

The Ghetto

On 22nd February 1941, the deputy of the *Stadthauptmann* at the time, Kadner, sent the chief of the Radom district, Dr [Karl] Lasch, two plans for the establishment of a ghetto for Jews in Częstochowa. The first plan envisioned a walled enclosure with iron and barbed wire. This would require 14,000 days of work and entailed 190,800 złoty in costs. The second plan projected a wooden enclosure with iron and barbed wire, which would require 7,000 days of work and entailed 120,600 złoty in costs. Kadner based these plans on the special development plan of the municipal Construction Bureau, dated 15th February 1941³¹.

On 29th March 1941, the chief of the Radom district, Dr Lasch, held a “*Dienstbesprechung*” [staff meeting] of the city and county *Hauptmänner* [captains] of the Radom district, at which Lasch reported on the “fundamental and energetic preparations for the attack on Soviet Russia” and, concurrently, announced that, from 5th April 1941, a “*Judenaktion*” [an operation (against) Jews] of implementing Jewish “*Wohnvierteln*” [residential districts] had to be conducted in the entire Radom district³². Already, on that same day, the *Judenrat* announced that, based on an ordinance of the authorities, the following streets had been forbidden to the Jewish populace: the Aleja, from the buildings No. 26 on the even side and No. 27 on the odd one and higher, ul. [aleja] Kościuszki, ul. Kilińskiego, ul. Waszyngtona; the whole even side of [ul.] aleja Wolności, ul. Piłsudskiego and ul. Sobieskiego³³.

On 9th April 1941, there appeared an ordinance from *Stadthauptmann* Dr Wendler regarding an enclosed, residential area for Jews. This ordinance was printed on large red placards and stated:

“On the day of 9th April 1941, I decree the establishment of an enclosed residential district for Jews, which includes the following streets:

ul. Wilsona – from Nos. 14 to 22 and from 34 to 54;
ul. Kawia – from Nos. 1 to 17 and from No. 21 to No. 43;
ul. Krakowska – from Nos. 1 to 9 and from Nos. 2 to 12;
ul. Krótka – barring No 16;
ul. Garibaldiiego and ul. Berek Joselewicza;
First Aleja – from Nos. 2 to 12 and from Nos. 1 to 11;
Plac Daszyńskiego – barring No 8;
ul. Orlicz-Dreszera – from Nos. 2 to 12 and from 1 to 13;
ul. Katedralna – from Nos. 4 to 18 and from Nos. 3 to 17;
ul. Narutowicza – from Nos. 2 to 14 and from Nos. 3 to 11;
ul. Strażacka – from Nos. 1 to 19, barring No 3;
ul. Przesmyk – from Nos. 2 to 4 and No 3;
ul. Targowa – from Nos. 8 to 14 and from No. 1 to 25;
ul. Nadrzeczna in its entirety;
ul. Mirowska – from Nos. 1 to 11 and from No. 4 to 12;
all of ul. Garncarska, barring No 1;
Old Market [Stary Rynek], Rynek Warszawski, Senatorska, Kozia, Spadek, Mostowa, Ptasia and Przemysłowa.

³¹ Letter from the *Stadthauptmann* to Dr Lasch in Radom, dated from 21st February 1941.

³² Memos from the *Stadthauptmann* (typewritten).

³³ Letter from the *Judenrat* to the Jewish police, dated 29th March 1941, No 828/41.

Zarządzenie

[illegible]

979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000

Further down, the ordinance states that the relocation of all the Jews into the enumerated streets and the withdrawal of the Poles from those streets must be carried out by 17th April. Those Jews, who did not carry out the ordinance, within the set deadline, would be expelled from the city and would not have the right to take more than twenty-five kilos of luggage per person. The Poles, living in the designated ghetto streets, who did not leave them within the appointed deadline, would be forcefully removed and would not have the right to take with them more than twenty-five kilos per person³⁴. The number of Polish families, who had to move out of the ghetto, reached 955, numbering 3,309 souls³⁵.

On 17th April 1941, the Jewish policemen, who were already stationed at all the ghetto's boundary points, did not allow any Jews to leave without special written permits from the German organs of power. Even the members of the *Judenrat* had to show such permits upon crossing the ghetto's border points³⁶. Nevertheless, the full closure of the ghetto was delayed until 23rd April 1941.

On 23rd April 1941, at a few of the boundary points of the ghetto posts were already erected with large yellow signs bearing inscriptions addressing the ghetto in German, Polish and Hebrew:

"Closed infected area. For leaving the ghetto – death penalty."

