

London, July, 1942

~~SECRET~~

Economic life in Poland
(Report covering period from January 1st
to April 30th, 1942)



Provisioning situation:

The quota allotments of food in the Reich have been materially reduced beginning with April 6th, 1942. The weekly bread ration was reduced by 250 grammes, the weekly ration of meat and meat products by 100 grammes, whereas the monthly ration of fats was reduced by 50 grammes. Furthermore, only bread (but not wheat bread) can be obtained against the bread ration cards. Supplementary bread ration cards entitle their holders to food articles made from flour, except wheat flour and food articles made therefrom.

A comparative table of food allotments both hitherto in force and those now introduced, arranged according to the several population groups, presents itself as follows:

	Meat weekly		Bread weekly		Fats for 4 weeks	
People under 20 years	400 g.	350 g.	2,600 g.	2,600 g.	301 g.	269g.
Normal adults over 20 years	400	300	2,250	2,000	269	206
Workers engaged in hard labor	800	600	3,650	3,400	394	306
Workers engaged in hardest type labor	1,000	850	4,660	4,400	738	525

Note: The first figures under each heading show allotments hitherto in force, whereas the second figures represent allotments now introduced.

In Pomerania (Pomorzé) the allotments of fats to Poles have lately been reduced by 50%. Insofar as meat allotments to Poles are concerned, only beef or horse meat are issued whereas the German population can obtain pork or veal.

The discrimination between the Poles and the Germans in connection with provisioning constitutes a flagrant illustration of the exterminatory anti-Polish policy which is being applied in every direction. Hereinafter follows a characteristic comparison of food allotments in areas incorporated into the Reich. Eliminated from the comparison are the permanent allotments of bread and meat. The quotas allowed to the Poles are 25% lower than those allowed to the Germans.

	Łódź-City, November 18-25, 1941		Łask-County, December 1-7, 1941	
	Germans	Poles	Germans	Poles
Butter or margarine	350 g.	-	125 g.	125 g.
Sugar	500 "	250 g.	500 g.	250. "
Noodles	100 "	-	-	-
Marmalade	100 "	-	-	-
Maggi cubes	5 cubes	-	2 cubes	-
Sugar - additional allotment	500 g.	-	100 g.	-
Potato flour	50 "	-	-	-
Synthetic honey	-	-	100 "	-

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Authority *OWI Guidelines*
By *INTL* NLE Date *7/3/87*

Special notices issued at frequent intervals announce additional allotments for the German population.

For "German and non-Polish" children the following food articles are being issued by way of illustration:

for children up to 18 months - 1,500 grammes of nutritive foods;
for children up to 6 years - 500 grammes of body-building starches.

Hereinafter are listed examples of outside of quota allotments for "the German and non-Polish population":

Poznań (March 3-19, 1942): 4 lemons, 125 grammes of candies, 260 grammes of bee honey (for children); 60 1/2 grammes of powdered chocolate; 250 grammes of onions; 25 grammes of pastry; 25 grammes of alimentary paste; 170 grammes of condensed milk; 1,000 grammes of apples (for children & patients);
Gniezno (March 25-28, 1942): 250 grammes of bee honey; 750 grammes of apples; 150 grammes of pralines; 2 lemons.

Spring agricultural labor in the "Warta country" has been considerably delayed this year. This was due not only to atmospheric conditions, but to an order issued by the Regional Provisioning Bureau. Said order constitutes a telling illustration of the German reconstruction work.

Because of the shortage of potatoes in the warehouses from which the population is being provisioned, the Regional Provisioning Bureau issued in mid-December of 1941 a confidential circular addressed to the County Potato Production Associations directing them forthwith to dig up, before starting any other seasonal agricultural labor, the potato caches and to make deliveries of potatoes to the various towns. The circular contained at the same time a severe censure of the subordinate agencies, because the deliveries of potatoes to the various towns during the autumn season failed to reach even 50% of the planned volume. The County Potato Production Bureaus proceeding to execute the order received caused the immediate opening up of the potato caches and compulsory delivery of potatoes to the warehouses, regardless of the atmospheric conditions. The order was carried out while the thermometer showed on the average a temperature of 20 degrees centigrade below zero. The results were disastrous. Immense quantities of potatoes froze while being transported and rotted in the warehouses so thoroughly, that it was necessary in a number of instances to pump out the putrified filth from the bins, said operation necessitating gas masks to be worn by the workmen.

The provisioning of the population with potatoes is, accordingly, worse than inadequate and the lack of this commodity is felt particularly strongly by the Polish population.

In a number of counties in the areas incorporated into the Reich winter corn sowing was started over again because much of the corn sowed originally perished from the cold in the course of an abnormally long winter. Large areas in the counties of Kolsk and Kutno are inundated notwithstanding a drainage system or possibly because of a faulty construction thereof.

The disaster threatening German economy insofar as husbandry and slaughter of live-stock is concerned, is being counteracted by a special drive, started early in March, for deliveries of shoats. For the purpose of preventing the



slaughter of shoats, practised customarily in the harvest and post-harvest season, the County Provisioning Bureaus are entering into written agreements with farmers, by which the latter obligate themselves to deliver a stipulated number of shoats at high prices.

Liquidation of Polish holdings:

The German Journal of Laws published in March, 1942, an ordinance issued by Field Marshal Goering, in his capacity as coordinator of the four-year plan, by which ordinance any and all Polish and Jewish property holdings located in the areas incorporated into the Reich became confiscated for the benefit of a fund for front soldiers. The law in question constitutes no new hardship for the Polish population, because for practical purposes the entire Polish property holdings have long since become confiscated. While giving legal sanction to this condition of things, the law in question is most likely to serve as an important factor of German propaganda among the troops at the front.

By an ordinance issued at the end of March, the Reich Minister of Justice set March 31, 1943, as the final date for filing titles to and claims for land. Property rights and accounts receivable of Poles have been invalidated. The Germans are entitled to compensation for their amounts due, which provision, however, applies only to Germans from the III ethnic group on.

March 31, 1943, was also set as the final date for re-appraisal and for recording titles in the areas incorporated into the Reich. Only persons of other than Polish nationality may file the pertinent motions.

By an ordinance issued jointly by the Reich Minister of Justice and the Reich Minister of the Interior, any and all companies dealing in farming and building lots in all eastern districts of the German Reich have been dissolved as of March 14, 1942. The regulation in question stands probably in some connection with Governor Greiser's notice in re suspending further allotments of land for newly started settlements and aims at rendering possible a planned colonization and building activity after the war.

The Poznań Provincial Credit Institution at Poznań is at present being liquidated. The mortgage certificates are being converted by the German credit institution at their nominal value and a rate of 21. 2 for 1 RM and at a price of 103,5 per mortgage certificate of the German credit institution. The conversion, however, applies of course only to such mortgage certificates which on September 1, 1939, were held by Germans.

The estates of the Prince of Pless are still-just as they have been before September 1, 1939-under the management of a receiver, which function is being exercised for and on behalf of the Reich by one Ludwig, attorney of Breslau. Both heirs of the owner who died in 1939 have a share in the management of the property.

Building activity:

In connection with the ordinance issued by Goering in his capacity of coordinator of the four year plan and introducing not only a reduction of any and all building activity to a minimum, but also the use of the cheapest materials possible, Himmler, in his capacity as Reich Commissar, for the consolidation of Germanism issued an executive order applying to territories incorporated into the Reich. The executive order in question deals with the problem of so-called "mud building" and contains a number of directions which are important from the point of view of public security, etc.



The German press, published in the western sections of Poland, motivates the issuance of the executive order in point with the shortage of adequate raw materials and with insufficient transportation facilities. In furtherance of Himmler's action, a bureau of information on mud building (Lehmbauberatungsstelle) has been set up at Poznań.

Once upon a time Poland had been built of wood, in later days of stone and now - by the grace of Himmler - she is about to become built of mud. These are indeed admirable methods as well as results of the grandiose workings of "German reconstruction work".

According to the "Cracow Gazette" (Krakauer Zeitung) there is being planned the construction of a motor highway Koenigsberg-Ciechanów-Warsaw, as well as of a motor highway running through the Vistula country, by way of Toruń-Plock-Medlin-Warsaw and possibly extending as far as Cracow.

Beginning with April 1, 1942, ten rural municipalities (six of them in toto) of the Poznań County and four rural municipalities (one of them in toto) of the County of Śrem were incorporated into the City of Poznań. Said incorporation carried out pursuant to an ordinance issued under date of January 7th, 1942, by the district governor, is being motivated by the necessity of extending the City of Poznań area to the eastern bank of the Warta river, because the present topography of the city showed an excessive growth on the western bank of the above mentioned river. The shifting of the city's boundary lines - which by the way had already been contemplated by the Polish Government - will have a material influence on the city's further development and will link it closer with the river. A new bridge connecting the two sections of the city is being planned, also the construction of an airfield for passenger air-traffic, of an extensive trans-shipping railway yard, etc., all these improvements to be built on the areas now incorporated into the city, to which a surface of 6,310.6 hectares (15,593.49 acres) is thus to be added, with an increase in population by 4,164 inhabitants. The incorporated rural municipalities are to acquire the full legal status applying to the City of Poznań, beginning with the date of their incorporation.

Ration cards for wearing apparel issued to Germans in Pomerania (and all through the Reich as well) specify 120 different items, while those issued to Poles specify 70 different items for men and 60 for women and children. The ration cards issued to Poles bear a conspicuous stamp imprint "P". In addition to the smaller number of items the ration cards for wearing apparel issued to Poles have a considerably lesser purchasing power. While the Germans may with their ration cards purchase clothing materials containing some admixture of wool, the Poles can secure only ready-made garments manufactured from shoddy materials and linen-cloth in quantities up to 2 meters in length.

Foreign labor:

The official monthly published by Field Marshal Goering, in his capacity as coordinator of the "four year plan" states figures showing the number of foreign workers employed in the Reich and gives details concerning the social welfare institutions operating for their benefit. The majority of these workers live in special "camps", of which there were 4,560 in the entire Reich at the close of 1941.

