

smoke candles or the introduction of creosote into the water have the desired result. Cooperation with the Wehrmacht splendid.

The SS and Police Führer
in the District of Warsaw
s. (S t r o o p)
SS-Brigadeführer and Majorgeneral of Police

Certified copy:
(Jesuites)
SS-Sturmbannführer

C o p y.

Teletype message

From: The SS and Police Führer in the District of Warsaw

Warsaw, 22-nd April 1943.

Ref. No.: I ab/St/Gr-16 07-Journal No. 532/43 secret.
Re: Ghetto Operation.
To: The Higher SS and Police Führer East,
SS-Obergruppenführer and General of Police
Krüger — or deputy,
C r a c o w.

Progress of the Ghetto Operation of 22-nd April 1943. Report on action up to 1200 hrs. has already been submitted by teletype message of today. Continuing, I beg to report:

The just mentioned searching action in the remainder of the blocks by detailed raiding parties, which met with resistance at some places, had the following success: 1.100 Jews caught for evacuation, 203 bandits and Jews shot, 15 dug-outs blown up. Captured: 80 incendiary bottles and other booty. Units at disposal: as reported by teletype message on 20-th April 1943, Journal No. 516/43 secret.

Our losses:

SS-Untersturmführer Dehmke (dead); enemy hit a hand grenade which he carried.⁵⁷ (SS-Cav. Res. Batt.)

1 Sergeant of Police (shot through the lungs).

When the Engineers blew up the dug-outs, a considerable number of Jews and bandits were buried under the ruins. In a number of cases it was necessary to start fires in order to smoke the gangs out.

It must be added that since yesterday parts of the detailed units have been shot at time and again also from outside

the Ghetto, that is, from the aryan part of Warsaw. Raiding parties entering at once in one case succeeded in capturing 35 Polish bandits, Communists, who were liquidated at once.⁵⁸ Today it happened repeatedly, when it was necessary to make executions, that the bandits collapsed shouting „Long live Poland“, „Live Moscow“.

The operation will be continued on 23-rd April 1943, 0700 hrs.

The SS and Police Führer
in the District of Warsaw
s. (S t r o o p)
SS-Obergruppenführer and General of Police

Certified copy:

(Jesuites)
SS-Sturmbannführer

C o p y.

Teletype message

From: The SS and Police Führer in the District of Warsaw

Warsaw, 23-rd April 1943.

Ref. No.: I ab/St/Gr-16 07-Journal No. 538/43 secret.
Re: Ghetto Operation.
To: The Higher SS and Police Führer East,
SS-Obergruppenführer and General of Police
Krüger — or deputy,
C r a c o w.

Progress of Ghetto Operation on 23-rd April 1943. Start : 0700 hrs.

The whole of the former Ghetto had been divided for the purposes of today's combing out into 24 districts. One reinforced searching party was detailed to each district with special orders. These assignments given to the searching parties had to be carried out by 1600 hours.

Result of this action : 600 Jews and bandits ferreted out and captured, about 200 Jews and bandits killed, 48 dug-outs, some of them of a quite elaborated character, blown up. Captured were apart from valuables and money — some gas masks, too.

The units had been informed that we intended to terminate the operation today. In the forenoon the Jews were already aware of this instruction. This is why the searching parties were once more detailed after an interval of 1 to 1½ hours. The result was that, as always, again Jews and bandits were discovered to be in various blocks. From one block shots were even fired against the cordoning units. An attack by a special battle group was ordered and in order to smoke the bandits out, every building was set on fire. The Jews and ban-

dits held themselves up to the last moment and then fired against the men of the units. They even shot with carbines. A number of bandits who were shooting from balconies were hit by our men and crashed down.

Furthermore, today we discovered a place said to have been the headquarters of the „PPR“;⁵⁹ we found it unoccupied and destroyed it. It was on this 5-th day that obviously we found the greatest of the terrorists and activists, who so far had found ways to dodge every searching or evacuation action.

One racial German (Volksdeutsche) reported that again some Jews had escaped through the sewers into the aryan part of the city. We learned from a traitor that there were some Jews in a certain house.⁶⁰ A special motorised raiding party invaded the building and succeeded in catching 3 Jews, 2 of them females. During this operation the motor car was pelted with one incendiary bottle and one explosive; thereby 2 policemen were wounded.⁶¹

The whole operation is rendered more difficult by the cunning way in which the Jews and bandits act; for instance, we discovered that the hearses which were used to collect the corpses lying around, at the same time bring living Jews to the Jewish cemetery, and thus they escape from the Ghetto. Now this way to escape also is barred by continuous control of the hearses.

At the termination of today's operation about 2200 hours, we discovered that again about 30 bandits had passed into a so-called armament factory in order to find refuge there. Since in this factory are storing goods of great value belonging to the Wehrmacht, this factory was requested to evacuate the building by noon on 24-th April in order to attack that labyrinth of a building tomorrow.