Exactly how many Jews were then in Częstochowa is unknown. According to what the *Judenrat*'s Department of Evidence and Statistics reported, there were, at the time, officially 32,744 Jews³⁷. According to a note attached to Wendler's handwritten ordinance, 2,100 Jewish families, numbering 9,600 souls, and 35 non-family individuals were to move into the ghetto. According to that same note, there were then 35,591 registered Jews and 1,500 unregistered. Also, within the circles of the *Judenrat*, the talk at the time was that there were close to 40,000 Jews when the ghetto was established. These nearly 40,000 Jews were crammed into the city's poorest quarter.

* * *

³⁴ *Stadthauptmann's* report from 8th May 1941.

³⁵ *Stadthauptmann's* report from 8th May 1941.

³⁶ Notification from Majznerowicz, the Polish chief of the Jewish police, from 8th August 1941.

³⁷ Statistics Book of the *Judenrat*, Vol. II.

For the Jews, moving through the ghetto streets entailed pain and humiliation. Many Germans, especially military men, would enter the ghetto to contemplate this “horrible wonder”. Jews received beatings for the “impudence” of walking on the pavements, for not raising their cap to a German or for the “impudence” of actually *having* raised their cap to a German. One never knew how it was better to act in order to avoid blows.

On 25th April 1941, the *Stadthauptmann* (probably upon the intervention of the *Judenrat*) addressed the military headquarters to the effect that “soldiers are taking pleasure in promenading in the ghetto.” “...running about in the ghetto just out of sheer curiosity,” he writes in this request, “is not only unseemly, but also dangerous and it is, therefore, forbidden.”³⁸ Four days later, on 29th April, the headquarters notified the soldiers that, due to the threatening hazard of being infected with typhus, they were only allowed to go [into the ghetto] when on duty³⁹. The plague of “curious” visitors did *not* come to a stop.

On 4th May 1941 the *Stadthauptmann* received a demand from Radom to present, up to 10th May, a detailed report on the ghetto that had been created for Jews⁴⁰. In response, a detailed report arrives from Wendler on 8th May, which takes up six typewritten pages, regarding the manner in which he had implemented the ghetto. Among other things, he boasts, “The typhus, which was dragged here with the latest transport of Jews (meaning those from Płock and Bodzanów – L.B.), has ended. I believe that there will no longer be any more, new cases - provided they do not send me any further transports of revolting, completely lice-ridden and filthy Jews, because other city and county *Hauptmänner* do not wish to accept them.”⁴¹

The Jews from different cities also came into the closed ghetto. From a report by the *Stadthauptmann* from 5th August 1941, it emerges that already on 1st July 1941, of the total sum of the Częstochowa population, which at the time numbered 164,567 people, 37,667

³⁸ Two letters from the *Stadthauptmann* to the military headquarters, citing a conversation with General Siebert regarding “a closed residential area” for Jews from 25th April 1941.

³⁹ Orders of the military headquarters in Częstochowa regarding “entrance of members of the Wehrmacht into the ghetto”.

⁴⁰ Written request from Dr Gutt in Radom from 2nd May 1941 to the *Stadthauptmann* in Częstochowa.

⁴¹ Letter from the *Stadthauptmann*.

Zusammenstellung der ung. Materialienmassen und Baukosten.

L. N.	Vorgesehene Arbeit.	der Einer	Anzahl		Alternative 1.				Alternative 2.				Ung. Baukosten	
			gem. d. Alt 1	gem. d. Alt 2	Materialienbedarf		Materialienbedarf		Materialienbedarf		Materialienbedarf		Alt. 1	Alt. 2
					Holz. m ³	Eisen kg	Stachel- draht l. m.	Mauer m ³	Holz m ³	Eisen kg	Stachel- draht l. m.	Mauer m ³		
1.	Hölzener Zaun 3.0 m hoch mit den Pfosten Ø 16 cm und Brettern 2.5 cm stark	l. m.	2362	1772	500	—	750	—	400	—	5400	—	94 480	70 800
2.	Pfosten Ø 16 cm je 2.5 m mit Stacheldraht	l. m.	550	550	40	—	13200	—	40	—	13200	—	ohne Stachel- draht 3 500	ohne Stachel- draht 3 500
3.	Vergitterung der Öffnungen auf dem Abschnitt A-B	l. m.	—	556	—	—	—	—	—	20000	—	—	—	97 300
4.	Vergitterung einzelner Öffnungen	m ²	76	76	—	2500	—	—	—	2500	—	—	9 120	9 120
5.	Mauer 3 m hoch 30 cm stark	l. m.	61	468	—	—	—	122	—	—	—	216	5 500	10 000
Zusammen					540	2500	20700	122	440	22500	18600	216	112 600	190 800
													120 090	200 000