The number of Poles working in the Reich amounts to 1,100,000 heads including the war prisoners and constitutes 55% of foreign workers employed in the Reich (out of a total of 2,140,000). According to the "Warsaw Gazette"



(Warschauer Zeitung), issue No. 93, out of a total of Polish workmen in the Reich, 655,000 have either volunteered for work or were forcibly drafted, while the remaining 435,000 were war prisoners, employed on various kinds of labor.

According to the "Warsaw Gazette" (Warschauer Zeitung), issue No. 77, it is being planned to "recruit" in 1942 from the territory of the so-called "General Gouvernement" 120,000 farm laborers and 30,000 artisans for work in the Reich.

New credits:

The Journal of Laws, issue No. 11, of the Reich Minister of Agriculture contained an ordinance in re granting credits and loans for newly established or reconstructed farms to the extent of 7,000 Rm. to any one such establishment. Such service applies only to farming establishments of over 25 hectares (61.77 acres).

Shortage of skilled labor:

The imposing figure of 650 farm schools operating in the "Warta country" alone is proof positive of the immense stress being put by the leaders of the Reich's economic life on the task of increasing the supply of skilled labor for agricultural and affiliated pursuits. Of these 650 farm schools there are located in the several administrative districts: 275 in the district of Inowrocław; 250 in the district of Poznań; and 125 in the district of Łódź. According to statements made by the German press, the students number 11,000. There is no doubt that three-fourths of the 650 farm schools consist of one week instruction courses. That conclusion must perforce be reached on the basis of experience gathered to date. Big words, but negligible results.

Industry:

According to statements made in the German press 132 new industrial establishments came into being in the district "Gdańsk-West Prussia". Of this number 76 are establishments of the building industry, 13 of the machine industry and 11 of the textile industry. Furthermore 249 industrial establishments, mostly small plants, are operating under receivership management, 263 plants are inactive and 91 have been liquidated.

Elasticity:

The considerable degree of the elasticity of the German nationalistic policy in the territories incorporated into the Reich is best evidenced by the fact - unthinkable by the way in other parts of Western Poland - that in the district of Ciechanów, which was incorporated into East Prussia, a farmers' magazine published in the Polish language, under the caption "Farmer's Weekly" (Tygodnik Rolniczy) had been started of late.



COLLECTION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS
(Transcripts)

Reich S.S. Director
Reich Commissar for
the consolidation of
Germanism.

Berlin, September 12, 1940



Ordinance in re determining and segregation of population
in the incorporated eastern territories.

A. Principle:

Before proceeding with the fundamental re-arrangement of the population in the incorporated eastern territories, it is essential to acquire a thorough understanding of the following facts:

I. Present status of the population.

According to the latest statistics, the four eastern provinces, including territories of the old Reich, were inhabited by:

8,100,000 Germans
600,000 Jews
8,530,000 Poles
180,000 other nationalities (Slovaks,
Ukrainians, Russians & Czechs)

When evaluating these figures, it should be borne in mind that outside of the Warta Province (Warthegau) there are large national groups, which it is impossible definitely to classify from the point of view of nationality. This is especially the case in the Province of Gdańsk-East Prussia, with:

- 1) 120,000 Kashubians
- 2) 100,000 (in round figures) erstwhile Poles, who due to inter-marriage and cultural influences are leaning to Germanism);

in the Katowice region, with:

- 1) 120,000 Silesians (Slonzaken)
- 2) 400,000 - 500,000 Upper-Silesians (Wasserpolacken);

in the Ciechanów region and the County of Suwałki, with:

5,000 (in round figures) Mazurians.

II. Future composition of the population.

Group A: Persons of German nationality, possessing German citizenship and German civic rights.

Group B: Persons of German origin, who must be re-educated as full-value Germans and, accordingly, must possess German citizenship, at first, however, without civic rights. Full Germanization of such persons should be carried on to the greatest possible extent.

Group C: Valuable individuals of other nationalities, as well as German renegades, who possess German citizenship, subject to cancellation. Such persons must be re-Germanized in the old Reich.

Group D: According to our national-socialistic notions, such persons may be determined only by being racially segregated. Persons thus selected must, above anything else, be re-Germanized, that is they must regain their German blood they have forsaken. The history of the East shows that wholesale attempts, not undertaken from the racial point of view, at Germanizing the eastern provinces produced negative results and caused the loss of these provinces.

B. Procedure.

For purposes of determining and segregating the population in the incorporated eastern territories, the following instructions are herewith issued and are to be binding upon all the interested government agencies:

1) Determining of nationality:

The Reich governors and provincial presidents shall cause lists of German nationals to be prepared. As far as the Silesia is concerned, the proper authority is the present deputy regional director acting as plenipotentiary of the Reich Commissar for the consolidation of Germanism.

Conditions for being entered on the list of German nationals:

Acceptable for being entered is one:

a) whoever, prior to September 1, 1939, proved his German nationality;

b) who, although he did not prove his German nationality by September 1st, 1939, at a later date made a pertinent deposition, provided such deposition was substantiated by facts such as origin, race, education and culture. The decisive factor in doubtful cases is whether or not the given individual constitutes a racially valuable national accession.

Treated as a German, pursuant to Item a), shall also be any individual, who in his home-life does not use the German language (Mazurians, Kashubians, Silesians, Upper-Silesians), but who, prior to September 1, 1939, admitted his German nationality.

For practical purposes of the several government agencies, the list of German nationals shall be split up into 4 groups:

1) Persons of German origin (Volksdeutsche), who actively participated in the national struggle. By active participation is being understood, in addition to membership in any of the German organizations, also any other deliberate championing of Germanism against any foreign nationality.

2) Persons of German nationality, who - though they did not actively champion the German cause - have unquestionably preserved their German spirit.

3) Persons of German origin, who in the course of years, have become connected with Polonism, but as to whom it may be assumed that they would become full-value members of the German nation. To this group belong also persons of German origin, who live in wedlock with mates of non-German nationality, but where the German spouse exercises the dominating influence



in the family. Persons of Mazurian, Kashoubian, Silesian and Upper-Silesian origin, who are to be included into the German nation, shall à priori be assigned to this 3rd group.

4) Persons of German origin, who turned Poles (renegades). Persons not included in the list of German nationals are either Poles or other alien nationals. Their treatment is covered by Item B.II. Those belonging to groups 1 and 2 are Germans by origin (Volksdeutsche), who shall be made use of in connection with the reconstruction work in the East. The differentiation between group 1 and group 2 is important for the NSDAP. Accepted for membership in the party are, pursuant to instructions of the Vice-Chancellor, in the beginning only persons belonging to group 1.

Those belonging to groups 3 and 4 must, by intensive educational work in the old Reich, be made in the course of time into full-value Germans or re-Germanized.

When determining the classification of a person into group 4, the principle to follow is that not even one drop of German blood should be permitted to be of use to an alien nationality. Protective police measures are to be applied to those who avoid being Germanized.

Children who could not possibly be held accountable for the actions of their parents, should not suffer for the parents' guilt. The Reich will take care of their bringing up and education. Detailed provisions relative to this problem, as well as to the further measures of treatment of renegades who have not been accepted for entry on the lists of German nationals, shall be issued by the chief of the security police (Sicherheitspolizei) and of the S.D., in keeping with the instructions of the Reich Director of the S.S. and of the Reich Commissar, for the consolidation of Germanism.

III. Regulating of the citizenship question.

a) persons belonging to groups 1 and 2 of the list of German nationals shall receive German citizenship and civic rights;

b) persons belonging to group 3 of the list of German nationals shall receive German citizenship;

c) persons belonging to group 4 of the list of German nationals and such of alien nationalities, who shall be deemed valuable from the racial point of view (Ukrainians, White Russians, Czechs, Lithuanians), shall receive German citizenship individually and subject to cancellation.

d) all other nationally alien persons shall be considered as standing under the protection of the German Reich and shall possess a limited measure of civic rights.

Iv. Verification of the Polish population.

The verification of the Polish population and the accepting of suitable individuals for Germanization from among those standing under the protection of the German Reich shall be handled by the Central Re-settlement Bureaus. The latter are undertaking these experiments from the racial,



sanitary and political point of view. The Reich Director of the S.S. and the Reich Commissar for the consolidation of Germanism shall issue specific executive orders anent this matter.

(signed) Himmler

In connection with the proceedings in re verification and segregation of population in the incorporated eastern territories, there, shall be held at the same time summary proceedings for the purpose of changing Polonized given and family names and of restoring them to their purely Germanic form.

Ordinance in re establishing of a ghetto in
the City of Warsaw

1. Pursuant to the ordinance in re restrictions of residence in the General Gouvernement of September 13, 1940 (Journal of Ordinance of the General Gouvernement, p. 288), there is being established in the City of Warsaw a ghetto, wherein must reside Jews inhabiting Warsaw, or moving into said city.

The streets hereinafter specified shall constitute the boundary lines separating the ghetto from the rest of the city's area (follows list of streets).

2. Poles residing in the area of the ghetto must move to an address elsewhere in the city before October 31, 1940. The Housing Bureau of the Polish City Administration shall allot living quarters.

In the event the Poles fail to vacate their quarters in the ghetto by the aforespecified date, they shall be forcibly evicted. In case of forcible eviction, they shall be permitted to take along only a refugee baggage, bedding and heirlooms.

Blas are not permitted to settle in the German section of the city.

3. Jews residing outside of the ghetto area must move thither by October 31, 1940. They may take along only refugee baggage and bedding. The Senior of the Jewish Council shall have charge of allotting living quarters.

Warsaw, October 2, 1940

Chief of the Warsaw District

(signed) Dr. Fischer, Governor

Official Journal of the Chief of the Warsaw District
No. 10, 1940 - Item 2

Jews forbidden to bow to Germans (Circular No. 3/41 of the Chief of the Bureau, dated January 9, 1941).

Several among the County Commissioners issued orders to the effect that the male Jewish population should salute Germans in uniform, by removing their headgear. It turned out that salutations on the part of the Jews were distasteful to the Germans. I, accordingly, request that any such orders be



cancelled, such cancellation to become effective forthwith and that it be publicly announced, specifying expressly that Jews should discontinue saluting the Germans. In counties where the regulation about Jews saluting has not as yet been introduced, I also request that the order forbidding Jews to salute Germans be issued.

