

THE REPORT
OF
JÜRGEN STROOP

CONCERNING THE UPRISING IN THE GHETTO
OF WARSAW AND THE LIQUIDATION OF
THE JEWISH RESIDENTIAL
AREA

MARTYRS MEMORIAL AND
MUSEUM OF THE HOLOCAUST



JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

Warsaw 1958

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Introduction and Notes by
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A DOCUMENT OF
CRIME AND HEROISM

This is a document of crime and heroism; of crime of the German Nazis and of heroism of their victims — the last Jews remaining in the the Ghetto of Warsaw. The ringleader of these Nazi murderers himself reports on his crimes and the crimes of his men. He is obliged himself, too, even against his will to confirm the extraordinary heroism of these people whom he calls in his reports „subhumans“, „creatures“ and „bandits“.

And here is the history of this document:

When in 1945 the 7-th U. S. Army occupied the territory of conquered Germany, a thick typewritten volume, prettily bound in buck-skin fell into their hands in Bavaria. This volume was laying in the bookcase of a villa belonging to SS-General Jürgen Stroop. The book contained reports of this general, SS and Police Führer in the District of Warsaw in 1943 — to his superior, SS-General Krüger, Higher SS and Police Führer in the Generalgouvernement (so the German invaders called the central part of occupied Poland). General Stroop was the chief of the large-scale action, carried out by the Nazis in order to liquidate the insurrection, which on 19-th April 1943 broke out in the Ghetto of Warsaw. He was evidently proud of his bloodthirsty deeds, because he bound his reports very carefully and hold them in his home,

in order to let the posterity know about his „heroic acts“ against the defenceless and isolated remnants of the formerly large Jewish centre in Warsaw.

Stroop's Report consists of three parts: general part (introduction), daily reports and a photographic records of crimes committed in the Ghetto, serving as a proof of veracity of the daily reports.

The Command of the 7-th U. S. Army delivered this document to the 2-nd Detachment of the U.S. Army Staff in Europe, which included Stroop's Report among the materials of the Nuremberg Process, where it was given the number 1061-PS.

In this way the document which was meant to insure to its author an immortal glory in the future Millenium Reich, announced by Hitler — changed into a bill of indictment against Stroop himself, against the whole criminal Nazi system and the German militarism. As it results from Stroop's Report, in the action of liquidating the Ghetto, of setting it on fire, of murdering people with gas, of drowning them in the inundated sewers and of shooting thousands of innocent people — not only the SS, the police and collaborationists of different nationalities took part, but also the Wehrmacht.

However, considering objectively the document published below, one can see that it becomes in several passages a quite different and opposite one to the intentions of its author — it changes into a praise-song in honour of the heroic Jewish insurgents, who starving and exhausted, insufficiently armed and without „hinterland“, rose up on the grave of their nation in order to fight against the power, still great in spring 1943, of the SS and the Wehrmacht. Like the biblical ass of Balaam, which instead of cursing the sons of Israel, was forced to speak enthusiastically about them and to bless their manner of living — Stroop, full of hatred against the Jews, whom he calls „subhumans“, almost in every report had to confirm their heroism, their disdain of death and unshakable decision of resistance.

During Stroop's process, which took place in Warsaw from the 18-th to the 23-th of July 1951, this criminal of war again spoke about the heroism of the Ghetto fighters, and on the other hand, the witnesses made shocking depositions concerning the bestiality of the accused and of his men during their action of liquidating the resistance.

However the attitude of Stroop, whom the American authorities had delivered to Poland already with one death sentence for shooting parachutists of the Allied States in West Germany — even here, before the Warsaw tribunal, realizing the possibility of obtaining a second death sentence — his attitude did not change. This Nazi general remained quite cold, without remorse, without any signs of repentance. He appealed to his connection with the military spheres in West Germany. He remained an arrogant Nazi up to the last moment. And it is quite sure that if the hand of justice did not take hold of him, he would belong to those among his comrades from the former SS, who are reorganising now and dream of a new realization of their „historical mission“ of genocides and world incendiaries.