- Bemerkungen:
- 1) gemäss der Alternative 1 Abschnitt A-B ist mit der hölzerner Umzäunung vorgesehen gemäss der Alternative 2 Abschnitt A-B ist mit der Vergitterung aller Öffnungen und Vermauerung der Strassen vorgesehen
 - 2) die in der Alternative 1 vorgesehene hölzerne Umzäunung des Abschnittes A-B ist leichter und schneller zu erledigen.
Die Arbeitsdauer beträgt nach Alternative 1 ca 7000 Arbeiter-tage; nach Alt. 2 bis 14000.

Tschenstochau, den 15. 2. 1941 J.

St. Bauamt

Summary of the Approximate Material Masses and Construction Costs

L. N. *	Proposed work	The unit	Quantity		Alternative 1				Alternative 2				Approx. construction costs	
			As per Alt. 1	As per Alt. 2	Materials required				Materials required				Alt. 1	Alt. 2
					Wood m³	Iron kg	Brbd. wire 1m	Walls m³	Wood m³	Iron kg	Brbd. wire 1m	Walls m³		
1.	Wooden fence 3.0 metres high with posts Ø 16cm and planks 2.5cm in width	1m	2,362	1,772	500	–	750 [sic 7,500]	–	400	–	5,400	–	94,480	70,800
2.	Posts Ø 16cm every 2.5m with barbed wire	1m	350	550	40	–	13,200	–	40	–	13,200	–	Without brbd. wire 3,500	Without brbd. wire 3,500
3.	Grilling of the openings at Section A-B	1m	–	556	–	–	–	–	–	20,000	–	–	–	97,300
4.	Grilling of individual openings	m²	76	76	–	2,500	–	–	–	2,500	–	–	9,120	9,120
5.	Wall 3m high and 30cm in width	1m	61	468	–	–	–	122	–	–	–	216	5,500	10,000
Total					540	2,500	20,700	122	440	22,500	18,600	216	112,600	190,800
													120,00	200,000

Remarks:

- 1.) According to Alternative 1, Section A-B is planned with a wooden fence; according to Alternative 2, section A-B is planned with the grilling of all openings and the walling in of the streets.
- 2.) The wooden fence planned in Alternative 1 for Section A-B is easier and faster to execute. Alternative 1 entails a worktime of about 7,000 workdays; Alt. 2 – up to 14,000.

Tschenstochau, 15.2.1941

Municipal Planning Department

* [TN: These abbreviations apparently stand for "line" (or "lstr") and "number".]

OBWIESZCZENIE

Na skutek zarządzenia Władz zamknięte zostały dla ludności żydowskiej następujące ulice:

N. M. Panny od nr. 26—27 w górę,
Al. Kościuszki,
Kilińskiego,
Washingtona,
Al. Wolności strona parzysta,
Pułaskiego,
Sobieskiego.

Osoby, zamieszkające na tych ulicach, lub mające tam swe sklepy, warsztaty, lub miejsca pracy, mogą zgłosić się po przepustki do Wydziału Rejestracji i Statystyki, ul. Katedralna 7, front II piętro, pokój nr. 1, w dni powszednie w godzinach 9—12 i 15—17. (W soboty tylko od 9 do 12) lub do Wydziału Administracyjnego Zarządu Miejskiego.

Koszt przepustki wynosi Zł. 10.—.

Przewodniczący Rady Starszych
(—) w. z. Dr. Sz. Pohorille

Częstochowa, dnia 29 marca 1941 roku.

23. 12. 1941

Dr. W./Gä. —

An
den Herrn Staatsanwalt beim Sondergericht
in Tschenstochau.

In der Anlage übermittle ich 4 Gnadengesuche des Ältestenrates von Tschenstochau mit der Bitte um Weiterleitung an die für die Begnadigung zuständige Stelle, den Herrn Generalgouverneur in Krakau.