(Official Journal of the Chief of the Warsaw District
No. 2, 1941 - Item 9)

PUBLIC NOTICE

in re behavior of the Jewish population
within the City of Warsaw.

1. Jews are forbidden:

- a) to enter the Adolf Hitler Platz;
- b) to enter any park, except in the area threatened by the epidemic;
- c) to use the Siegasstrase (Victory Street).

A prohibition covering other streets and squares shall be in each instance announced publicly.

These regulations do not apply to Jewish labor detachments marched to work in military formation.

In individual instances the Jews must be able to produce a written permit or official summons issued by a government agency located in an area covered by the prohibitive order.

2. When meeting persons wearing German uniforms the Jews must - in a noticeable manner - step aside and, when ordered, get off the sidewalk.

3. Violations of this order are punishable under Art. 2 of the Ordinance in re administrative penalties of September 13, 1940, by a fine up to Zł. 1,000.- and, if such cannot be collected, by arrest up to 3 months.

Warsaw, October 8, 1940

Deputy Chief of District Warsaw-City
(signed) Leist.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

By way of preventing the insolent behavior on the part of a portion of the Polish population, I herewith direct, as follows:

1. Polish citizens of both sexes are duty bound to get out of the way of representatives of German authority, insofar as the latter are recognizable by uniform or armband. The streets belong to the victors and not to the vanquished.



2) Polish citizens of the male sex are duty bound to salute all leading state, party and military dignitaries by removing the headgear.

3) Poles are forbidden to use the German salutation of raising the right arm and saying "Heil Hitler".

4) In stores and markets representatives of the German authorities, their families and all German citizens must be served first and after them only the vanquished.

5) Wearing of Polish school uniforms, caps with emblems, etc., as well as the wearing of Polish state insignia by Polish railway and postal functionaries is forbidden.

6) All and sundry and especially young people are forbidden to assemble in streets and at street crossings.

7) Anyone accosting or molesting German women and girls shall be exemplarily punished.

8) Polish women accosting or soliciting Germans shall be delivered to houses of prostitution.

9) All vehicles and bicycles must be equipped after dark with headlights and red tail-lights. Violators of this order are liable to punishment, whereas the bicycles shall be confiscated. Until the lights are turned on after dark, the vehicles and bicycles must be wheeled and not ridden.

10) Directions issued by the National Socialist Motor Drivers' Corps (Auxiliary Traffic Police) must be implicitly heeded. Traffic regulations shall be published in the immediate future. Those among the Poles who failed to understand thus far that they are the vanquished and we the victors and who shall violate the above regulations, will incur most severe penalties.

Toruń, October 27, 1939.

The State Police Director
(signed) Weberstedt

"Thorner Freiheit" (Toruń Liberty), Friday, October 27, 1939.

NOTICE OF THE POLISH POPULATION.

It became obvious in the course of the last few months, that a portion of the Polish urban and rural population displayed a behavior, from which a definite conclusion may be drawn that it was unwilling to submit to German order and discipline. The aforementioned behavior compels the Party to apply educational measures.

Accordingly, the following regulations are being imposed upon the entire Polish population:



1) All Germans residing in the County of Ostrowo, who are recognizable either by a uniform, or a party emblem, or the "Volkstum" badge or the swastika must, in the future, be saluted by the Polish population by removal of the headgear and if no headgear is being worn by a bow of the head. It goes without saying that this regulation applies as well insofar as the German armed forces are concerned.

2) Poles are most sternly forbidden to wear emblems of any kind.

3) Poles are forbidden to use the German salutation.

4) Poles are forbidden to walk in groups of 3 or 4 men on the sidewalks. It is required that the right of way be yielded on the sidewalk to Germans, recognizable by uniform or emblems, as is due them, as Germans.

5) Poles, who in the future shall ride bicycles or wheel hand carts on sidewalks will be punished by police measures.

These regulations are effective at once and Party formations (S.A., S.S., N.S.K.K.) are authorized for the purpose of assisting the police in enforcing these regulations, to exercise special control.

Ostrowo, June 10, 1940.

NSDAP District Command Ostrowo
(signed) Delang, District Chief

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Instances of assaults on German soldiers committed by the Polish population necessitate the applying of the following measures:

1. Provocation or attempted provocation shall be repelled by instantaneous use of arms.

2. In the event the perpetrator is not surrendered by the Polish population within 3 hours, ten Poles shall be shot.

Sochaczew, March 6, 1941.

Eastern Army Command.

(Mark VDA)

Our attitude with regard to the
question of Poles in the Reich.

The Reich SS Director and Chief of the German Police, acting under orders issued by Reichsmarshal Goering, directed - among other things - that all male and female workers of Polish nationality are to wear plainly displayed on the right breast of each garment a cloth badge, as above reproduced, in full size. The badge is to be firmly sewn to the garment.

We are witnessing at present the birth of our national Reich and are fully aware of the fact that in times to come nationally alien elements shall be dwelling in large numbers within our living space. In addition



thereto, national questions became critical issues all through the Reich, because of the employment of Polish farm and industrial labor. A national Reich can last forever only if every German maintains a nationally conscious attitude and settles all of these problems for himself. Laws can only help in regulating the symbiosis. The intuitive and fearless attitude of every single individual constitutes the most important element. The people at large must, therefore, be enlightened to the fullest possible extent as to the dangers involved by living together with people of alien nationalities.

It is, therefore, necessary to use every opportunity for spreading information, that is, to call attention over and over again to the outrages perpetrated by the Poles against our German nationals and to urge caution in dealings with Polish labor.

Poles have now come to us as farm and industrial laborers, as well as prisoners of war, because we are in need of their labor. Whoever has any official dealings with them must be fully aware of the fact that the Pole's hatred of the German is today far more violent than ever before, that the Poles have much greater experience in the national struggle than we possess and that they still hope to be able to build, with the assistance of the powers which are our enemies, a new and greater Poland.

The subservience, which the Pole displays towards the German peasant is only cunning. His friendly disposition is a fraud. Caution should be exercised in every direction, as otherwise a Polish conspiracy and possible espionage might be aided and abetted.

Above anything else, there should be no intercourse of any kind whatever between Germans and Poles. Germans! Be proud and never forget what the Poles did to you! And if any should say to you that his Polish laborer was a decent man, tell him: anyone nowadays again knows some decent Pole, just as in former times anyone used to know a decent Jew!

Our national unity is at stake! Above anything else beware that no ties be established through a community of religion. Our peasants, unfamiliar as they are with national struggles, consider a Pole, who consistently greets them with the salutation: "Praised be the Lord Jesus Christ" a decent man and return the salutation, by responding "For all eternity, Amen". Poles who arrived with nothing but the clothing they wore, received from the peasants to whom they were assigned underwear and wearing apparel. These they subsequently sold to some Pole in the vicinity and spent the money thus obtained for tobacco. Groups of Poles on highways, who were dispersed by the police, congregated again on the next street corner. Keep watching whether the Poles write long letters to their folks at home. There were instances of food articles having been sent from Poland, pursuant to such letters from which it may be imagined what those Poles had written home. Give them no cash money! In a peasant household, where the housewife is about to be confined with her third child, there is no other help except one Polish girl. In cases of this kind you should mobilize your community welfare service.

Germans! The Pole is never your comrade! He stands beneath any fellow-German, be it on your farm or in your work-shop. Be just, as the German always is, but never forget that you are a member of a race of masters!



The German army is conquering for us a Europe-wide peace. We are responsible for the peace in the new and greater Germany. The symbiosis with nationally alien peoples will lead repeatedly to showdowns along national lines and these contests you, as Germans, must fight through to win!

National Alliance for Germanism Abroad
Provincial Council, Berlin
W. 50, Motzstrasse 46.



To Mr. (Mrs.) at Leslau

For reasons of public safety you are herewith being expelled, effective at once, from the territory of the German Reich. The order of expulsion applies as well to all members of your family, to wit.:

Within 20 minutes after receiving the present order of expulsion, you and all members of your family have to be assembled, ready for travel, in the street in front of the house (entrance door). Any orders of police officers must be implicitly obeyed. You are permitted to take along:

- 1) complete set of warm clothing;
- 2) not more than one woolen blanket per person;
- 3) provisions for several days;
- 4) cups, knives, forks, etc.;
- 5) personal documents and birth certificates;
- 6) not more than Zł. 100.- of Polish currency per person;
- 7) one suitcase with essential wearing apparel.

It is prohibited to take along:

- 1) securities of any kind;
- 2) valuable articles of any kind made of silver, gold and jewelry;
- 3) furniture of any kind;
- 4) household pets: dogs, cats, birds, etc.

Locking of wardrobes and of doors and taking along of keys is severely prohibited.

Round seal with the German eagle.
(signature illegible)

In some of the counties of the General gouvernement the Polish village mayors, selectmen and clergymen were ordered by the occupation authorities to sign the following bi-lingual declaration:

To the officer commanding the police and S.S. in District
Field Office.

DECLARATION. I was informed that some of the inhabitants of my community have been refusing to discharge the obligation imposed upon them by the authorities, for instance in connection with supplying the cattle quota. I am fully aware of the fact that such behavior constitutes a serious offense against the authorities and should be punished to the fullest extent of the law. In view of the fact, that I am being released from arrest as of today, or that I am not being put under arrest at all, I herewith pledge myself to use all of my influence to have the inhabitants of my community scrupulously carry out in the future any and all instructions issued by the German authorities. Furthermore, I pledge myself to report to the German police station supervising my own community, the names of all persons who should oppose and sabotage the orders of German authorities. I solemnly promise to forbear myself any and all activity which might be ~~harmful~~ detrimental



to the respect due to German authorities. (Additional clause for the clergy). I shall also bring to bear all my pastoral influence along the lines of the present declaration and shall in particular from the pulpit announce to and admonish my congregation conscientiously to comply with orders of the German authorities and I shall also call their attention to the penalties they might become liable to as a result of non-compliance with said orders".

Signatures: (village mayor) (clergyman)
(Certified by)

To Mr.

