

Bill of indictment:

- I. Lajter in Sonderabteilung for the Jewish Police in the Lodz ghetto.
- II. Gestapo collaborator
 1. ...
 2. He was cooperating with the Gestapo and was conducting inspections almost every day. (...). He was giving orders to the policemen. Because of his position in the “Sonderarbeitlung”, he requisitioned all sorts of valuable items into big amounts, such as gold, diamonds, furs, textiles and other things.
 3. During the inspections, the ghetto police participated in bloody beatings.
 4. As a result of the inspections, the majority of the Ghetto’s inhabitants lost their money and were not able to buy bread. Many became sick and were dying because of hunger.
 5. ...
 6. He was responsible for supplying and providing food provisions for the ghetto. Because of this, he had access to and supervised all food distribution in the ghetto. It was believed that Gertler delivered good products such as meat, butter, sugar and other valuable groceries only to select people in the ghetto.
 7. Gertler, together with Rumkowski and other functionaries of the Judenrat (Jewish Council), participated in the deportation of 20,000 Jews to the Chelmno concentration camp in 1942.
 8. In 1943 Dawid Gertler was assisting the Gestapo officers as they were transporting a group of 7 Jews to the Marysin railway station near the Lodz ghetto. He was in command and was giving orders to the SS soldier, to the Jewish Policeman (members of Jewish Police from the Ghetto) and also to the workers at the railway station.
 9. Dawid Gertler acted the same way as the other top ghetto officers. He had a shiny car and he often conversed friendly with Gestapo people.

Prosecution witnesses:

1. Josef Bleiweis – United States
2. Elias Kirstein – Munchen
3. Wolf Regenfitz – Regensburg

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Defense 27th of August 1949

“By then I asked one of the Gestapo members, Richter, who worked at the Abteilung of the ghetto [Abteilung -U.M.] I told him I would like to talk to him confidentially. I promised him 30,000 Rh [Rh -U.M.] (3,000 US dollars) and if he could not solve my case, he would transfer me to Warsaw. After three days he told me to come over. He warned me that for a false passport and for not wearing an armband I would be in danger of the death penalty. At the same time he assured me that he discussed my case with the chief of Gestapo, Dr. Schaffer, to whom he explained that allegedly I was his “vertraungsmann”. He told me that I had to admit this in front of Dr. Schaffer. Then he took me to Dr. Schaffer and I admitted what Richter instructed me to. Thanks to that, I had been saved.

“Jews in the ghetto saw me dealing with the Gestapo (they did not know that I was doing it for my own case) and they asked me to help them with their cases. Thanks to my personal relationship with Gestapo Official Richter and his superiors Frecht and Dr. Schaffer, I managed to rescue a few hundred people from Radogoszcz (suburbs of Lodz) prison. A few times I saved 50 – 60 persons at once. Rumkowski – Master of the ghetto – (...), noticed that I arranged deals with the Gestapo.

“Those who were rescued from Radogoszcz prison (German prison) were giving 150 German marks from per capita and I was immediately giving this money to the Gestapo. There were people whom I managed to rescue without them giving money to the Gestapo. All those people, whom I saved, from Radogoszcz prison I saved out of charity, not for personal interest.

“The brother- in-law of the witness Berger was in a prison, but I could not rescue him because he had already been sentenced. I could only rescue people who had not been sentenced. Rumkowski called me and asked about my arrangements with the Gestapo. After my explanation and upon his request, I began rescuing people whose names he would give me. Then Rumkowski started insisting that I accept a position in the ghetto under one condition, namely that this position would be under his control. I did not want to accept such a position until the end of August 1940, because my wife lived in Zamosc and I was visiting her from time to time. Besides, I was planning to escape to Russia (Zamosc was 20 km away from the Russian border). For three months I did not want to accept a position in the ghetto. Then Rumkowski went to the Gestapo and denounced me, claiming that I was the Secretary in the Association of Jewish Craftsmen before the war and because of that the Gestapo forced me to take a position in the ghetto management.

“The Lodz ghetto was established in April 1940. In May 1940 “Sonderabteilung” (Special Department) was established as a department for the Jewish police, headed by Szulim Herberg. Commanding posts in the Jewish order police were held by Marek Kliger, Broniek Danziger and Zygmunt Reingrhold. I was included in addition to these three (Kliger, Danziger, Reingrld). Kliger became an administrative manager. From the time of sealing the ghetto (1 May 1940) until the end of May 1940, Jewish police detectives carried out searches at every Jewish house. “Sonderabteilung” was established by Rumkowski because he did not have money to feed the ghetto.