Meine persönliche Stellungnahme geht dahin, dass ja durch das Gericht die Einwendungen wohl vollkommen geprüft worden sind. Ich stelle jedoch amtlich fest, dass erst nach dem Straffälligwerden der Gesuchsteller am Ausgang des Ghettos in deutsch, polnisch und hebräisch die Androhung der Todesstrafe angebracht werden konnte. Es war jedoch zweifellos vorher schon bekannt was dem Juden blüht, der widerrechtlich das Ghetto verlässt.

4 Anlagen.

26. Juni 1941

Dr. W/Br/447/41

Herrn
Gouverneur Dr. Lasch
R a d o m

Sehr geehrter Herr Gouverneur!

Ich habe eine Reihe von Berichten bekommen, dass gegenwärtig die jüdische Propaganda auf dem flachen Lande eine ganz intensive ist und dass die Juden, die ja nur in den grossen Städten in Wohnvierteln zusammengeschlossen sind, während sie in den Landstädten ungeniert wie bisher hausen, durch das flache Land ziehen und dabei nicht nur schieben und wuchern, sondern auch Propaganda machen. So wird den Polen Angst eingeflösst vor einer langen Dauer der kriegerischen Auseinandersetzung mit Russland. Es wird auch der Gedanke in die Masse geworfen, dass dieses grosse russische Reich mit seinen unerhörten Menschenmassen eben vielleicht doch siegen würde und wenn schon nichts anderes erreicht wird, so zumindest das eine, dass der Bauer mit seinen Produkten zurückhält, aus dem Zloty flüchtet und damit die Ernährungslage immer schwieriger gestaltet wird. Es müsste im gegenwärtigen Zeitpunkt, und das bitte ich Sie, Herr Gouverneur, zu erwägen, eine absolut strenge Zusammenfassung aller Juden erfolgen, die Einweisung in geschlossene Wohngebiete, gleichgültig ob das nun in irgendeinem Gebiet erfolgt, jedenfalls müsste in jeder Kreishauptmannschaft eine jüdische geschlossenes Wohnviertel bestehen, damit das Herumziehen der Juden radikal unterbunden wird.

Heil Hitler Herr Gouverneur!
Ihr ergebener

NOTICE

As the result of an order of the authorities, the following streets were closed to the Jewish population:

al. N. M. Panny from No. 26-27 to the end,
al. Kościuszki,
Kilińskiego
Washingtona
al. Wolności (even numbers side)
Pułaskiego
Sobieskiego.

People living in these streets or having their shops, workshops or workplaces there, may apply for passes to the Registration and Statistics Department, ul. Katedralna 7, front, 2nd floor, room No. 1, on weekdays between 9-12 and 15-17. (On Saturdays only from 9 to 12) or to the Administrative Department of the City Authorities.

The cost of a pass is 10 złotych.

Chairman of the Council of Elders,

Dr Sz. Pohorille

Częstochowa, March 29, 1941.

Dr	W.*	/	Gä.	—
23.12.1941				

To the Public Prosecutor at the Special Court in Częstochowa:

I have attached four petitions for clemency from the Council of Elders in Częstochowa with the request that they be forwarded to the authority responsible for clemency, the Governor General in Kraków.

My personal opinion is that the objections have probably been fully examined by the court. However, I officially state that only after the applicants had committed a criminal offense could the threat of the death penalty be issued in German, Polish and Hebrew at the exit of the ghetto. Nevertheless, it was undoubtedly known beforehand what would happen to the Jew who illegally left the ghetto. **4 attachments.**

Dr W./Br [letter]/447/41
26th June 1941

* [TN: Obviously abbreviation of "Doctor Wendler"; we have as yet not been able to ascertain what "Gä." Stands for.]

Herr Governor Dr Lasch, Radom:

Most esteemed *Herr* Governor!

I have received a series of reports that currently Jewish propaganda is quite intense in the rural areas and that the Jews, who are only grouped together in residential districts [viz. ghettos] in the larger cities, while they live unashamedly as before in the country towns, roam the countryside and not only push and proliferate, but also create propaganda. Thus, the Poles are instilled with a fear of a long-lasting military conflict with Russia. The idea is also thrown out, to the crowd, that this great Russian empire, with its incredible masses of people, might just win after all, and if nothing else is achieved, at least one thing – that the farmer is holding back his products, fleeing from the zloty, and thus the food situation is becoming increasingly more difficult. At the present time, and I would ask you to consider this, *Herr* Governor, there must be an absolutely strict concentration of all Jews – confinement in closed residential districts – regardless of what area this takes place in; in any case, there must be a Jewish closed residential area in every *Kreishauptmannschaft* [district administration], so that the wandering of the Jews is radically stopped.