Pursuant to the order of the District Commissar of the County of Sochaczew, Board of Provisioning and Agriculture (Bezirkslandwirt) at Zyrardów, dated July 25, 1940, the quota of grain apportioned to your community must be delivered to the Cooperative "Rolnik" (Farmer) at Zyrardów on the following dates:

- a) bread grain: 50% during the month of August
(rye and wheat) 20% by the end of October
30% by the end of December;
- b) grain for fodder: 50% between August and the end of December
(barley and oats) 50% by the end of February

In the event the order concerning the delivery of the quota by the grain producers is not complied with, or in the event of sabotage, thrashing machines shall be installed in the refractory localities and all grain therein thrashed under the supervision of the S.S., or else held in safe custody pending disposal by the Governor General.

Responsible for the enforcement of this ordinance and subject to arrest by the Gestapo are: 1) all clergymen, 2) teachers, 3) owners of large farming properties, 4) four or five farmers in every village, 5) selectmen, 6) the village mayors.

As one directly concerned in the matter you are being apprised herewith thereof.

Village Mayor

Generalgouvernement
District of Kraków
Agricultural Commissar at Limanowa
District Commissar's Office at Nowy Sącz.

Limanowa, March 1, 1941

PUBLIC NOTICE

The persons hereinafter listed (follow 24 names) failed to comply with orders issued and repeated time and again by the German authorities in re delivery of grain quotas apportioned to them and by their obstinate disobedience they incurred the displeasure of the authorities. They were, therefore, declared evicted from their farms. Together with their families they must vacate them by March 15, 1941, and surrender them without any compensation whatever, together with the entire stock and implements to another farmer.



I am, accordingly, once again admonishing and warning all farmers to surrender in full the grain quota apportioned to them, as otherwise they would incur the same penalty.

Agricultural Commissar
(signed) Dr. Neumann

Mass evacuation of the village of Dobron,
County of Łask, province of Łódź

On April 27 (1941), soldiers armed with handgrenades surrounded the entire village, lighting it up with searchlights, so that escape was very difficult. Many shots, fired at those who attempted to escape, were heard. I was urring across fields and meadows when suddenly the beam from a searchlight caught me and bullets began to whistle all around. I did not lose my presence of mind and dropped into a water-filled ditch, in which I remained hidden for several hours. At 2 a.m. soldiers, proceeding with great caution, surrounded a number of farm houses listed beforehand and selected for evacuation. The listing was partially prepared one month before the evacuation date. The farm houses listed were mostly adjoining and they were to be combined into one holding; together with the listing, the plan and the date of evacuation have also been determined.

The people, awakened out of sound sleep, were almost senseless. Those who offered resistance or were slow, were mercilessly beaten. Whoever refused to abandon his homestead came before a drum-head court marshal; in this way 2 women and several men were shot on the spot. The evacuees were permitted to take along only the most essential chattels. The soldiers, devoid of any and all humane feelings, refused to permit pillows to be taken along for the children. All evacuees were lodged in a factory building at Łódź, where conditions of sanitation were appalling. Young people received injections and were carried off to Germany. Children were dying off wholesale from meningitis. Adult people fell victims to dysentery and the aged to exhaustion. Money to the last penny and other valuables, such as rings, watches, materials of any kind and food, were taken away from everyone. For three weeks the evacuees were abused in every imaginable manner and treated like criminals, all the time on the verge of starvation. Bitter coffee, a small helping of boiled turnips and a slice of bread constituted the daily food ration. Broken in health and spirit the evacuees were deported to the Generalgouvernement in closed railway cars, reeking with nitrogen fumes. Little children, unable to endure the ordeal, were dying off under symptoms of lividity. Stern orders were issued to apprehend those who managed to escape and to deport them as laborers. Many were caught, first to be imprisoned and then carried off to Germany.

Characteristic incident of the evacuation of the village of
Kluski, township of Klonowa (Sieradz)

July 3, 1940, was an unusual day for the inhabitants of the village of Kluski. At dawn, while the village was still sound ~~was~~ asleep, several motorcars, filled with gendarmes and S.S. detachments, arrived from Sieradz. One motorcar stopped in our village, whereas the others proceeded to the neighboring locality.



Out of the car emerged S.S. troopers, gendarmes and a commissar, who forthwith surrounded the village with his men and fired several shots. The people on awakening began to escape yelling that evacuation was to take place. Some were running around in a daze.

The commissar began his brutal work with the farm owned by P., ordering the family to dress quickly and come out within 30 minutes. The family consisted of 10 people; one gendarme was posted at their farm to guard the people and their belongings. He refused to permit taking of bedding and underwear along. The commissar meanwhile proceeded to the farm owned by R., who himself is detained in a war prisoners' camp. The family consisted of a mother and two children, the youngest half a year old. The mother begged the commissar, with tears in her eyes, for permission to take a pillow along for the infant. The commissar gruffly replied: "infant, hell", and twice kicked the mother, hitting her at the same time with an oaken club. The woman collapsed in a faint. After she regained consciousness, the commissar had her taken to the garden, where all the evacuees were to be assembled. The commissar, smiling happily, proceeded to the next farm owned by the M. family, who in the meanwhile managed to hide. A search for them proved fruitless. At the same time one person from among those held at the place of assembly, also succeeded in escaping the vigilance of the guard, whereupon a paroxysm of fury seized the soldiers. They began to belabor all and sundry, regardless of age and sex, with oaken clubs, whoering their victims with curses and vile names.

The fiends, however, were not satisfied and proceeded, instead of the promiscuous beating, to mete out "just" punishment, depending on the power of endurance of the given tortured victim. I am unable to describe all that took place in detail and I am afraid that the readers simply would not believe me that people in Europe should be capable of such acts. From my observations I came to the conclusion that in the Germans the force of animal instincts submerged their "human nature"; cruelly to abuse their defenseless and helpless victims, seems to give them the keenest of delight.

The torture chamber was set up in the entrance hall of a farmhouse, where the victims were called in one by one. I did not see them being tortured because the door was being closed after each victim. I only heard the groans of the tortured and saw how they looked after emerging from the torture chamber. The first victim was the evacuee P. who, after coming out, reeled half-conscious and after dropping into a sitting posture, leaning against the fence of his homestead, said: "I never thought that there were such people in this world". He was unable to utter another word. The next victim was his brother-in-law, who came out with a broken arm and all covered with blood. Women were being carried out from the hall unconscious, beaten black and blue, covered with blood. The martyr heroine of the day was Miss K. Upon being dragged out from the hall she looked at her companions in misery and seeing tears in their eyes said: "In the name of the Holy Mother, people why do you weep? The devil will take them anyway". Upon hearing her words, the executioners became infuriated; she was beaten unconscious in front of all the people and after she fainted she was drenched with water. The sight made a ghastly impression on the evacuees. Selectman B. interrupted the torturing of Miss K. by saying to the executioners: "She is a human being and not a brute". He wanted to say something more, but could not. The soldiers jumped on him and his sons and I do not know what would have happened, were it not for a motorcar coming along just then, on which the evacuees were loaded.



Only for oral announcement.

Duties of men and women workers of Polish nationality during their stay in the Reich

To every worker of Polish nationality the Greater German Reich gives employment, bread and wages. In return the Reich demands that everyone should conscientiously perform the work assigned to him and accurately comply with all the rules and regulations in force. The following specific regulations are binding upon all the men and women workers of Polish nationality in the Greater German Reich.

- 1) It is severely prohibited to leave the locality of residence.
- 2) During hours when sight-seeing in the locality of residence is not permitted by the police authorities, it is also prohibited to leave one's living quarters.
- 3) Using of public means of locomotion, for instance railroads, is permitted only by special authorization to be issued by the local police authorities.
- 4) All men and women workers of Polish nationality are duty bound to wear continually the badges issued to them, sewn firmly to the right breast of their garments.
- 5) Whoever works in a slack fashion, gives up his work, incites other workers, leaves the locality of his employment without permission, etc. shall be punished by forced labor in a correctional labor camp. Acts of sabotage and other ~~serious~~ serious violations of labor discipline will be severely punished, the lowest penalty being internment for several years in a correctional labor camp.
- 6) Any intercourse with the German population and in particular attending theatres, motion picture houses, dances, restaurants and churches jointly with the German population is prohibited. Polish workers are permitted to dance and consume alcoholic beverages only in taverns specifically reserved for their use.
- 7) Sexual intercourse with German women or men and any advances made to them for immoral purposes is punishable by death.
- 8) Any infraction of the rules and regulations issued for civilian workers of Polish nationality will be punished in Germany. No deportation to Poland will take place.
- 9) Each and every Polishman and woman worker must at all times bear in their minds that they came to Germany to work of their own free will. Anyone working satisfactorily will receive his just deserts. He, however, who works negligently and fails to comply with the regulations shall be sternly dealt with, particularly in war times.
- 10) It is severely prohibited to discuss or to write about these regulations.

Return from Magdeburg.

A group (24) of Polish laborers, coming back from work on public projects in Germany returned by transport from Magdeburg to Warsaw on August 21, 1941. One of the group related the following experiences:



In November, 1940, I was - together with a number of others - carried off to work at Magdeburg. We were put to work in a foundry. There were 3,700 Poles alone employed there. Under the supervision of German experts were manufacturing bombers, bombs and ship parts. The working conditions were terrible. We arose each morning at 4 o'clock. At 4:30 a.m. we were given breakfast consisting of 1/2 liter of black coffee without sugar and 12 dekagrams of bread, the bread ration to last us for the entire day. At 5 a.m. we already had to be at the shop, being escorted there by a convoy of soldiers. Work continued till 1 p.m., at which hour came a 40 minute recess for dinner. The latter consisted of soup, as a rule made from turnips or beet leaves. Then work again till 8 p.m. and return to the barracks, under convoy of soldiers with fixed bayonets. For supper again a portion of black coffee without sugar or bread. Before 9 p.m. radio news were read to us, whereupon we went to bed. We slept without bed linen on paillasses, made of paper and ~~stuffed~~ stuffed with sawdust.

For each two weeks of work we were paid 77 RM, from which amount 62 RM were deducted for our keep. A city tax of 11 RM was deducted for the privilege of going sightseeing in the city. We were unable to buy anything with the money we had left over, because we had no ration cards to which only the Germans were entitled.