“In 1939, the Judenraet [Jewish council – U. M.] was established. All of the Judenraet members were arrested, taken away and they were executed. At the head of the Judenraet was Rumkowski, who had not been arrested and taken away. He eventually became the sole ruler of the ghetto. I did not take part in managing the ghetto until 1 September 1940.

1. Rumkowski – Elder (senior) of Jews [chairman – U.M.]
2. Dr. Sziker – vice-chairman –resigned after two months of service
3. Aron Jakubowicz – vice-chairman
4. Dawid Warszawski
5. Broniek Traskier
6. Szczesliwy
7. Ulikower
8. Rozenblat – Chief of Jewish Police (Dr. Sziker’s successor)

The number of Judenrate members varied because Rumkowski wanted to rule solely himself.

II. Arbejts – resort [Labor department – U. M.]

Bauder – ring [... - U. M.] - led by Aron Jakubowicz

“Arbejts- resort had almost 80 departments (Sznajder, Szinster etc.). Rumkowski was in charge of all of the department and Sonderabteilung as well. His title was “Der eldste der Juden – in Litzmanstadt getto” [the eldest of the Jews in Lodz ghetto – U. M.]. When I came to Sonderabteilung on September 1, 1940, Sonderabteilung had managers (Gertler, Kliger) and policemen.

Sonderabteilung’s tasks:

“Confiscation of items, valuables and goods – if Sonderabteilung did not exist, the Kripo [German Criminal police – U. M.] would conduct all of the inspections by themselves. When Kripo would conduct inspections, they would take everything away. If somebody showed a note from the Sonderabteilung and the ghetto Rewaltung (Ghetto Administration) that these departments had completed requisitions, then the German police would honor these documents and would not pursue further. Before I joined the Sonderabteilung, Rumkowski barely paid people for the job of confiscations, and it took a long time for him to compensate men with some bounties. I took the position in the Sonderabteilung, but on the condition that Rumkowski would provide me with sufficient funds to compensate men for the confiscated valuables.

“All of the correspondences were coming and going through Baluty square, where the Judenraete offices were located.

“There were cases when Rumkowski was notified by the Gestapo that an inhabitant of the ghetto was selling gold. An order would then go out to inspect that building. To implement the inspection, Rumkowski would personally inform the Sonderabteilung or he could send a written notification to this Department. Then an inspection was take place and they would confiscate the gold. I had never participated in these inspections. It was Kliger who ordered Jewish policemen of the Sonderabteilung to conduct inspections. This order was written on the letterhead “Der elteste der Juden – Rumkowski”. I have never given such orders myself. The confiscated gold was delivered to Rumkowski, who then would forward it to the “Getto – Verwaltung” (Ghetto Administration). For the confiscated gold Rumkowski issued compensations in the form of ghetto money. With this money you could buy whatever you wanted in the ghetto. An inspection usually was conducted by three Jewish policemen, by the manager of the building and a neighbor who was there in the capacity of a witness. During the inspection the owner of the valuables had to be present. If the Sonderabteilung did not conduct these inspections, then the German Criminal police would do it. There was a case when the Sonderabteilung did not conduct an inspection, because they had made a deal with the owner of the building. Then the Kripo learned out about that. This caused a lot of trouble. It was difficult settling the case on behalf of these policemen, otherwise they would be in a grave danger. I removed them from the Sonderabteilung as a punishment and sent them to physical labor. One of these policemen was called Seibert.

“The routine was as follows: the confiscated items were acquisitioned at the Baluty Square – by the Judenälteste – Rumkowski and registered by the Getto – Verwaltung (Administration of the Ghetto) and then the Getto – Verwaltung issued official receipts and then transferred a corresponding monetary amount to the Ghetto administration’s account. Funds obtained out of confiscated valuables were directed by the Getto – Verwaltung (Ghetto Administration) to food-purchasing, according to the official prices. This account of Getto – wirtschaftamt was in German Marks.

“Beside the Lodz ghetto was a part of Germany called Litzmanstadt. Lodz ghetto was also called Litzmanstadt ghetto. The Lodz ghetto population benefitted from the results of these inspections. Maybe it was temporarily inconvenient to the rich population, but the inspections provided a great benefit for poor people, who received Jewish money for the confiscated items and could buy food. In the Sonderabteilung, I worked 2 – 3 hours daily (between 1pm – 3pm, or till 4 pm) giving allowances to people. I was also traveling every 2 – 3 weeks, to Warsaw and Zamosc, where I had my private businesses, which I closed down. At the same time I was delivering for no personal interest private letters and money from Warsaw to Lodz.

“In September 1940, Rumkowski asked me to go with him to the Gestapo and request permission to travel to Warsaw to the Joint Distribution Committee to get money for the ghetto. I told the Gestapo that we might receive 2 million zlotys (500,000 US dollars). For the meeting with the Gestapo we went together, me, Rumkowski, German Ghetto Administrator, Biebow, the Commissar Fuehr and the Gestapo man Richter. The Gestapo permitted the meeting with the Joint Distribution Committee in Warsaw.