Heil Hitler *Herr* Governor!

Your devoted**

** [TN: This letter would presumably have been signed by Wendler, although the document included in the original bears no signature.]

Polizei — Direktion

— Abt. V. Tgb. Nr. 5037/41

Tschenstochau, den 11. 8. 1941.

An den Herrn Stadthauptmann

hier. **Betr.:** Absperrung des jüdischen Wohnbezirks.
Bezug: Ohne.

Die Erfahrung hat gezeigt, dass die Absperrung des jüdischen Wohnbezirks durch Ordnungsleute des jüdischen Ordnungsdienstes allein nicht genügt. Diese Ordnungsleute haben zwar bisher- im ganzen gesehen- gewährleistet, dass Juden den Wohnbezirk ohne Passierschein nicht verlassen, es war jedoch nicht gewährleistet, dass sich Nichtjuden im jüdischen Wohnviertel nicht unbefugt aufhalten.

Ich halte es daher für dringend erforderlich, dass die Grenzen des jüdischen Wohnbezirks auch nach aussen erkennbar werden und schlage deshalb vor, dies durch Aufstellung von Schildern nachzuholen.

Wortlaut der Schilder: (deutsch und polnisch)

Jüdischer Wohnbezirk

Nichtjuden ist der unbefugte Aufenthalt in diesem Wohnbezirk verboten.

Zuwiderhandlungen werden schwer bestraft.

Der Stadthauptmann

Grösse der Schilder: 60 mal 40 cm

Farbe: gelbe Grundfarbe, schwarze Schrift.

Insgesamt werden 30 Schilder benötigt. Bei der Berechnung dieser Zahl bin ich davon ausgegangen, dass die Haupteinfallstrassen recht **und links** beschildert werden.

Ich halte dies deshalb für erforderlich, um einmal mit Nachdruck auf den Sperrbezirk hinzuweisen und zum anderen sollen diese Schilder die Absperrung im Hinblick auf die Lage des Wohnbezirks z. Zt. nicht durchführbarer ist.

Schliesslich wäre noch zu erwägen, ob es nicht möglich ist, die verhältnismässig geringe Zahl der restlichen jüdischen Wohnhäuser in der Katedralnastrasse von den jüdischen Familien zu räumen, sodass diese Strasse aus dem jüdischen Wohnviertel herausgekommen werden könnte. Dies hätte den Vorteil, dass der gesamte Fahrverkehr in Richtung Olstyn und Rakow nicht mehr das jüdische Wohnviertel zu berühren brauchte. Diese Massnahme läge nicht zuletzt im Interesse der Schlechthandelsbekämpfung.

Ich bitte, die Aufstellung der Schilder zu genehmigen und werde alsdann ihre Aufstellung von hier aus veranlassen.

Dr. W/Br

1) Schreibe

18. August 1941.

An die
Polizeidirektion
im Hause

Betr.: Absperrung des jüdischen Wohnbezirks.

Bezug: Ihr Schreiben vom 11. August 1941 Abt. V Tgb. Nr. 5037/41.

Ich bin absolut damit einverstanden, dass Ihrem Vorschlag entsprechend Schilder angebracht werden. Ich er suche nur unter der Aufschrift „Jüdischer Wohnbezirk“ noch anzubringen das Wort „Seuchengefahr“. Sonst bin ich mit dem Wortlaut vollkommen einverstanden.

Was die Freimachung der Katedralna anlangt, so bitte ich um Ihre Unterlagen, wieviel Familien, bzw. Köpfe hier für die Umsiedlung in Frage kommen. Es ist Tatsache, dass die Freimachung wenigstens hier nicht durch das Ghetto leisten zu müssen. Wenn Sie die notwendigen Unterlagen haben, bitte ich um Rücksprache.

Police Directorate

Daybook Dept. №5037/41

Częstochowa, 11.8.1941

To the *Herr Stadthauptmann* here:

Subject: Isolation of the Jewish living area.

Reference: None.

Experience has shown that the cordoning off of the Jewish residential area by policemen of the Jewish *Ordnungsdienst* [security service] alone is not enough. So far, these policemen have ensured – on the whole – that Jews do not leave the residential area without a permit, but this does not guarantee that non-Jews are not in the Jewish residential area without permission.

I therefore consider it urgently necessary that the boundaries of the Jewish residential area also be recognisable from the outside, and I therefore propose that this be done by putting up signs.