On Sundays we could go out for 2 hours, this privilege requiring a special permit. Being late in returning deprived one of the right to go out in the future.

All the Poles in Germany have badges distinguishing them from the rest of the population. The badge consists of a yellow square with a purple border and the letter "P" in the center and it had to be worn on the right coat lapel.

A Pole is a human being, the sight of whom makes the eyes of the Germans shine with malice.

Any and all amusements, such as motion pictures, cafés, restaurants are prohibited to the Poles. Once in every five weeks every Polish workman can visit a prostitute, which - as everything else in Germany - is to be had only on ration cards. Such card costs 5 RM and with the card the workman receives the address of a prostitute, from whom he must secure a receipt.

We are now returning home after having been declared unfit for work by physicians. Almost all of us are suffering from tuberculosis.

On November 17, 1941, detachments of S.S. and gendarmery began at 6 a.m. herding together the population of the village of Pruszków in the Wołczany Woods. As no one knew the purpose of the action, all were, of course, greatly worried. Children, who were also being driven along, wept aloud. Although the people were told that within a few hours they would return to their homes, they were prepared for the worst. In a clearing the crowd was arranged in a semi-circle and youngsters below 18 years of age, as well as old people, were permitted to go. No smoking or holding of hands in pockets was allowed, probably for the purpose of enhancing the solemnity of the occasion. In the back of the semi-circle of people stood detachments of the S.A. and at intervals were posted policemen armed, as for action. In the meanwhile almost all the German colonists from the neighborhood had arrived. There arrived also motorcars carrying military and police officers, officials of the county authority and representatives of the German middle class from Łask, the county seat.



In front of the semi-circle formed by the Poles, the Selectman of Pruszków and some Volhynians erected a sort of a fence from stakes and banked straw on both sides of it. When this chore was accomplished a motorcar covered with a tarpaulin drove into the clearing. Out of the car emerged an armed escort brutally dragging forth 5 men condemned to death. The County Commissar took up his post in the center of the clearing and began to read the sentence of death in German. An interpreter translated it into Polish. His manner of reading the sentence was highly offensive and the contents were both insolent and merciless.

"Listen, you Poles! On August 28 a German farm at Dobroń was set afire, several stacks of grain were burned throughout the County of Sieradz and near Łódź, a German-owned farmhouse went up in flames, a Polish farmhand perishing in the fire. Lately several stacks of grain were set afire at Marzenin. In retaliation for all these criminal acts perpetrated by a Polish band, 10 inhabitants of Marzenin will be shot. Polish criminals are burning and destroying bread prepared for the German army, which is marching victoriously onward. By destroying that bread you are trying to stab the army in the back. But remember that this very army will turn its wrath against you and will punish you without mercy. The Polish band, a band of brigands and incendiaries will be exterminated ruthlessly. You Poles better remember that if you continue to break the laws of Germany and do not subordinate yourselves to us in every respect, Germany's punishing hand will reach every single one of you".

After the County Commissar finished reading the condemned men were tied with ropes around the middle and made to stand with their backs to the public. None of the condemned men was recognized as having been among those arrested at Marzenin on the charge of arson of the stacks. They were all strangers, young men not known in these parts of the country at all. They were going to their doom like automatons. Judging from appearances they all had been tortured and abused, one of them practically was unable to walk and was staggering on his legs. The youngest of them, realizing what he was facing, began to yell: "Men - save me. What am I dying for? I am innocent". The crowd stood passive, completely petrified. The firing squad finally shot a salvo and 5 men dropped dead. After a short while only four more men were dragged forth from the motor truck, all of them elderly, well fed, robust, looking well and showing no marks of beatings. They too were not recognized by anyone. They were ordered to kneel down on the bodies of their predecessors. One of the four began frantically to yell in German: "Brothers, you are spilling your own blood. Brothers, I am dying by your hands". At last the salvo rang out and finished the doomed men's life. A few Poles were then ordered to take the corpses away. They saw that the bodies of the executed men showed, for the most part, marks of fiendish tortures, by blows one upon the other. On one of the dead the flesh was gangrened and falling off in shreds. In the motor truck the 10th condemned man was stretched out practically dead. He was finished off with rifle butts and the corpses of the other victims were piled high on top of him. It has also been ascertained that among those executed were two Germans and the one man's name who appealed for mercy, on the plea of blood brotherhood, was reported as Krause. When the Polish women started to faint during the execution, the S.A. troopers yelled at them: "Polish bandits, Polish savages, pests. It serves you right. Let it be a lesson to you, that it is forbidden to destroy German bread".

Among the crowd of Poles only one old woman was heard to say: "May God receive you, as the martyrs you have been".



After the execution the Poles went back to their homes depressed and broken in spirit. The Germans were singing hilariously and by their joy and laughter hurt perfidiously the feelings of the hapless witnesses to the crime.

Chief of the Warsaw District

March 7th, 1941.

ORDINANCE

A German, Igo Sym, director of the Warsaw Theatre, was shot to death this morning in his own apartment by a Pole. In connection with this foul crime I do herewith ordain for the territory of the City of Warsaw, as follows:

- 1) the putting under arrest of a substantial number of hostages;
- 2) an immediate order, prohibiting artistic performances in Polish theatres, motion picture houses, restaurants and all other amusement resorts up to and including April 1, 1942;
- 3) curfew hour for Poles until further order, between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m.;

In the event the identity of the murderer is not disclosed, to the German authorities within 3 days, the hostages will be shot.

This ordinance becomes effective with the moment of its publication.

Warsaw, March 7, 1941

(signed) Dr. Fischer, Governor



CONCENTRATION CAMP MAUTHAUSEN

Description

The concentration camp at Mauthausen is located on the summit of a fairly high mountain, at a distance of several kilometers from the Danube. The detention barracks form an enclosure, surrounded by abatis of barbed wire and a fence made of barbed wire charged with electric current of high voltage, causing mortal injuries. In addition there are watch towers (with searchlights for use during the night), equipped with machine guns. The camp proper consists of 20 detention barracks, an infirmary (called "Revier"), a pig-sty and a bunker (cells or rather prison closets, dark and without any furniture). Barracks numbered respectively 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 are located outside of the enclosure and constitute warehouses and workshops, such as: linen storehouse, clothing storehouse, cobbler shop, machine shop, carpenter shop. On the mountain slope which descends terrace-like, stand the S.S. barracks and storehouses. Directly opposite the detention barracks stand: the laundry, the kitchen and the crematory. A stairway located directly behind the kitchen leads down to the courtyard, where the garages stand.

The camp had been in existence for a number of years. It had been constructed prior to the war by German prisoners, working under unspeakable conditions. During the winter of 1939/1940 those prisoners were being fed bread (1 kilogram 200 grammes per five men), watery soup, without any fat or even potatoes. The mortality rate during that winter was 54%. Those, who survived, had all frightfully frost-bitten hands and feet. In March, 1940, about 400 Poles were brought in from Klein Buchenwalde. Of that number some one hundred and odd men were still in Mauthausen in June. In the same month 600 Poles were brought in from the branch camp at Gusen, while in September a transport of about 500 prisoners was brought from Dachau. Detained in the camp were also German prisoners numbering approximately 1,500 and Spaniards brought in successive transports in the autumn of 1940 (mostly Communists whom the Germans seized in French concentration camps, where they were employed for the most part on the Maginot Line fortifications). These Spanish prisoners numbered about 2,000. In January, 1940, all the Poles and Spaniards were transferred to the branch camp at Gusen and in their place new transports of Spaniards were brought to Mauthausen. The camp is estimated to hold 4,000 prisoners (20 x 200), while a barrack is calculated to hold 200 prisoners.

Each barrack consists of two wings, designated respectively A and B (Stube A and B). Each wing consists of a dormitory and mess hall. Lavatories and toilets serve both wings. The dormitory contains wooden bedsteads, built in two tiers, with paille, sheets, small woolen pillow and blanket (the beds must be made each morning in perfect order, according to a system. The paille must be arranged in box shape). There are about 100 bedsteads per dormitory. In the mess hall stand about 50 cabinets lined up along the walls. In these cabinets the prisoners keep their dishes, cups, spoons, knives and towels, two or three men sharing one cabinet. On the top of the cabinets stand wooden stools, which may be taken down only at dinner and supper, as well as 4 tables. In one corner of the mess hall stand, as a rule, the bedsteads and the table of the Barrack Senior and of the Clerk. The lavatories and toilets are equipped with running water, but these installations are out of order most of the time. The mess hall has one stove; the dormitories are unheated even during the coldest season.



CONCENTRATION CAMP GUSEN

Description

Gusen is situated some few hundred meters lower than Mauthausen, at the foot of the hills, on which stands the main camp, Mauthausen. The inner camp is surrounded by barbed wire, charged with electric current, just as is the case in Mauthausen and is, furthermore, protected by machine guns. The camp area contains 32 barracks, of which 24 serve for detention purposes, 2 for storage, 1 as a crematorium and 3 as infirmary, 1 as a kitchen for the prisoners. There is also an assembly yard, with a raised platform, for the roll-call officer.

The construction of the camp was started in March, 1940. The work was done under appalling conditions by Poles (mostly Silesians), brought in from Klein Buchenwalde. With food rations barely sufficient to sustain life, the prisoners - beaten and driven hard from dawn to dusk - constructed primitive wooden barracks and carried from nearby quarries, often on a run, rocks and stones for the building of foundations and for paving of the camp. In May came a transport of several thousand Poles from Dachau, who took over the work started by their predecessors from Klein Buchenwalde. Another transport of 2,000 prisoners, also Poles, arrived early in June from Sachsenhausen near Berlin, of which number 600 were sent to the main camp at Mauthausen. With the advent of winter, the primitive wooden barracks were only chinked with insulating material and brick facing, but no stoves were installed. Toilets and lavatories were out in the open in small separate buildings. In summer, 1940, the camp housed between six and seven thousand prisoners. At the close of winter that number shrank to from four to five thousand. A good many died, while some of the invalids were transferred to Dachau. At that time also Spaniards, numbering about 3,000 were brought to Gusen from Mauthausen. The barracks at Gusen are calculated to hold 300 prisoners each.