“At the meeting with the Joint Distribution Committee, we spoke with well-known directors Borenstein and Nendek, who told us they did not have money to give us. During the private conversation with director Borenstein and director Nendek I was told that they could give the money only if their people would supervise everything. They asked me to talk with Rumkowski about it and if he agreed upon that request they would send money. Rumkowski did not agree on that, saying: “Ich bin Kajzer [Yiddish – “I am the emperor” – U.M.]. In addition, before our conversation Rumkowski made me swear that I would not reveal the contents of this conversation. I and these directors were threatened by being put on trial.

“In Warsaw, more or less, I predicted hunger in the ghetto and I told Rumkowski about this, because Biebow said to me and to the directors of the “Joint,” that he would not disperse the food if they did not provide money. At the same time in Warsaw there were many Jews who had relatives in the Lodz ghetto and wanted to send money for them. Thousands of people were waiting in line and wanted to give us the money. I turned to Biebow and Fuks and told them that they could have a bigger amount of money. I got an answer from them to take the money, but did not reveal their knowledge about it.

“Rumkowski and I collected over a million German marks. Next time, just by myself, I brought in twice 200,000 German marks – all together almost 500,000 marks. I took the money in envelopes addressed to the recipients. At the beginning, I was calling recipients to the office of the Sonderabteilung or to other decent places to give them the envelopes with the money in person. The Sonderabteilung was located on Zgierska Street 94. The second time – when I brought the money, I was afraid that Jews who worked at the Kripo (about 10 people) would denounce me. This is why I gave Rumkowski the

money together with the list of names and amounts. Rumkowski contacted recipients by the Jewish mail in the ghetto and distributed the money.

“By the end of June 1940 and the beginning of July 1940, (before I accepted a position in the Sonderabteilung) people in the ghetto realized that Germans and Poles had started demolishing buildings surrounding the ghetto. They began demolition on the following streets: Nowomiejska, Ogrodowa, and Polnocna. The Germans claimed beautification of the city was the reason for the demolition. They laid down small squares around the ghetto. At this time hundreds of people came to Rumkowski telling him that they hid all sorts of valuable items in these buildings. Rumkowski negotiated with Gestapo and the German Ghetto Administration the possibility of retrieving these valuables. The plan foresaw the same scheme as was employed in the inspections and expropriations, however this time the Volksdeutschs (ethnic Germans of Polish origin) were also included. First the valuables would go to the Gestapo, from them to Ghetto – Verwaltung (German Ghetto Administration) and from there to the Jewish Ghetto – Verwaltung. The latter would estimate the value of things and then transfer a corresponding amount to the Jewish Ghetto – Wirtschaftlant account. In exchange, the food would be sent to the ghetto.

“Rumkowski came to the agreement about this plan with the Gestapo Commissar Fuks and Ghetto Administrator Biebow. In June or July 1940, Rumkowski called me in and said that I was supposed to assist with these transactions. Rumkowski declared it officially and made printed posters, putting them on the building along the ghetto streets. Announcements in Yiddish and German read, “Whoever has hidden items in the buildings outside the ghetto or whoever keeps them with the Germans and Poles needs to come to the Jewish Council in the ghetto and reveal the hiding places. They shall be fully compensated.”

“Hundreds of people came and revealed the hideouts of their valuables. Those who indicated the hideouts not only received compensating payments, but were also given the right to buy food in the city, outside the ghetto. An applicant had to fill out the “autragi” [application – U.M.]. Afterwards the paper was sent to the Ghetto – Verwaltung, who would then pass it on to the Gestapo. The Gestapo called these people in (1 – 2 per day) and with them checked the hideouts outside the ghetto. A few times, I joined as an assistant and went with these people and the Gestapo to inspect the hideouts.

“I had a deal with the Gestapo that for a certain percentage given to the Gestapo, a Jew could take his valuables. Outside that deal, the valuables were going to the ghetto and a small part of it was sent to the German Ghetto Administration. By implementing this deal, the enormous Jewish wealth had been saved for the ghetto and for the individuals. The Jewish Ghetto – Verwaltung estimated the value of the collected items that came through their offices. After that the Jewish Ghetto Administration sent the inventory of the valuables to Rumkowski, who according to this document should have compensated the former owners. Jewish Ghetto Administration did not trust Rumkowski and demanded the proof of these compensations. According to the proof that was provided, the Ghetto Administration was sending food to the ghetto.