Wording on the signs: (German and Polish)

Jewish Residential Area

Non-Jews are forbidden the unauthorized
sojourn in this residential area.

Violations will be severely punished.

The Stadthauptmann

Size of the signs: 60X40cm

Colour: yellow background, black inscription.

A total of 30 signs are required. When calculating this number, I assumed that the main access streets will be signposted on the right **and left**.

I therefore consider this to be necessary, on the one hand to emphasise the restricted area, and on the other, these signs are intended [to indicate the barrier, as] the closure is currently not feasible in view of the location of the residential area.

Finally, it should be considered whether it would not be possible to clear the relatively small number of remaining Jewish residential buildings on ul. Katedralna from the Jewish families, so that this street could be excluded from the Jewish residential area. This would have the advantage that all traffic in the direction of Olsztyn and Raków would no longer have to come into contact with the Jewish residential area. Last, but not least, this measure would be in the interest of combating smuggling.

I request permission to erect the signs and will then arrange from here for them to be put up.

Dr W/Br [letter]

18th August 1941

1.) Writing [viz. written communication?]

To the Police Directorate at the precinct:

Subject: Isolation of the Jewish living area.

Reference: Your letter from 11th August, Daybook Dept. №5037/41

I absolutely agree that signs should be put up according to your suggestion. I only ask that the words "risk of epidemics" be added under the inscription "Jewish Residential Area". Otherwise, I completely agree with the wording.

As far as the clearing of ul. Katedralna is concerned, I would ask for your documents as to how many families or individuals are due for resettlement. It is a fact that, at least here, the clearing does not have to be done through the ghetto. Once you have the necessary documents, please contact me.

ÄLTESTENRAT in TSCHENSTOCHAU || RADA STARSZYCH w CZĘSTOCNOWIE

MARIENALLEE 11.

ALEJA 11.

Tel. 13-47 Zentrale || Centrala

13-56 Technische Abt. || Wydz. Techniczny.

13-46 Arbeitseinsatz || Wydz. Robót Przymus. (Marienallee 9)

Nr 4281/42

Tschenstochau, 17 Juni
Częstochowa,

1942

An den

Herrn Stadthauptmann

in Tschenstochau.

In Befolgung des Scheibens von 11, VI 1942 legt der Ältestenrat nachstehende Unterlagen in zweifacher Ausfertigung vor:

1.— Eine Statistische Übersicht über die Belegung des jüd. Wohnbezirkes in Tschenstochau

2.— Einen Lage-plan des jüd. Wohnbezirkes nach geschlossenen Häuserblocks geordnet als Ergänzung der Statistischen Übersicht. Die Häuserblocks sind durch entsprechende Farbennuancen abgezeichnet und besonders numeriert.—Die Numerationen des Lage planes und Statistischen Übersicht sind gleichlautend.—

3 — Einen Lage plan des jüd. Wohnbezirkes mit Häuserbezeichnungen schlechthin.

2 Beilagen.

Der Vorsitzende des Ältestenrates.

DO ODCZYTANIA NA ODPRAWACH CODZIENNYCH!

O K Ó L N I K

Zarządzam i przypominam, że obowiązkiem każdego funkcjonariusza Żydowskiej Służby porządkowej, pełniącego służbę na wylotowych punktach dzielnicy, jest żądanie okazania przepustek lub innych dokumentów, upoważniających do opuszczenia dzielnicy.

Odnosi się to również do znanych osób oficjalnych — aż do p. Prezesa Rady Starszych włącznie.

Częstochowa, dnia 8. sierpnia 1941 r.

Council of Elders in Częstochowa
Aleja 11

Tel. 13-47 Central
13-56 Technical Dept.
13-46 Labour Deployment

№ 4281/42
1942

Częstochowa, 17th June

To the
Herr Stadthauptmann
in Częstochowa:

In compliance with the letter of April 11, 1942, the Council of Elders submits the following documents in duplicate:

- 1.) A statistical survey of the occupancy of the Jewish residential area in Częstochowa;
- 2.) A map of the Jewish residential area, arranged according to the closed blocks of houses, as a supplement to the statistical survey. The blocks of houses are marked by corresponding colour nuances and numbered separately. The numberings on the map and the statistical survey are identical;
- 3.) A map of the Jewish residential area with [each of] the houses marked per se.

Two attachments.

The Chairman of the Council of Elders

TO READ ON DAILY CHECKS!