A barrack at Gusen consists of two wings. Each wing contains a combination dormitory and mess hall and the room of the barrack or wing senior. The bedsteads in Gusen are arranged in three tiers (one half of the barracks has bedsteads, in the other half the prisoners sleep on paillasses on the floor). Until February, 1940, only the 7th and the 8th barracks had bedsteads. In these two barracks was confined the "elite" of the camp, mostly German prisoners. The dormitories contain between 150 and 200 bedsteads in an abominable condition, as well as from 2 to 4 tables and a number of stools. Dishes, spoons and towels are kept at the foot of the bedsteads. There is no bedding, except paillasses and 2 blankets. In the barrack senior's room stands a stove, iron camp beds, two tables, stools and cabinets. Toilets and lavatories are outside of the barracks.

Garb.

The garb of the "inmates" consists of a blouse and trousers as well as of a cap. In summer linen uniforms are being worn, whereas the winter garb is made of half wool and half flannel material. The summer uniform is striped dark blue and white, the winter clothing is dark blue and gray. Neither the summer nor the winter uniforms have any lining. In winter the prisoners are given flannel mittens and earmuffs. Work gangs, going out of the camp on work assignment in winter, are given overcoats made of the same material as the uniforms. The prisoners ~~xxx~~ wear shoes



of the military type. The underwear consists of drawers, short in summer, long in winter, and of a shirt. On the left breast the prisoners wear a triangular colored patch and the number, under which they are listed in the camp records. The distinguishing triangular patches (called "Winckel") are in the following colors:

political prisoners - red (The Poles wear a red patch with a letter "P" in black);
troublesome aliens - blue (The Spaniards wear a blue patch with the letter "S" in white);
shirkers - black;
habitual criminals - green;
homosexuals - pink.

Remarks.

The clothing is passed on, for the most part, from one prisoner to the next one, is badly worn, threadbare and patched. The same applied to shoes and socks. Underwear is changed once a month, or once in two months. The winter uniform is being issued towards the end of November; the summer uniform, as early as April.

There is an acute shortage of footwear, particularly in the branch camp at Gusen, with the result that the majority of prisoners wear - regardless of season - wooden shoes after the pattern of those worn in Holland, which vary materially hamper the freedom of movement. Another makeshift footwear are shoes with wooden soles, very heavy and uncomfortable (manufactured by shops in Dachau) and for the most part worn out and broken. In the camp at Gusen, after a change of socks was issued in December, 1940, the prisoners received another change only early in April, 1941, after those previously issued, through the wear and tear of four months, were going to shreds.

Concentration camp Mauthausen (Oberdonau)

Concentration camp Gusen, P.O. St. Georgen (Oberdonau)

Authorities:

The camps are being maintained by the S.S. Each camp has its own commanding officer (commanding officer of the camp at Gusen is Bohdan Chmielewski), under whose orders stand 2 camp directors (Schutzhaftlagerfuehrer), who are alternating on duty for periods of several weeks. Next in line of authority are 2 roll-call officers (Raportfuehrer), who also alternate on duty. Furthermore, there is an entire company of barrack and squad commandants (Blok- and Kommandofuehrer), who mostly hold the party rank of troop leaders (Scharfuehrer). The 2 camp directors (Schutzhaftlagerfuehrer) act as the commanding officer's deputies in matters of camp administration and they also receive three times a day roll-call reports from the roll-call officers (Raportfuehrer). Each barrack has its commandant (Blokfuehrer), who is the direct superior of his barrack and enforces therein the existing regulations. The squad commandants (Kommandofuehrer) supervise each his squad or work-gang of prisoners and are subordinated to the work superintendent (Arbeitsfuehrer). Between three and four companies of S.S. troopers constitute the camp's garrison, and they perform sentry, guard and escort duty when prisoners are at work. These troopers are armed with rifles, whereas the roll-call officers, the barrack and the squad commandants, who



all hold officers' and non-commissioned officers' rank, carry revolvers. The average age of the garrison troopers runs from 18 to 24 years.

Internal organization:

The camp's main superior is the Camp Senior I (Lageraeltester I), mostly one of long time prisoners, with an unblemished record and good character in the interpretation of the S.S. His deputy is Camp Senior II (Lageraeltester II). In addition, there are Camp Clerk I and II (Lagerschreiber I and II), who act the camp's secretaries, as it were. On the left arm they wear armbands marked respectively: LA 1, LA 2, L Schr. 1, L Schr. 2. Subordinated to them are the Barrack Seniors (Blokaelteste), who wear armbands marked Bl. with the number of the barrack (Blok). Each Barrack Senior has as assistants two Wing Seniors (Stubenaelteste), one for wing A, the other for Wing B, as well as a barrack barber.

Daily routine:

The day begins with reveille in summer at 5 a.m., in the winter at 6 a.m., whereupon the prisoners have to make their beds, wash and eat breakfast till 6 (7) a.m. At 6:15 (7:15) they must assemble in front of their barracks and march to the roll-call square. At 6:30 (7:30) comes roll-call and forming of work-gangs, at 7 (8) departure for work. At 11:20 all work-gangs start back for the roll-call square; at 11:45 comes the roll-call and the march back to the barracks. The midday meal is issued at noon with rest-time till 12:45, then again comes roll-call at 1 p.m. and work till 6 p.m. in summer and 5 p.m. in winter. On return from work, comes the evening roll-call. Depending on the length of the day and the regulations in force in the given camp, the length of time the prisoners have to work varies from 11 hours in summer to 8 hours in winter. In summer the first gong sounds at 8:30 p.m., whereupon all prisoners must be in their beds; by 8:45 comes the "silence" signal. In winter the "to bed" signal is sounded at 7:45 p.m., the "silence" signal at 8 p.m. The evening roll-calls last at times for hours on end, so that - after eating supper, washing up and greasing of shoes - the prisoners have hardly time enough to smoke a cigarette. In Gusen smoking is permitted only on the roll-call square. Smoking, however, in the barracks or while at work is very severely punished.

Food:

In the morning the prisoners receive each 1/4 liter of watery soup (coffee on Sunday). At noon one liter of somewhat more nourishing soup, made - depending on the season of the year - from cabbage, turnips, various roots, with a few potatoes, but without any fat. In the evening one loaf of military bread is apportioned to every three prisoners; on Wednesdays and Saturdays the bread ration is increased by one loaf, being allotted for two men. In addition each man receives a slice of either sausage, which is as tasteless as the soup, or a slice of cheese, off and on a little marmalade and 1/4 liter of black "Ersatz" coffee. Briefly speaking the food rations are barely sufficient to sustain life, so much so, that many prisoners die from exhaustion due to hard work and undernourishment.



Types of work:

The majority of prisoners work in privately owned quarries, which have contracts with the S.S. for supplying labor (modern slavery). Extremely hard and exhausting work, combined with ruthless driving and beating by means of clubs (approximately 4 centimeters in diameter) kills off weaker men within a few days. Regardless of age, men young and old, from 18 to 60 years, are being driven hard to produce with equal efficiency. The work is being supervised by older prisoners, Germans, in many instances criminals, with lowest possible instincts, who wield unlimited authority and are ready to kill and torture to death, although beating is forbidden in principle. Laziness at work is also subject to other penalties, such as disciplinary roll-calls, prohibition to wear overcoat, blouse, mittens and ear muffs in winter, no matter how severe the cold. There are, however, still other work assignments, such as digging, masonry, carpentry, as well as odd jobs within the camp, such as mechanical installation work, potato peeling, work in the prisoners' and S.S. kitchen, tailoring, cobbling, unloading, uniform warehouse, linen warehouse, barbering, cleaning, etc. One of the hardest assignments in Gusen is stone carrying, that is fetching rocks from the quarries to the camp for construction and paving work in the camp. The work goes on, regardless of weather, snow, rain, blizzard, freezing cold or blistering heat, without any chance at all for seeking shelter or resting. The prisoners, in their tattered uniforms and shoes, are often drenched to the skin and frozen almost to insensibility. The older prisoners, acting as supervisors, are in the majority of cases far more ruthless and brutal than the S.S. troopers. These supervisors are called "capos". Dispensation from work can come only on the strength of a doctor's certificate. Otherwise all have to turn out for work, regardless of their health. The principle which holds good in all concentration camps is that "prisoners are either alive or dead, but not ill".

Sanitation and medical care:

Sanitation and medical care in the camp are but a figment of imagination. Thus, for instance, the regulations require that all prisoners wash themselves in the morning. As there is no running water available early in the morning, the bathing must be done in water-filled cement troughs, standing in the lavatories. There the healthy and the sick, often suffering from an itch or hideous, suppurating wounds and abscesses, wash in one and the same water. There was a time in Gusen when 80% of the inmates suffered from an itch, without any attempt having been made at medication because no salve was available at the infirmary. The same situation obtains with regard to washing dishes, which must be washed even in the dirtiest water imaginable and one risks merciless beatings if caught with dirty dishes. The camp in Gusen, which has no delousing plant is swarming with lice and fleas in such quantities, that killing them off is utterly unfeasible. That plague of vermin causes all kinds of skin diseases. Insufficient nutrition brings about pernicious exhaustion and anaemia, while faulty metabolism produces ugly boils, abscesses and suppurating sores. Wounds refuse to heal completely for months on end and become irritated and festering. The chances of securing medical help are extremely slim, everything depending on the barrack Clerk's whim, who records all the prisoners for inspection by the physician on the following day. Nor is reporting for medical inspection devoid of the risk of being charged with feigning illness. It is permitted to report in the afternoons at the



infirmary for dressing of injuries and medication. The procedure is a travesty of hygiene. Neither the instruments nor the hands and frequently not even the wounds are being disinfected. The infirmary assistants, recruited from among the prisoners, two, three or four in number, attend within one or two hours to 500 prisoners, at times treating them like cattle, beating, kicking and pushing their patients around. There is a calamitous shortage of medicaments and first aid supplies. "Bandages being frequently unavailable" plasters and bandages made of paper are being used, which tear and fall off in a few minutes. Attempts of prisoners at treating their wounds themselves are considered sabotage and intentional impairment of health, for the purpose of shirking work. The mortality is appalling, the causes being mostly exhaustion and debility. It is an absolute fact that of 700 men, who were brought to Gusen in June, 1940, only a little over a hundred are alive at the moment. The rest all died, whereby it should be borne in mind that the percentage of men released was ridiculously small. In the summer months dysentery is wellnigh generally prevalent. Furthermore, accidents while at work occur rather frequently. Phlegmasia, resulting from a run down condition and infection of frequently very insignificant and superficial wounds are one of the most frequent occurrences. The most popular method of therapy applied to wounds and festering sores is cutting, mostly without any need for it, the operations being performed without any anaesthesia. Release from work can have the form of "bed rest" (Betruhe) or "cell duty" (Stubendienst). "Bed rest" permits remaining in bed during the day, but does not relieve the prisoner of reporting for roll-call, regardless of weather, condition of health and fever. Prisoners on "cell duty" must perform all the chores in the barracks, such as carrying of kettles, sweeping and scrubbing. Release from work is granted as a rule for 5 days, whereupon the release may at times be prolonged.