“In July 1940, vice chief of the Gestapo Ebert arrived, and started inquiring why the Gestapo chief commissar Fuks was so interested in me. At the same time I obtained the permits to allow me to travel to Warsaw. I was going to carry letters and money for the people in the ghetto. Ebert started wondering why I was visiting the Warsaw ghetto

and why I was allowed to do that. Fuks, in the presence of Biebow, asked me to give them an explanation because they were receiving large amounts of money from Jews, whom they helped. This way the Jews were able to partially save their wealth and at the same time it helped with providing food for ghetto. I wanted to save myself so I gave an explanation of on every submitted application, “Gertler gibt bekannt”. [German – “Gertler announced” – U.M.]. “I obeyed orders from Rumkowski, not from the Gestapo.” Owing to that Ebert was convinced by Biebow and Fuks that I was doing good work for the Gestapo. I was later informed that I had been saved from being sent to Auschwitz, which, according to Biebow and Fuks, Ebert had considered that option. It continued like this until December 3, 1940.

“In meantime, I was able to bribe Ebert. I gave him my personal brilliants. In that time, my private business was buying gold in Lodz and selling it in Warsaw, where the rate was 70 – 100 % higher than in Lodz. I was buying gold in the ghetto from a person called Tykocianski, because I was afraid that somebody would denounce me. I did not care from who he was buying it. In Lodz (outside the ghetto) I was buying from Jews who officially were selling wastes (they wore green armbands), but were also illegally selling gold and brilliants (Biterman, Birncwajg, Ryba). Because of that, I was a very rich man. I did not need anything from the ghetto. I was even bringing food from Warsaw. My position in the Sonderabteilung was only (...) I was taking part in about 20 – 30 cases and all together it was a few hundreds cases. With most of them, I assisted Kliger. Since I had such great financial opportunities I was giving a lot of money away to help people because I knew I would die anyway.

“December 3rd 1940 I was arrested by Kripo, they accused me for:

1. Transporting money from Warsaw to Lodz. A proof of payment was found in a postcard, showing that I had paid some man, who before the war lived on Solna Street No. 8 or 10, the amounts of 500 Marks. On the postcard it was written, Gertler gave you 5 kilograms of apples, so the older man admitted that I gave him 500 Jewish Marks (I was a bit relieved). I admitted to the Kripo that I received in Warsaw about 2000 – 4000 Marks, which I gave my wife to cover daily expenses. They accused me of bringing several millions marks.
2. Smuggling gold and brilliants
3. They tried to bring up the case of the false Latvian citizenship.

“They continued to investigate me until July 15th 1941. I was tortured, but pleaded not guilty. If I was one of the informers, I would have disclosed information on Rumkowski and on the post office because not only was bringing money to the ghetto forbidden, but also the transfer of money (I take money in Warsaw and I don’t bring it to Lodz, but I pay them in Lodz). After I was released from prison, I was sick from July 15th till September 15th 1941. I weighted 48 kilograms. By the end of September 1941 I started work as “lajter” [..... – U. M.] in Sonderabteilung [Special Department – U. M.] because I didn’t tell on Rumkowski or the Gestapo. Even transferring letters was strictly forbidden, you could be punished with the death penalty, and I was transferring hundreds or even thousands of letters – selflessly. At the end of 1941 or the beginning of 1942, Sonderabteilung had control of food permits, bakeries, meat departments, and vegetables stands.

“I expanded Sonderabteilung’s office to 300 people and I divided them between different departments of control. I had to control these departments myself. They were located in different parts of the ghetto and because of that I had to use cab during the day and at night. Other directors of departments also had cabs, so in the ghetto there were about 15 – 20 cabs.

“The first deportation took place at the beginning of 1942. They deported 1,000 people daily. Nobody knew where the first 30,000 were taken to. When their belongings were returned, photos and ID-cards were found. We managed to bribe one of the Germans from the Verwaltung Ghetto – he was called Seiferd. He told us that those people were taken to Chelmno. All together they deported 40 – 44,000 people. The Germans claimed that those people are going to work in “osten” [on east – U.M.]. I had nothing to do with this deportation. At the time, they chose members assigned to the Deportation’s Committee. They were: commander Rozenblat, commissar Blemer, Boruch Praszkie, Luzer Najman, and Max Szczesliwy. Rumkowski was in charge of the Deportation Committee. Only Rumkowski could release somebody from deportation because he took it upon himself to provide daily transport of a thousand people. I, being aware of what is going on, bribed the Gestapo (Fuks and Richter) and Ghetto – Verwaltung (Bibow and Ryba). I stole people away from the Marysin railway station with the help of porters and saved about 100 people. When Rumkowski found out about what I had done, afraid of losing control in the ghetto, he threatened me with informing the Gestapo about what I had done. I explained to him that I was not afraid of that because I believed that I can take people from the railway station. According to the list, they were no longer in Rumkowski’s care, so he wasn’t responsible for them anymore and had nothing to fear. It would be different if I tried to take somebody out of prison and then it would come out and get Rumkowski in trouble. Rumkowski would have to send some other people to the prison – so the number would be correct. This deportation lasted about two months. When Rumkowski saw that I was able to take some people from the station every day, he gave me a list of names of people and asked me to save them. By doing so, I saved about 7,000 people. Thanks to my visits to Warsaw, where I was selling gold, I had many financial opportunities. Using my own money, I bribed the Gestapo and also the Ghetto – Verwaltung. I believe that “sekije” [... - U.M.] because of this money, I was able to save people. There is nobody to be found that would say that I had to be bribed in order to save somebody. (...unclear). The people that I saved came back to the ghetto, many of them were children. I admit that I have never had children in my life, which is one of my biggest sorrows.