CIRCULAR

I am ordering and reminding that it is the duty of every officer of the Jewish Order Service, serving at the exit points of the district, to request the presentation of passes or other documents authorising the leaving of the district.

This also applies to known officials - including the President of the Council of Elders.

Częstochowa, 8th August 1941.

Jews were registered⁴². According to the assertion of the Town Hall, 37,371 food coupons were given out to Jews at the end of 1941. In that same statement, it is also noted that, due to various reasons, up to 20% of the Jews were unregistered and received no provisions⁴³. According to that, it emerges that, at the end of 1941, there were already more than 40,000 Jews in Częstochowa.

As a result, the crowdedness was not only felt in the dwellings, but also in the streets. Upon orders from the Germans, the Jewish police began to occupy itself with regulating the movement in the ghetto's alleyways. They chased away the peddlers, who consisted mainly of youths and children. They did not allow people to congregate in the streets. They did not permit people to sit on benches in the section of the First Aleja which was within the ghetto and, in the evenings, they dispersed those promenading.

On top of that came the curfew which, for the Jews, was always earlier than that for city's the non-Jewish populace. Every evening, even before the appointed curfew hour arrived, the Jewish police began chasing people off the streets, after which the *Schutzpolizei's** "ketchl" [paddy wagon] would appear. The gendarmes set off throughout the ghetto streets like dog-catchers in the hunt for Jews. Any Jew, who did not manage to be at home by then, was dragged into the "ketchl" and was taken to the guardroom for "a night's rest". In the morning, the person caught had to pay a monetary fine and, only then, was he sent to [forced] labour.

The ghetto was on the city's east side. This neighbourhood connected the suburbs of Zawodzie and Raków suburbs with the city centre. The Polish inhabitants, who were living in these suburbs, were therefore compelled to pass through the ghetto, and this enabled Jews and Poles to maintain contact amongst themselves - which the German police leadership could not bear. On 11th August 1941, the German police leadership turned to the *Stadthauptmann* with the request that, at all the ghetto's border points without, exception signs with inscriptions should be put up, facing the outer side in German and Polish: "Jewish residential area - non-Jews are forbidden from tarrying in this residential area. Violations will be severely punished."

The *Stadthauptmann*, needless to say, agreed – under one condition: that the term "danger of infection" appear on the signs⁴⁴. On 15th August 1941, thirty such signs were put up at all the ghetto's border points, and not a single Pole was allowed to cross the ghetto without a special permit anymore. But, in order for the Poles living in the Zawodzie and Raków suburbs to be able to have a connection with the city centre, ul. Strażacka and part of ul. Katedralna, which connected the city centre with the streets bordering said suburbs, were cut off from the ghetto. As a result, the decreased area of the ghetto became more densely populated by nearly 1,500 Jews, who had now, once more, lost the roof over their heads⁴⁵.

⁴² Written report by *Stadthauptmann* Wendler.

⁴³ Statistic report of the city administration's Evidence Department, dated 8th February 1947.

* [TN: Aka "Schupo", short for "Schutzpolizei des Reiches", or the "State Protection Police" of Nazi Germany, a branch of the *Ordnungspolizei*, which acted as the German gendarmerie in the occupied territories.]

⁴⁴ Letter from the police leadership to the *Stadthauptmann*, dated 11th August 1941, and the *Stadthauptmann's* reply, dated 18th August 1941.

⁴⁵ Letter from the *Judenrat* to the Jewish police.

On 24th December, at the start of the evening, uniformed and plainclothes Germans attacked the ghetto streets and, for no reason, beat any Jew they encountered. Jews wearing furs or coats with fur collars were forced to get undressed in the street and be thankful that they were allowed to go home. The story with the furs at once spread throughout the ghetto and the people kept a "night vigil". All night long, they sat behind firmly closed doors and curtained windows and let up in smoke old furs that had been inherited, silver foxes, expensive otter collars, as well as new, modern karakul and polecat furs. Not all the Jews managed to burn everything [and] not all the Jews were willing to incinerate the furs, because they believed that they would be allowed to retain something after all.

On the following morning, the *Judenrat* announced that, based on an order from the authorities, the Jews were required to give up all furs and every bit of fur that anybody owned. The *Judenrat* also received an order from the *Stadthauptmann* that it had to collect the furs and also, at its own expense, engage Jewish professional workers, who were to refashion the furs and adapt them to the needs of the German army. Many Jews hid their furs in attics and cellars and even buried them. Some put themselves in contact with their Polish acquaintances and smuggled out the furs out. Others sold their furs for pennies. There were also some who were not strongly taken with this ordinance and held that the decree of taking away furs would pass and that they would be able to continue using them. In the latter cases, there were several miscarriages, for which they paid with their lives.

