

## The Subsequent “Resettlements”

### The Second “Resettlement”

On Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, the Jews were allowed to be in the streets for two hours - from eleven in the morning to one o'clock. Tragic scenes were played out in the streets. People said their goodbyes, knowing that this would be their last farewell.

On the following day - Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September - in the early morning hours, the “Small Ghetto” was surrounded by Latvians, Lithuanians, Ukrainians and Germans, all of whom were in service of the SS. All the tragic scenes of the first deportation were re-enacted. The bloody *akcja* encompassed the following streets: the second part of ul. Warszawska up to the New Market, half of the New Market, the Old Market, the second part of ul. Garncarska, Nadrzeczna, Targowa, Narutowicza, Przemysłowa, Katedralna, the odd numbers on Strażacka, I Aleja, the second part of the New Market, Orlicz-Dreszera and Mirowska. Every house is surrounded. The murderers yell wildly, “*All the Jews - Out! Whoever does not come out will be shot!*” The despairing, apathetic Jews, starving, downcast by their cruel, horrific fate, knew that they were going on their last road. Despondent and having lost all hope, under a hail of bullets and blows, they walked passively, accepting their bitter destiny.

The arch-murderer Degenhardt stood on the corner of Orlicz-Dreszera and the New Market. He segregated the people, checked their papers and sent them to the left or to the right. Left was in the direction of the transport to Treblinka and right was to the *Metalurgia* - to continue working as slaves.

During the second deportation, an incident occurred. Szmul Goldsztajn, a former President of the *Kehilla* and co-owner of *Metalurgia*, attempted to take his own life by jumping from the second floor of his own house. The SS-men stopped him from executing his plan, telling him that his death would not be such an easy one.

In the second *akcja*, 9,000 Jews were sent away to Treblinka. All the particulars of the first deportation, with all its bloody and dramatic scenes, were repeated and, namely, shootings along the way, the taking off the shoes before ascending the train, gathering all the dead bodies once the transport had departed and burying them in the mass graves on ul. Kawia and, afterwards, searching for those hiding in the bunkers of the liquidated streets.

From the second *akcja*, some 300 Jews were sent over to the *Metalurgia*.

An unexpected rumour spread, to the effect that there would be no more deportations and that the gory operation had been discontinued. A group of 500 Jews had returned from the train with their rucksacks and packs. The despairing Jews wished to see in this a “miracle” - a salvation. The families of those who returned from the train were weeping with joy and saying “*Mazel tov!*” to one another. Others were yelling, “*Jews, we are saved!*”. Regardless of the strict prohibition against going outside, the streets were full of people. The disappointment came quickly, when the Ukrainian guards started shooting at the Jews gathered in the streets.

The explanation for the return of the 500 Jews was that there had been no more space in the carriages. The Nazi murderers knew perfectly well that they would recapture the Jews whom they had sent back.