“While the deportations were happening, they called me one morning at 6 to inform me that the chief of the Gestapo, Dr. Weygand, had arrived. Outside of my house, there was a Jewish policeman patrolling all the time. He was mostly there to inform me about arrivals and departures of all of civilian and uniformed Germans. I was afraid of any provocation, because in the ghetto there were statements, according to Dr. Weygand, and I was politically responsible for the entire ghetto. At the time there was an allegation that less than 1,000 people were being sent on a daily basis. Dr. Weygand called Rumkowski, and then I called commissar Fuks, Bibow and Ryba, who would come in half an hour. In the meantime I went to Marysin station, fearing that Rumkowski was going to disclose my actions to Dr. Weygand. After Dr. Weygand counted the total number of people he started yelling on Rumkowski, who collapsed in a fear. I explained

to Dr. Weygand that Rumkowski suffered from sclerosis and all the people were coming by tram, so of course 1,000 of them couldn't all fit at once and the remainder would come soon. I promised Dr. Weygand that I was telling the truth and if he waited long enough, he could check for himself. The tram arrived, but only brought 60 people. Dr. Weygand threatened me with 25 lashes on my butt cheeks, so I told him that my butt cheeks weren't made from glass – he laughed. At the time, Bibow, Fuks, and Ryba arrived and took Dr. Weygand off to the side. Dr. Weygand told them what had happened, and they laughed and then they all left. Despite what had just happened, I still sent those people back.

“The so called “Szpera” took place in September 1942 and lasted 8 days (from 8th of September till 15th of September). “Szpera” was mostly about children, elderly and weak people. Gestapo (Fuks, Dr. Bratfisch, Bibow and Ryba) demanded 25,000 children. Rumkowski agreed to give them 20,000 people. When Rumkowski told me about this, I said that it was impossible to take children away from their mothers and that the Germans should do it by themselves. Then Rumkowski called Rozenblat, Baruch Praszker, Luzer Najman, Max Szczesliwy, commissar Blemer, attorney Jakobson, attorney Neftali, Aron Jakubowicz, Dawid Warszawski and had a meeting with them. They came to the conclusion that Rumkowski would give a speech in Strazacki Square on Lubomirska Street No. 11. A tribune was established along with a bullhorn and Rumkowski urged: “mames get awek eukere Kinder” [Yiddish: “moms give away (divorce off) stronger kid” – U.M.]. Rumkowski went to every department. During the speech, the same people who were at the meeting were present. I did not take part in the meeting and I also didn't go to Strazacki Square to hear Rumkowski's speech. I was called to be at this meeting, but I didn't go because I refused to participate in deportations. I believed that if I stayed off to the side, I would be able to save children. I was afraid that Rumkowski would delegate me to have some special function during the deportations, or he would tell on me to the Gestapo. I talked to Bibow and Fuks and asked them if it is possible for me to avoid participating in “Szpera”. They showed me a document written by “Reichs - Sieberheit – Hauptamfen” signed by Eichman for 25,000 people – so I asked them what I was supposed to do because I have children in my family. Bibow and Fuks promised me that I could discharge 50 kids, but on the condition that these children would be located in a separate house. This way Bibow and Fuks could control the number of children to make sure that there weren't more of them. I received empty cards and forms with Bibow's or Fuks' signature and I would fill them out myself with the child's name and age. I got about 100 of these cards. More and more people asked me for these cards so I went to Bibow to ask him to discharge more kids. He declared that it was possible, but they needed more money (15 – 20,000 marks), brilliants and gold. Then he would discharge more children. I hoped that by discharging one child with money that I would be able to save another 2 – 3 kids without paying for them. The first child who was saved with money was a boy named Jakob Skopnicki and Bibow took 20,000 Rh (4,000 dollars). Skopnicki didn't have enough money, so I gave some of my own money. At the time, I gave Bibow about 150,000 of my own marks. I was afraid that the Kripo or Rumkowski or somebody else would find out about the deal I had with Bibow and Fuks and betray me. To avoid this, this is how we did things: I would be in Sonderabteilung signing the amount of money that I received from Jews and then Rumkowski would sign that he had received the money. Afterwards Rumkowski would take the money and would pass it to

Bibow's hands allegedly for Ghetto – Verwaltung and record it on an account called: "800" – "Ghetto Litzmanstadt".

