and the *Ordnungsdienst* (Jewish police). The members of the Inspectorate of Street Traffic were not uniformed, but only wore armbands, whereas the members of the Jewish police were uniformed, wearing blue-and-white caps and armbands and [carrying] rubber batons. There were also separate commanders - Cederbaum was the commander of the Inspectorate and Baum that of the Police which, initially, numbered sixty individuals. Shortly before the liquidation of the ghetto, orders came to increase the number of policemen to 250 people.

The composition of the police changed completely following its enlargement. If, while its numbers had been small and the work had been an unpaid, honorary duty, the police had been made up more or less of the "better echelons" - the assimilated, wealthy, young sons of Częstochowa's bourgeois circles. Then after the number of policemen was increased, an unwelcome element arrived, some of whom were even protected by the German authorities - informers and denouncers, who had personal material interests. The police received a

¹ [TN: Ger., "Security Service"; official name of the ghetto police.]

² [TN: Mainly the movement of people, as follows.]

³ [TN: This name appears in other historical sources in its Polish form – "Inspekcja Ruchu Ulicznego".]

⁴ [TN: "Jüdischer Ordnungsdienst" in German, as the name usually appears in most sources.]

regular salary. When the number of policemen was increased, the Inspectorate of Street Traffic was automatically made part of the police force.

In the summer of 1942, the commander of the Jewish police, Galster, was arrested by order of the German authorities. For three days, he was held under temporary arrest at ul. Wały Dwernickiego 22. Parasol, who before the War had owned a confectionery shop, was appointed in his place. The police had its [own] organisation and was divided into two precincts, with three platoons in each one. The first precinct was on Aleja Najświętszej Maryi Panny and the second at ul. Kozia 6, and its commander was the engineer Auerbach. The police served day and night. Each policeman had twelve hours of service and twenty-four hours off. During the twelve-hour shift, the watchmen were changed every two hours. This means that the twelve hours consisted of six hours of active service in certain locations and six hours of reserve service in the precinct.

There was a watch point at every one of the ghetto's border points. The first precinct had seven watch points:

- first point was at I Aleja 14;
- second at I Aleja 11;
- third at the corner of ul. Piłsudskiego and ul. Katedralna;
- fourth at the corner of ul. Fabryczna and ul. Przemysłowa;
- fifth in the building on ul. Ogrodowa, next to Szwede's brewery;
- sixth on ul. [Prawe] Wały [or] ul. Wilsona⁵, and
- seventh on the corner of [the same street and] ul. Kawia.

The second precinct had five watch points:

- first point was on ul. Mirowska;
- second on ul. Strażacka;
- third on ul. Narutowicza;
- fourth on ul. Koszarowa, and
- fifth on the corner of ul. Warszawska, next to the bridge.

The police decorations were [as follows]:

- commander - three stars;
- deputy – two stars;
- *dyżurny* [desk sergeant] - three buttons;
- group leader - two buttons, and
- guard - one button.

From the *Judenrat*. the policemen received a salary of 150 złoty a month and different allocations of foodstuffs.

⁵ [TN: The name of the street Prawe Wały was changed to Wilsona when Poland regained its independence after the First World War.]