Canteen:

With money received from families - maximum 20 RM per month - the prisoners may purchase from the canteen tobacco, cigarettes, paper napkins, mirrors, etc. At times food articles are also available, but in negligible quantities and almost without any nutritive value. The canteens are a rich field for all kinds of abuses by the Clerks and barrack Seniors.

Treatment of prisoners:

The treatment of prisoners is unspeakably brutal and humiliating. Face punching and kicking are daily occurrences. The Poles in particular are treated like beings of a lower order and insults and beatings from their German fellow-prisoners are a matter of general practice.

Regulations:

The regulations are extremely severe. Implicit obedience in carrying out orders of the barrack and squad commandants, these orders frequently being nothing but whims. Disobedience, however, might be interpreted as rebellion and punished most ruthlessly. The prisoners have to salute their superiors of the S.S., by removing their caps and standing at attention, they must not address them, but merely answer their questions, of course in the German language. The prisoners are compelled to shave their heads and faces each week and to grease their shoes every night. Smoking in the barracks and in Gusen between the barracks is sternly forbidden. Furthermore, it is not



permitted to change at will from one work gang to another. Any and all complaints must go through official channels through the barrack Seniors and barrack commandants. On the roll-call ground the prisoners line up by barracks in 10 ranks and the alignment in every direction must be perfect. The prisoners march to work 5 abreast. It is prohibited to carry on any conversation with the S.S. troopers or civilian foremen, who frequently direct the work of the prisoners.

Methods and types of punishment:

The most popular method of education is torturing people to death with so-called "sport". It consists of physical exercise imposed for the smallest imaginable offense or infractions of the rules and regulations, such as improperly made beds, insufficiently clean dishes, not greasing of shoes, only slightly soiled cabinet, etc. The exercises are: remaining in a crouching position for hours on end with arms raised up and forward, running while continually dropping down flat and getting up at word of command, jumping in a crouched position or rolling on the ground. Any such exercise inaccurately executed, even if only because of age, physique, deformities or lack of strength, is considered as renitence and laziness and punished on the spot by whip or club, or cold showerbath, while fully dressed, regardless of the season. Such showerbath may last from 15 minutes to 1-1/2 hours and in most cases results in pneumonia. The principle of collective liability prevails. For the transgression of one prisoner all the others are liable and due thereto such exercises are being performed collectively. For laziness at work, which in a vast majority of cases exceeds human strength, or for stealing food from the kitchen, be it only raw potatoes, or for other similar transgressions (i.e. possession of 2 pairs of socks, etc.) the given prisoner receives first a disciplinary notice and a few days later the punishment is meted out. The mildest punishment is standing beneath the turret or at the gate without mid-day and evening meal during the hours when not at work, for 5 days on end. The next and more severe grade of punishment is whipping with truncheon or bullhide whip, from 5 to 25 strokes being administered at a time. This type of punishment may be repeated several times. The heaviest punishment is suspension by the hands which are tied together behind the back from 15 minutes to 2 hours. In exceptional cases the offending prisoner is chained to the wall under the turret day and night for 3 days in a stretch, in such fashion, that the hands, which are tied behind the back, are pulled up so high, as to permit the victim to touch the ground only with the tips of his toes. There is, furthermore, confinement in a dark cell. These cells are very small and utterly bare of furniture. The prisoners are kept in them on water and a little bread and a warm meal only once in every three days. Thefts of food from fellow prisoners is punished under the unwritten camp code, by death, mostly through beating administered again and again over a period of days. Attempts at escape are punished with exemplary severity. When, in August, 1940, a prisoner escaped from the camp at Gusen and was caught 2 days later in the vicinity of Linz, all the prisoners in the camp had to stand drawn up in rank and file on the roll-call ground from evening roll-call until noon of the next day, whereupon when the prisoners were at work such terrific wholesale beatings set in, that 60 prisoners were beaten to death on that day, while 300 injured had to be taken to the infirmary. There is also a "disciplinary company", membership in which is indicated by a black circle, sewn on the uniform below the prisoner's number and also on the trouser leg. The "disciplinary company" performs the heaviest type of labor, working mostly in quarries, frequently on Sundays as well. All Jews are by a standing rule assigned to the disciplinary companies and are singled out for persecution and extermination. Assignment to the "disciplinary company" is not limited as to time and one may easily get into it for transgressions, such as smoking ciagrettes in a barrack, sleeping in underdrawers, etc. During



November, 1940, approximately 200 death sentences by shooting were carried out on the camp's rifle range. The executions were the result of sentences passed by the Gestapo authorities functioning in the localities of residence of the doomed men. The charges were mostly: possession of radio sets, distribution of leaflets, etc. The executions were carried out in groups of from 20 to 25 men during the evening roll-calls. The firing squads consisted of 6 men from the camp's garrison. The condemned men, stripped to the waist, were shot by salvos, one at a time in intervals of from 3 to 4 minutes, whereupon the bodies were cremated at night in the crematory.

Report by a prisoner at Mauthausen
(as per No. 6 of "Chronicles of German occupation"
from November 16 to December 31, 1940. The relator
is no longer alive).

I was arrested together with a number of other men. They dragged me from my home, pushed me into a motor car and started off. Where to? No one told me. In a spacious courtyard, surrounded by a high wall we were dumped out of the cars. A command was barked: "Line up, face to the wall. Hands up". Behind us S.S. troopers armed with rifles stood drawn up. A quick thought flashed through my mind: Was this the end? We heard the dull noise of rifles being loaded. Someone next to me collapsed soundlessly. His nerves gave out. Nobody paid any attention to him. Slowly passed minutes, quarters of hours, hours. For four long hours we stood lined up along the wall. Whoever lowered his hands from sheer exhaustion was hit over the head with a rubber truncheon until blood flowed from the injured forehead or smashed nose. At last the command: Surrender the entire contents of pocketbooks and wallets. Run to the pit in the ground. I was running between lines of S.S. troopers, armed with sticks and clubs. The faster one runs, the less beating he gets. With the rest of my fellow prisoners I threw myself face down on the boards. After 48 hours I was called out for examination. No questions, other than those concerning personal data, were asked of me. Again we were loaded into motor cars and taken to the railroad station. There, the number of S.S. troopers, exceeded ours. In each compartment sat two guards with rifles at readiness. We were forbidden to look around and had to stare straight ahead. After having hungered for 3 days, the prisoners were tottering from exhaustion. At last we arrived at Dachau. We detrained. My God, it's here that they brought us! We were crowded into one large hall, but due to our being so many in number there was barely room enough to stand. That ordeal lasted through the night. In vain did the local prisoners try to help their fellow sufferers, but were unable to do so.

At last morning came. We received a cup of coffee, the first morsel of food after all these days. Next, we were shaved all over, had our hair cut, were bathed and clad in prison uniforms. The latter were of an assorted kind: here an old military overcoat, there an uhlan's uniform or a pajama. All of these garments were stained with varicolored varnish in a pattern of vertical and horizontal stripes. For headgear we received caps full of holes. ~~Next~~ Next we were photographed. After passing one by one through a door, we were seated on a chair and photographed several times each. Then there was a speech delivered to us by some sort of a commandant (Stammfuehrer), who acquainted us with our transgression: we were enemies of the



German Reich and subversive to law and order. The camp would teach us how to live properly. Whereupon ensued the drab prison life. The first few weeks were spent in routine training. The work consisted of piling up stones and scattering them again, collecting rubbish and straw blades and throwing them again all over the place. There were times when our nerves snapped and many a prisoner made an end to his miserable life by throwing himself on the wire fence charged with high tension current. Day in and day out we were beaten in the face at morning, midday and evening roll calls. After a few weeks our real work started, namely working in the fields and at roller smoothing the prison yard. One day my number was called at roll call and I, with a great many of my fellow prisoners, was told of being transferred to another camp.