"During "Szpera", about 13,300 children, elderly and weak people were sent instead of the 20,000 that Rumkowski had originally signed to send from the ghetto. About 10 people from the Gestapo entered the ghetto and ordered everyone to come out of their apartments and gather outside. From time to time, the Gestapo would go knocking on doors and make people come outside and conduct a selection. At the time I was saving children and elderly from the wagons from the gathering place by the hospital. I took a few policemen from the Sonderabteilung to help me. Jewish Police and porters were participating in deportation and the Gestapo discharged their children. After "Szpera" there were only a few inspections. Most of the time people declared hidden items somewhere in the city, hidden by Germans.

"When it came to getting food permissions, I negotiated with Bibow and I was allowed to bring in food. I worked hard with food suppliers; the main one was Hahn – to get in as much food as possible. I gave Hahn brilliants and money in exchange for food. The shopping chief in Ghetto – Verwaltung was Hemmerle; I bribed him with gold, brilliants, money, and fur. There was a bank in the ghetto. With Bibow's permission, I ordered that Hahn or Hemmerle had to pay the bank the amount of marks according to the official rate of the estimated value of a particular item (brilliant) while the actual value of this item was 10 times bigger. Furs, cloths and textiles I received from Jakubowicz, who was in charge of these things. This system lasted until July 12th 1943. I saved various items for people in the ghetto that included potatoes, vegetables, meat, fat and sugar. The amounts of these things were even bigger than what the German population was getting. I, for example, was receiving 20,000 kilograms of meat every week, but I wasn't allowed to give it away according to prescribed portions, because we had to publically announce it and I wasn't allowed to do that. Therefore, I introduced a new system, called (...), half kilogram per worker, according to their departments. The head of each department was responsible for distributing this meat within their department. Besides that, I was buying with my own money products in Warsaw (canned meat, sugar, fat) and selflessly giving them away in a ghetto.

"At the end of 1942, disease spread throughout the ghetto. It was known as "bone weakness". I had to smuggle in medication from Warsaw and Lodz into the ghetto, using my own money to get them. I organized the creation of a drugstore on Zgierska Street, no. 92. Song "Wigantol" for Gertler. Thousands of people received daily help by receiving the medication. I bought surgical tools and gave them to the hospital, because a friend of mine had surgery (kidney removal) and I gave it to the hospital.

"The day that I got arrested (July 12th 1943), two men, Gestapo members from Balucki Square, came from Rumkowski's room. I was taken without my hat or my coat. I was accused of:

1. Forgery of the state population in a ghetto, there was 5,000 people less.
2. Bribery to the Gestapo and Ghetto – Verwaltung, thanks to which, much more food was coming into the ghetto.
3. Smuggling medicines, money and gold.

“During the investigation I didn’t say anything because I knew that I wouldn’t live. After a few days, they sent me to Hohensalz (Inowroclaw) where I stayed until August 14th 1943. That day, I was taken by two Gestapo soldiers to Oswiecim, where I was tortured in the Political Department. I pleaded not guilty. Therefore, I was put into the bunker, where I was until November 30th 1944. Throughout the duration of my stay in the bunker in Oswiecim, I was getting help from people from Lodz who were in Oswiecim and in Birkenau. They helped me with food and money, and gave me as much that I could manage and even managed to help others. December 1st 1944 I was sent to Birkenau where I stayed for 4 – 5 days. From there I was taken to Langensalz, where I was until March 25th 1945. I was an ordinary “hefling”. By March 25th 1945, I was sent from Langensalz to Buchenwald where many people from Lodz were and they helped me a lot. I was there for 6 – 7 days and nobody reported on me in Buchenwald. By 1st or 2nd of April 1945 I was taken from Buchenwald to Flossenberg, Lobenlan bei Lanfen, where I was freed by 2nd or 3rd of May 1945.

“On the same day I got sick with typhus. I recovered by the beginning of July. I was staying in Lobenlan, where in lager, people from Lodz and not from Lodz, chose me to delegate for the first term. I wasn’t the first choice for the educated group. I wanted to divide everything equally between laborers, so called: “bajratowski allotment” – it was an allotment for directors.