Transmitting to the English reader the translation of Stroop's Report, the editors hope that this document, written in a dull, military style, will give the world once more evidence of this dreadful truth — the truth of Nazi crimes; and on the other hand, of another truth — the comforting truth of the tragic, but beautiful Jewish insurrection in Warsaw, 1943.

In order to explain some passages within the Report which might be unintelligible, we add some notes. They are not numerous, because we do not want to make the document difficult to read.*)

*) The original of Stroop's Report is kept by the Chief Commission of Research on Nazi Crimes in Poland (Warsaw). The first detailed information about the Report, entitled: "The Report of Jürgen Stroop" (in Polish), was published in the Polish weekly journal "Odrodzenie" (26-th October and 2-nd November 1947), by Stanisław Piotrowski, member of the Polish representation at the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg.

THE JEWISH
RESIDENTIAL AREA IN WARSAW
IS NO MORE

FOR THE FÜHRER AND THEIR COUNTRY

the following fell in the battle for the destruction of Jews and bandits¹ in the former Jewish residential area of Warsaw:

[follow 15 names]²

Furthermore, the Polish Police sergeant Julian Zieliński, born 13-th November 1891, 8-th commissariat, fell on 19-th April 1943 while fulfilling his duty.

They gave their outmost, their life. We shall never forget them.

The following were wounded:

[follow the names of:

60 Waffen — SS personnel

11 „Watchmen“ from the Training camp Trawniki

12 Security Police officers in SS — units

5 men of the Polish Police

2 regular army personnel engineers]

Units used in the action:	Average number of personnel used per day:
SS — Staff and police leaders	6/5

Waffen—SS:

SS Panzer Grenadier Training and Reserve

Battalion 3, Warsaw 4/440

SS Cav. Training and Res. Bat., Warsaw 5/381

Police:		
SS Police Regiment 22 I Bat.	. . . . .	3/94
III Bat.	. . . . .	3/134
Engineering Emergency Service	. . . . .	1/6
Polish Police	. . . . .	4/363
Polish Fire Brigade	. . . . .	166
Security Police:		3/32
Wehrmacht:		
Light AA Alarm Battery III/8 Warsaw	. . . . .	2/22
Engineers Det. of Railway Armored Trains	. . . . .
Res. Bat. Rembertow	. . . . .	2/42
Res. Eng. Bat. Gora — Kalwaria	. . . . .	1/34
Foreign Racial Watchmen: ³		
1 Bat. „Trawniki“ men	. . . . .	2/335
		Total: 36/2054

I.

The creation of Jewish residential areas and the restriction of the Jews with regard to residence and trading is nothing new in the history of the East. Such measures were first taken far back in the Middle Ages; they could be observed as recently as during the last few centuries. These restrictions were imposed with the intention of protecting the aryan population against the Jews.⁴

Identical considerations led us as early as February, 1940 to conceive the project of creating a Jewish residential district in Warsaw. The initial intention was to establish as the Jewish residential area that part of the City of Warsaw which has the Vistula as its eastern frontier. Owing to the particular situation of Warsaw, this project seemed at first to be unpracticable. This plan was moreover opposed from different sides, particularly by the City Administration. They

pointed in particular that disturbances in industry and trade would ensue if a Jewish residential area were founded and that it would be impossible to provide the Jews with food if they were assembled in a closed area.

At a conference held in March 1940, it was decided to postpone the plan of creating a Ghetto for the time being, owing to the above objections. At the same time a plan was considered to declare the district of Lublin the collecting area for all Jews within the Government General, especially for the evacuated or fugitive Jews arriving from the Reich. But as early as April 1940, the Higher SS and Police Leader East, Cracow, issued a declaration that there was no intention of such an assembling the Jews within the Lublin District. In the meantime, the Jews had increasingly taken to crossing the frontiers without permission and illegally. This was noted especially at the limits of the Kreishauptmannschaften of Łowicz and Skierniewice. Conditions in the town of Łowicz became dangerous from the point of view of hygiene as well as from that of the Security Police, owing to these illegal immigrations of Jews. The Kreishauptmann of Łowicz therefore began to install Jewish residential areas in his Kreishauptmannschaft in order to avoid these dangers.