At night we reached Mauthausen. The five kilometers which separated us from Gusen we had to cover running. Several old men of 70 years were dropping from exhaustion. At the point of destination our number dwindled to 60. At Mauthausen there were 8,000 Poles from all parts of Poland, judges, lawyers, physicians, professors, clergymen, teachers, factory managers, etc. We were clad in pajamas made of wood fibers and received torn underwear, full of vermin. Just as in Dachau, the camp was fenced in by wire charged with high tension current. We slept on paillasses, which contained more vermin than straw, and any prisoner whose paillasse was 3 centimeters thick was elated. For covers we had very thin blankets, full of holes. All were clad alike, except that the Poles, as political offenders, carried red triangular patches of cloth sewn on the breast of their garments. Besides the Poles there were also Germans, criminals, perverts, Jews and Spanish communists. Each of these categories wore cloth patches of different colors sewn to the breasts of their garb. The barrack in which we lived was called "Blok" and contained two large cells designated respectively "Stube A" and "Stube B". The cell senior was, as a rule, some criminal or murderer. A barrack housed approximately 500 prisoners. We arose at 4:30 a.m. Next came assembly, then the command "eyes right" and roll call. During assembly revoltingly brutal incidents occurred frequently. An old man, 75 years of age, had to stand at attention and line up to the right. When his legs failed to support him properly he was punched in the face and could thank his Creator that this act of brutality ended the matter. The cell senior reported to one of the S.S. troopers the number of the barrack inmates present. In the event of some prisoner dying during the night, which occurred frequently, his fellow prisoners had to bring the remains to the roll call. Next came the command "Form work gangs" and "line up by four and to work". Prisoners in dying condition, who also had to appear at roll call, were left lying in the mud. They and the corpses were picked up by the "burial command" (Leichcapo), put in wooden boxes and conveyed to the crematory at Mauthausen. The work was beyond the physical endurance of even the most robust individual. A number of prisoners worked on trimming granite cubes for road paving. Every prisoner had to turn out a specified number of such hexahedric 10 centimeter cubes, as otherwise he was deprived of food and beaten. Other prisoners again would work as stone carriers. Whenever an S.S. guard notices a prisoner picking up a smaller stone he immediately had him loaded down with an extra stone, heavy enough to require three Germans to lift it, and ordered him to run, which the guard lashed his legs with a bull-hide whip. Not less back breaking was the work of roller smoothing roads, with prisoners pulling the rollers in lieu of motors or horses. Very frequently death resulted from crushing by derricks with which huge slabs of rock were being lifted. The work in the brick kiln was so tremous that prisoners had to keep pace with the machines. Between noon and 1 p.m. was roll call and dinner, then again work from 1 to 6 p.m. The worst ordeal



was the evening roll call at 6 p.m. There were times when shrieks of agony resounded all over the camp, when our S.S. masters were meting out punishment. They had a special contraption for administering beatings. The prisoner was stretched out on an inclined board to which he was strapped hand and foot. The victim had to count the strokes himself, in German. Whoever, under influence of pain, made an error in the count, the beating was started all over again. The mildest punishment consisted of several punches in the face and a few kicks. When in a bad humor any S.S. trooper could claim that the work was done slowly and that as punishment no prisoner would get supper. For any trifling transgression, such as for instance not noticing an S.S. functionary, prisoners were being suspended by their arms from a beam. The food consisted of one cup of hot black coffee for breakfast, three quarters of a liter of hot water with one potato or some half raw turnips for dinner, whereas supper consisted of a cup of black coffee and bread baked from potato and chestnut flour. One loaf of this bread was allotted to any 3 prisoners. From time to time each prisoner received two raw carrots, or a cube of tainted margarine or a slice of foul smelling sausage made of horse meat. The prisoners had to shave between 6 and 9 p.m., as otherwise the guards would tear out the hair and punch their faces. Filth, lice and other vermin were our steady companions. During bathing the wildest scenes imaginable occurred. Only those who elbowed their way through, by brute force, managed to get washed. Clergymen and Jews were being singled out for abuse. The clergymen were made to carry out on their backs barrels filled with excrements on Sunday mornings. The criminals acting as superiors had a particular hatred for the Poles. The infirmary was a barrack as filthy as the rest of them. There, on boards, men were stretched out with broken arms and crushed legs. At times prisoners had to crawl naked for hours on end all around the yard and march out to work early in the morning as usual. Only once every 2 months it was permitted to write a card to the family containing the following message: "Am in good health and doing well". With money received from home the prisoners were permitted to make purchases in the canteen. In reality the only merchandise obtainable in the canteen were shoe brushes, paper or pencils, none of which could be used under penalty of death. The prisoners were gradually becoming animals, each bent only on saving his life. The S.S. functionaries were being goaded to fury by the heroic behavior of the Polish prisoners, who died from the tortures inflicted upon them by their executioners without uttering a moan. "The reason you must all perish is because we are unable to break you down" were words repeated time and again by these fiends.

REPORT ON OSWIECIM:

I was taken to Oświęcim together with a large group of prisoners, filling several freight cars, still filthy from some lubricants, devoid of any seating facilities and sealed for the entire duration of the journey which lasted a day and a half. The only food we had was the travelling ration of bread we received at the Pawiak prison. We were forbidden, under penalty of being shot, to look out from the small car windows. Near Skierniewice the train stopped for a while out in the open and three prisoners attempted to escape. They were shot on the spot. At Oświęcim the train halted several kilometers away from the station on an embankment several meters in height. The car doors were opened and we were ordered to detrain. To rush us along kicks were administered freely. The rush, as it turned out, was purposely staged for the purpose of robbing us of the meagre prison belongings in our bundles, such as topcoats, sweaters and underwear, all of which we were ordered to leave behind in the railway cars. After we assembled at the foot of the embankment we were lined up in ranks, three abreast and marched to



the camp, a distance of 3 kilometers. On arrival we were taken to a shower bath, where cold water without soap was to cleanse us for our stay. The camp was alive with lice. Thin ticking underwear was issued to us, wet as we were, towels being, of course, out of the question. As a warming up (it was in late autumn) they drove us out at once for some calisthenics, running, etc. The prisoners live in barracks, from 80 to 100 per barrack, under supervision of German felons assigned as prison guards. The most considerate among them are those who, when none of the superiors happened to watch, did not inflict fiendish tortures. The level of brutality of these "kapos" (abbreviation of some term by which these guards are designated) beggars description. Beating, torturing and abuse are not only their duty, but they seem to find obvious delight in inflicting them. The food, while clean, is utterly inadequate, what with the work and the daily routine as described later on. Hunger forces one to eat raw turnips, refuse parts of which are at times to be found outside of the kitchen. This causes stomach ailments, which still further intensify the depressing pangs of hunger. It is a peculiar variety of diarrhea, due to which the stomach cannot retain food for longer than 15 minutes. This condition is made use of as a special expedient of torture, frequently applied. The guards devise such schedules of chores that leave not a spare moment for satisfying one's natural needs. From this result serious cases of chafing which remain untreated and do not heal. The prisoners' garb consists of a blouse and trousers made of ticking. While I was in the camp no shoes were issued. This system, while constituting a saving and an opportunity for thieving, was also meant as another form of torture, because the camp's grounds were covered with sharp gravel, which painfully lacerated the soles of our feet. Among the chores one of the hardest and calculated to finish off the prisoners, is the dragging and pushing of rollers with which said gravel is being crushed and smoothed. Mainly priests were assigned to this type of work. Fresh gravel is particularly sharp edged and after one day's work the soles of the prisoners' feet are one big wound, whereas after a few days live flesh hangs in shreds. Blood infection with gangrene resulting, or exhaustion, bring about an early death. Such was the fate of Rev. Morawski, a Jesuit from Cracow, who to his last breath gave a splendid example of heroism in enduring pain. I was an eye witness of the death of Capt. Stanisław Gieysztor, commander of the Warsaw Fire Department. This giant of a man, worn out by hunger and toil, fainted during calisthenics exercises, which in Oświęcim constitute one of the worst types of torture. While he was prone on the ground the guards kicked him to death. Once during such exercises, not being able to fall into a crouch any longer, I stepped out of the ranks. Receiving a blow on my neck I fell on the gravel and cut my face. In that way, owing to one guard's unusual kindness, I managed to get into the infirmary, where I was fortunate to remain for some time. The conditions in the infirmary are somewhat better, insofar as there are no chores to be done. The abuse and the hunger, however, go on as usual, while the lice are perhaps still more numerous. I was released from Oświęcim, together with several other prisoners. In the majority of instances release comes only through death. The conditions of living are such that each night several prisoners die in every barrack. The first question asked in the morning by the "kapo" on duty is: "How many died?" During the winter mortality increased materially. In my cell hardly a night passed without from 8 to 10 deaths. The ticking garments are taken off the corpses and the latter removed naked to the mortuary. The corpses make a very ghastly impression, because of emaciation, the pelvic bones just



covered with skin. There were no executions in the camp, while I was there, nor any attempts at revolt which were being rumored about. The telegrams to Warsaw and other towns, announcing death, referred to the "normal" quota of daily deaths, augmented at times by punitive roll calls. A normal roll call in the open lasts at times one hour, punitive roll calls reach at times a duration of 8 hours of standing in the ranks. After a certain length of time prisoners are dropping by scores and many of them die. Thus, for instance, out of 86 men who fainted at one roll call, 46 died the next day. Standing motionless in the ranks, accompanied by frequent punches in the face or in the stomach, finishes off the run down human bodies.



Food rationing per one person in Warsaw in 1941.a/ Adults

Months:-		I.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.	XI.	XII.
Rye Bread	kg.	6.0	4.05	4.20	6.75	4.90	4.55	4.32	5.95	6.03	6.95
Wheat Bread	"	-	0.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wheat Flour	"	0.4	-	0.4	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	0.8
Oat Flour	"	-	-	-	-	0.2	0.4	0.4	-	-	-
Macaroni	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cereals	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sugar	"	0.4	1.-	0.4	0.5	1.8	0.8	-	-	0.8	0.5
Meat	"	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.385	0.5	0.12	0.4	1.-	0.5
Coffee Substitute	"	-	0.16	0.05	-	-	-	0.08	0.05	-	0.175
Potatoes	"	-	5.-	-	-	-	-	-	30.-	30.-	-
Marmelade	"	-	-	-	0.4	-	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.24
Melted Butter	"	-	-	-	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	0.1
Candy	"	-	-	-	0.04	0.05	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.15	0.15
Eggs	No.	2	3	3	1	4	1	3	2	-	7

b/ Children

Rye Bread	kg.	3.5	2.45	2.08	4.35	3.15	3.15	3.1	4.55	4.55	5.55
Wheat Bread	"	-	0.525	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wheat Flour	"	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	-	-	-	-	0.4	1.3
Oat Flour	"	-	-	-	-	1.2	0.9	0.4	-	-	-
Macaroni	"	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cereals	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sugar	"	0.4	1.-	0.4	0.5	1.8	0.8	-	-	0.8	0.5
Meat	"	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.375	0.5	0.12	0.4	1.-	0.5
Coffee Substitute	"	-	0.05	-	-	-	-	0.08	0.05	-	0.175
Potatoes	"	-	5.00	-	-	-	-	-	30.-	30.-	-
Marmelade	"	-	-	-	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.24
Candy	"	-	-	-	0.04	0.03	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.15	0.15
Melted Butter	"	-	-	-	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	0.1
Biscuits	"	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Eggs	No.	2	3	3	1	4	2	3	2	-	7