“When, in 1943, the rumors spread in the ghetto that Gertler was coming back to the ghetto, about 30,000 people left their work and went to Balucki Square. All the streets were filled with people. The German police had to separate people. During the time when I worked for Sonderabteilung, nobody was arrested and they didn’t discover the radio. This indicates that I didn’t collaborate with the Gestapo or help to benefit Germany. Instead, I only tried to hide. Before my term and after my term – there were arrests and detection of the radio.

Jewish Ghetto Authorities:

1. Der eldeste der Juden – Rumkowski
I vice - Aron Jakubowicz
I vice - Leon Rosenblatt
2. Directors of the departments: (about 70), laborers, industry department;
3. Jewish Police – ordinal - (about 700 people) - commander Leon Rosenblatt
4. Sonderabteilung – supervision of the ghetto economy

German Authorities:

- I. Gestapo – uniformed and civil – Political supervision
- II. Ghetto – Verwaltung – civil: a. economy supervision
b. supervision of the departments regarding to their performance for Germans
- III. Military German policemen – standing on Ghetto borders

1. Aron Jakubowicz – Rumkowski’s deputy, claimed not guilty by District Court in Lodz
2. Baruch Praszker – been rehabilitated by the Jewish Institutions and lives in Palestine

Even though both of them participated in Deportation’s Committee

- **Inspections June and July 1940** – I wanted to hide then. Autragi Rumkowski asked me to assist. After my time in prison – as a lajter of Sonderabteilung – there were less inspections. I was busy working with food permissions.
- **Fight with Rumkowski** - In bakeries, meat department, and (...) worked only people whom Rumkowski had recommended. I was fighting with Rumkowski until all of them were removed. I introduced a “chain system of departments”. Each department had to choose a few people who would be changed after one month.
- **Song “Wigantol”** - Medicine for “bones weakness”. Song for Gertler.
- **(...) people deported** - In general not (...) only a few hundred were deported. In the autumn of 1943 Gertler had already been arrested. These people came to (...) when I was already there.
- **Documents from 15th July 1941 to September 1942** – There are no documents signed by me because everything was sent by Kliger. During the time of “Szpera”, Kliger was sick and I had to sign some documents.
- **Seal** – der elteste der Juden – Rumkowski was responsible
- **Company Koh and Heller in Warsaw** – They had to permit people to transfer from Lodz to Warsaw. They had to have “genehmigung” from Lodz. I also was diving for 5 people. Brother (...) I took him to Warsaw.
- **Autragi** – I couldn’t give Autrag without a note from Rumkowski. Autrag was issued in Rumkowski’s office at Balucki Square.
- **Geld** [Yiddish – money – U.M.] - Money that I received from Jews in order to save children was given to Rumkowski, who was sending it to Ghetto – Verwaltung. Bibow was signing for Rumkowski.
- **Receipt** – Receipt for buying German marks. I was afraid that people would think that I took money in order to save children.
- **Specification** – Rumkowski was signing for my specification. Jewish Council paid 3 Jewish marks for 1 German mark. I was fighting with Jewish informers
- **Dollar** - Dollar exchange rates were: 8 Jewish marks for 1 dollar. Jews could have Jewish marks and with Jewish marks you could buy everything. Instead of marks, they would rather give dollars, which they used to get out from hiding places.
- **Children after “Szpera”** – After “Szpera”, we saved 1,000 children and 2 orphanages. I warned Rumkowski that if did not establish a new orphanage, then the children would be sent to the crematorium. Therefore, I gave the order that every manager and clerk would take a kid to rise.

Type of document: Defense's Notes. Handwriting

Language: Polish and German

Date: August 1949: 13, 27.

Author: attorney Estera Epstein

(Pages: 62 – 69)

We need to write to following witnesses and make them send their testimonies according to attached pattern:

1. Beckerman (Los Angeles) [some of the names are followed with their addresses]
2. Jerry (...) (Los Angeles)
3. Braun Jankiel (Los Angeles)
4. Braun Fryda (Los Angeles)
5. George Isaacs (Los Angeles)
6. A. Shosehenberg (Chicago)

Defense August 13th 1949

1. Wolf Kleiner (Feldafing DP Camp)
2. Pinkus Nachmanowitz (Feldafing DP Camp)
3. Wolf Rogenfish (Regentbarg)
4. Kirstein Elias (Munchen)
5. Israel Printz (Regentbarg)
6. Bleiweis Josef (USA)
7. Jewish Institute in Poland, (Warsaw Tlomackie Street no. 5) to receive documents
8. K... Starnberg Am See (didn't show up)
9. Jadwiga Artman, Munchen (didn't show up)
10. Jakob Fiszlewicz – Lodz, Narutowicza Street No. 12 (testify in Lodz)
11. Extract from the Archives page 284
11. Mendel Frau - Munchen
12. Regina Symel – Stuttgart
13. Szlojme Frank - Gretzelfing nearby Munchen, now in Israel
14. Dina Sznajderman – Ebelsberg nearby Linz (to call)
15. Dzialowksa Toba – Ebelsberg nearby Linz (to call)
16. Bronislawa Fabian - Ebelsberg nearby Linz (to call)
17. Dr. Benjamin Dyzenhaus – Salzburg, D. P. Camp (to call) – defense pays for bills