The operation of confiscating the furs was headed by the *Oberleutnant* of the gendarmerie, Frankowski, who was a native of the Poznań region. Three large rooms were filled with the confiscated furs. These rooms were locked and guarded by Jewish policemen, until the prominent Germans had chosen the most expensive and beautiful furs for themselves, for their mistresses within Częstochowa itself and for their wives and children somewhere in Germany. The *Judenrat* was forced to engage Jewish furriers, who reprocessed the furs according to instructions from the *Stadthauptmann*.

AUFRUF an die jüdische Bevölkerung.

Auf Grund des § 3 der zweiten Durchführungsvorschrift zur Verordnung vom 26. Oktober 1939 über die Einführung des Arbeitszwanges für die jüdische Bevölkerung des Generalgouvernements (Verordnungsblatt G. G. P. Seite 246) verfüge ich:

Die arbeitszwangspflichtigen männlichen Juden, wie auch die getauften Juden, in Tschenstochau der Geburtsjahrgänge 1914 bis inklusive 1923 melden sich beim Ältestenrat in Tschenstochau, Marienallee № 9, während der Amtsstunden 9-15 Uhr zwecks Eintragung in die Arbeitszwangskartei in der Reihenfolge:

am 9. März 1940 mit den Anfangsbuchstaben A-H

am 10. März 1940 mit den Anfangsbuchstaben I-R

am 11. März 1940 mit den Anfangsbuchstaben S-Z

Die Nichtbefolgung dieser Anordnung wird mit Zuchthaus bis zu 10 Jahren bestraft. Daneben kann auf Einziehung des gesamten Vermögens erkannt werden.

Tschenstochau, am 8. März 1940.

Der Stadthauptmann
(-) Dr. WENDLER.

WEZWANIE do ludności żydowskiej.

Na podstawie § 3 drugich przepisów wykonawczych do rozporządzenia Generalnego Gubernatorstwa z dnia 26. października 1939 r. w sprawie wprowadzenia przymusu pracy dla ludności żydowskiej (Dziennik Rozporządzeń Generalnego Gubernatora Str. 246) zarządzam:

Podlegający obowiązkowi pracy przymusowej mężczyźni Żydzi w Częstochowie oraz Żydzi ochrzczeni roczników 1914 do 1923 r. włącznie winni się zameldować w Radzie Starszych w Częstochowie przy ul. N. P. Marii № 9, celem zarejestrowania się w kartotece pracy przymusowej w godzinach między 9 - 15 w następującym porządku:

w dn. 9. marca 1940 z nazwiskami rozpoczynającymi się od A-H

w dn. 10. marca 1940 z nazwiskami rozpoczynającymi się od I-R

w dn. 11. marca 1940 z nazwiskami rozpoczynającymi się od S-Z

Niezwłocznie niniejsze zarządzenie podlega karze w dniu 15. marca 1940 r. lat 10. Niezwłocznie od tego dnia ma być stracona konfiskata całego majątku.

Częstochowa, dnia 8. marca 1940 r.

Starosta Częstochowski
(-) Dr. WENDLER.

SUMMONS
to the Jewish population

On the basis of No.3 of the second regulations made to the laws of the General Government, dated 26th October 1939, on the introduction of forced labour for the Jewish population (Journal of Laws of the General Governor, page 246), I hereby order that:

Men, who are subject to compulsory forced labour, Jews in Częstochowa and Jews baptized from 1914 to 1923 inclusive, should report to the Council of Elders in Częstochowa at ul. N. P. Marii No. 9, in order to register in the forced labour registry, between 9am and 3pm, in the following order:

on 9th March 1940 with surnames beginning with A-H
on 10th March 1940 with surnames beginning with I-R
on 11th March 1940 with surnames beginning with S-Z

Failure to comply with this order is punishable by imprisonment for up to 10 years. In addition, confiscation of all assets can be imposed.

Częstochowa, 8th March 1940

The *Stadthauptmann*
Dr WENDLER

Thus, every time came new blows, which upset life and made it repugnant. These blows were frequent and each time more tangible. Nevertheless, people became accustomed to every calamity. We shook ourselves from each keenly felt blow and continued dragging the heavy cart of life, awaiting, filled with unease, what tomorrow would bring.