The experiences made in the Kreishauptmannschaft of Łowicz, after Jewish residential areas had been installed, showed that these methods are the only ones suitable for dispelling the dangers which emanate repeatedly from the Jews.

The necessity of erecting a Jewish residential area in the City of Warsaw as well became more and more urgent in the summer of 1940, since more and more troops were being assembled in the district of Warsaw after termination of the French campaign. At that time the Department for Health represented as particularly urgent the erection of a Jewish residential area in the interest of preserving the health of the German forces and of the population as well.⁵ The original

plan of establishing a Jewish residential area in the suburb Praga as intended in February 1940, would have taken at least 4 to 5 months, since almost 600.000 persons had to be moved. But since experience showed that greater outbreaks of epidemics might be expected in the winter months and since for this reason, accordingly to the argumentation of the District Medical Officer, the resettling action ought to be completed by 15-th November 1940 at the latest, the plan of establishing a suburban ghetto in Praga was dropped; and instead, the area which hitherto had been used as a quarantine area for epidemics was selected as the place for a new Jewish residential area to be created. In October 1940 the Governor ordered the Commissioner of the District President for the City of Warsaw to complete the resettlement necessary for establishing a Jewish residential area within the City of Warsaw by 15-th November 1940.

The residential area thus established in Warsaw was inhabited by about 400.000 Jews. It contained 27.000 apartments with an average of 2½ rooms each.⁶ It was separated from the rest of the city by fire and partition walls and by walling up of thoroughfares, windows, doors, open spaces, etc.

The new Jewish residential area was administered by the Jewish Board of Elders, who received their instructions from the Commissary of the Jewish residential area,⁷ who was immediately subordinated to the Governor.⁸ The Jews had a self — administration⁹ in which the German supervising authorities intervened only when German interests were touched. In order to enable the Jewish Board of Elders to execute efficaciously its measures to be undertaken, a Jewish police force was set up, identified by a special armband and a special beret and armed with rubber truncheons. This Jewish police force was charged with maintaining order and security within the Jewish residential area and was subordinated to the German and Polish Police.

II.

It soon became clear, however, that not all dangers had been removed by this concentrating the Jews. The security situation required entire removing the Jews from the city of Warsaw.¹⁰ The first large removing action took place in the period from 22-nd July to 3-rd October 1942. In this action 310.322 Jews were removed.¹¹ In January 1943 a second resettlement was carried out by which altogether 6.500 Jews were affected.¹²

When the Reichsführer SS¹³ visited Warsaw in January 1943 he ordered the SS and Police Leader for the District of Warsaw to transfer to Lublin the armament factories and enterprises of military importance which were installed within the Ghetto, including their personnel and machines. The execution of this order proved to be very difficult, since the managers as well as the Jews resisted against this transfer in every possible way. The SS and Police Leader thereupon decided to enforce the transfer of the factories in a large — scale action which he intended to carry out in three days. The preparations had been taken and the order to start this large — scale action had been given by my predecessor.¹⁴ I myself arrived in Warsaw on 17-th April 1943 and took over the command of the large — scale action on 19-th April 1943, 0800 hours, the action itself having started the same day at 0600 hours.

Before the large — scale action began, the limits of the former Jewish residential area had been blocked by an external cordon in order to prevent the Jews from breaking out. The cordon was maintained from the start to the end of the action and was especially reinforced at night.

When we invaded the Ghetto for the first time, the Jews and the Polish bandits¹⁵ succeeded in repelling the participa-