Defense August 13th 1949

18. M. G. Friedman - Ebelsberg nearby Linz (to call)

19. Becker Lewi – (...) (to call)
20. Beckerman – Los Angeles, California (I'm not aware of the content of these documents)
(To call)
21. American Jewish Congress – Los Angeles, California, 52/2 Wilshire Boulevard (I'm not aware of the content of these documents)
22. Jenny Leitni – Los Angeles, California (to call) short note in German
23. Polla Dawidowicz – Munchen, didn't show up, (NO)
24. Note that following witnesses appeared in Juridiche Optajlung:
 1. Abraham Grunberg – Munchen 8 (...)
 2. Mordeha Einwohner – Munchen
 3. Sala Milentka – (...)
 4. Hertz Milewski – (...)
 5. Lewi Belher – Nabburg - Schwandarz
 6. Nachman Weigenberg – Munchen
25. Josef Berkan – Palestine
26. Eli Mejlech Radeiker – Salzburg, D. P. Camp (to call)
27. Natan – Shajtze Radeiker – Salzburg (to call)
28. Braun Jankiel and Fryda – Los Angeles (to call)
29. George Isaacs – Los Angeles (to call)
30. A. Masehenberg – Chicago (to call)
31. Hut Sewek – (...) (to call)
32. Hut Edzia – (...) (to call)
33. Bernard Szrajbman – (...) (to call)
34. Regional Jewish Committee – Lodz, Srodmiejska Street no. 25.
35. Bornehowski Dawid - Feldafing (...)

Defense August 27th 1949.

[Dawid Gertler's testimony, a pattern, probably written by Estera Epstein, his attorney, as indicated by the style of handwriting. U. M.]

“In 1928, I became the secretary in the Central Association of Craftsmen in Poland, in the Lodz branch. My superior was attorney Weitzman, who was Chairman of the Jewish Council and a councilman of the City Hall in the city of Lodz. As the secretary I was helping to rectify the problems between craftsmen.

“At the beginning of the war (September 5 – 6, 1939) I went with attorney Weitzman to Warsaw because I was afraid of the German invasion. At the end of October, I came back with attorney Weitzman. I had been told that Germans would arrest social activists,

chairmen of associations, and their secretaries. Some had already been arrested. A member of the Jewish Council and a councilman of the City Hall in the city of Lodz [name hard to read: P. Harry – U. M.] and also the secretary of Petty Merchants' Association had been arrested. I was in hiding. I moved out from my apartment on Zamenhofa Street No. 38 and moved to Poludniowa Street No. 20 (Jews largely did not reside there).

“When the Ordinance came out (in October or November 1939), requiring the Jews to wear armbands, I started trying to get a Latvian passport. In the beginning of December 1939 I received from Sreberstein (engraver and stamp maker – on Poludniowa Street No. 2) a fake Latvian passport. I took the passport and went to Polizei Presidantum (German police authority) in Lodz. I introduced myself as a Latvian citizen. Because of this passport, I received a certificate stating that I was not subject to the legislation applied to other Jews. I managed to travel all over Poland because of this passport. I took my wife and my father-in-law to Zamosc because of this passport. Until the end of 1940, I was considered a Latvian citizen (although Jew).

“In May 1940, mandatory resettlement took place “(...) Zeilung” into the Ghetto. I checked myself in as a Jew born in Riga (Latvia). There were more people who had the same passport as I did. I traveled to Warsaw and back as a Latvian citizen; I carried money and valuables for Jews in need in and out of Lodz. At the same time I was participating in Warsaw stocks for my own business purposes.

“Weglisnki – the secretary of the Association of Cabbies – had the same Latvian passport as I did. He was captured in Warsaw by the Gestapo and during the investigation stated that he did not know the name of the person who made the passport for him, but he knew that Dawid Gertler had one as well and Gertler may know the name of the maker. As a result of his testimony, the Gestapo in Warsaw had ordered the Gestapo in Lodz to find me. However, they didn't find me in the city or on Piotrkowska Street No. 107 with the Fidlender Family where the real Latvians were living. They located me in the ghetto, which was established on May 1, 1940.

“When I found out that the Gestapo was looking for me in the ghetto, I sent my two cousins to them, who had exactly the same first and last names as I did. There were no complications for them for they did not check in as being born in Riga.