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The New Ghetto

Following the five *akcje*, through which 35,000 Jews were deported from our city, the ghetto was left emptied. The houses were left deserted, the shops closed. From my second story balcony at the Craftsmen's House, I saw a watch patrolling the ghetto streets. This was to guard against the Polish population looting the belongings and goods that were left behind by the deported Jews.

Hauptmann Degenhardt ordered that a new ghetto" be set up, a smaller one than the previous, in order to contain the Jews who still remained following the *akcje*. He assigned the former president of the *Judenrat* to establish a new *Judenrat*, a smaller one than the first, and he ordered the police's assistant leader to form a police station from the remaining fifty Jewish policemen.

All the slave labourers from the factories and also all those who were in the quarantine – the doctors and their families, the nurses, and the remaining hospital personnel – needed to be brought to the new, smaller ghetto.

Hauptmann Degenhardt found three narrow, filthy alleys, without plumbing or sewers, and ordered the newly-organised Jewish "representation" to establish the new ghetto here.

Under the supervision of the Jewish police, Jewish workers erected tall posts around the three ghetto alleys, each post at a distance of three or four meters from the other, and enclosed them with barbed wire. A wider space was left open for a gate. Thus the "New Ghetto" was established.

The *Judenrat* was, once more, "organised" anew. The swift *machers* divided the "offices" amongst themselves and proceeded to their "activity".

The *Judenrat* allocated lodgings for six to eight people per room, or for three or four couples together. "Furniture" was also distributed – old, broken tables and chairs - all that was still good for anything was removed by the Germans, [and taken] into their warehouses.

A kitchen was set up. The *Hauptmann* allotted products to it from the municipal management, and thus the new, wretched life was, once again, organised.

When the dwellings of the three new ghetto alleys were being cleaned out, hiding places were found, from which Jews emerged - men, women, elderly and children. These people had been living in the worst, most horrible conditions - but had, nevertheless, endured. They had been "lucky", because there would be a ghetto here again, and that they would be among Jews. They would still need to hide from Degenhardt and his gendarmes, who would still come here, but it was already easier. Death no longer hovered before their eyes as it had done previously, and they would receive food and be able to wash themselves.

The corpses were also taken out of the hiding places - those of the people, who had not endured the terrible conditions, and also children, some who had died, and others who had been suffocated so as to not betray [the hideout] with their cries.

Ever more people also began to emerge from the bunkers that were on other streets of the previous ghetto. The food reserves had run out there. These people were shot on the spot. When the emergence from the holes took on *en masse* characteristics, the *Hauptmann* ordered that these people be taken to a collection camp at ul. Katedralna. This aroused concerns that the *Hauptmann* was organising a new *akcja*.

And indeed, several days later, the *Hauptmann* ordered the deportation, to Radomsko, of 800 Jewish souls, who had been gathered in the collection camp. From there, they were to be sent onwards along with the transports of the local Jews.

After the collection camp had been emptied, the *Hauptmann* issued a command that any Jews found in bunkers be shot on the spot. Following that order, each day brought fresh victims.