Today 3.500 Jews were caught who are to be evacuated from the factories. A total of 19.450 Jews have been caught for translocation or already evacuated up to today. Of these

about 2.500 Jews are still to be loaded. The next train will start on 24-th April 1943.

Strength as of 22-nd April 1943, without 150 Trawniki-men; these have already been put at the disposal of the Eastern Command as reinforcement for another assignment.

Our losses:

2 Police sergeants („SB“)⁶² wounded
1 Trawniki-man wounded.

The operation will be continued on 24-th April 1943, 1000 hours. This hour was chosen so that Jews who may still be in the Ghetto, will believe that the operation was actually terminated today.

The SS and Police Führer
in the District of Warsaw
s. (S t r o o p)
SS-Brigadeführer and Majorgeneral of Police

Certified copy:

(Jesuit)

SS-Sturmbannführer

C o p y.

Teletype message

From: The SS and Police Führer in the District of Warsaw

Warsaw, 24-th April 1943.

Ref. No.: I ab/St/Wdt-16 07-Journal No. 545/43 secret.

Re: Ghetto Operation.

To: The Higher SS and Police Führer East,
SS-Obergruppenführer and General of Police
Krüger — or deputy,
C r a c o w.

Progress of operation on 24-th April 1943, start 1000 hours.

Contrary to the preceding days, the 24 searching parties which had again been formed today, did not start at one end of the Ghetto, but proceeded from all sides at the same time. Apparently the Jews remaining still in the Ghetto were deceived by the fact, that the operation did not start until 1000 hours, into believing that the matter had been terminated yesterday. The search action, therefore, had especially satisfactory results today. This success is furthermore due to the fact that the noncommissioned officers and men⁶³ have meanwhile become accustomed to the cunning fighting and tricks used by the Jews and bandits and that they have acquired great skill in tracing out the innumerable dug-outs. Today towards evening, the raiding parties having returned, we attacked a certain block of buildings, situated in the northeastern part of the former Ghetto.⁶⁴ In this labyrinth of buildings there was a so-called armaments firm which reportedly had goods worth millions for manufacture and storage.⁶⁵ I had notified the Wehrmacht of my intentions on 23-rd April 1943 about 2100 hours, and had requested them

to remove the goods of the Wehrmacht by 12 hours. Since the Wehrmacht did not start this evacuation until 1000 hours, I felt obliged to extend the term until 1800 hours. At 1815 hours a search and battle group entered the premises, the building having been cordoned off, and found that a great number of Jews were within the building. Since some of these Jews resisted, I ordered the building to be set on fire. Not until the street and all courtyards on either side were well aflame, did the Jews, some of them on fire, emerge from these blocks, resp. endeavoured to save their life by jumping into the street from windows and balconies, after having thrown down beds, blankets and the like. Over and over again we observed that Jews and bandits, despite the danger of being burned alive, preferred to return into the flames rather than being caught by us. Over and over again the Jews kept up their firing almost to the end of the action; thus the engineers group under protection of a machine gun toward nightfall had to invade an exceedingly strong concrete building. Termination of today's operation: on 25-th April 1943 at 0145 hours. 1.660 Jews were caught for evacuation, 1.814 pulled out of dug-outs, about 330 shot. Innumerable Jews were burned or perished when the dug-outs were blown up. 26 dug-outs were blown up and an amount of paper money especially dollars, was captured; this money has not yet been counted.

Our forces: as on the preceding day, minus 50 men of the Waffen-SS.

Our losses: 2 SS-men and 1 Trawniki-man wounded.

Altogether there have now been caught in this action 25.500 Jews who lived in the former Ghetto. Since there are only vague estimates available of the actual number of Jews, I assume that now only very small numbers of Jews and bandits still remain within the Ghetto.⁶⁶

Operation will be continued on 25-th April 1943, 1300 hours.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of teletype messages Nos. 1222 and 1223 of 24-th April 1943. As far as can be predicted,

the present large-scale operation will last until Easter Monday inclusive.⁶⁷

Today large posters were affixed to the walls surrounding the Ghetto, announcing that everybody who enters the former Ghetto without being able to prove his identity, will be shot.

The SS and Police Führer
in the District of Warsaw

s. (S t r o o p)

SS-Brigadeführer and Majorgeneral of Police

Certified copy:

(Jesuites)

SS-Sturmabführer

C o p y.

Teletype message

From: The SS and Police Führer in the District of Warsaw

Warsaw, 25-th April 1943.

Ref. No.: I ab/St/Wdt-16 07-Journal No. 549/43 secret.

Re: Ghetto Operation.

To: The Higher SS and Police Führer East,
SS-Obergruppenführer and General of Police
Krüger — or deputy,
C r a c o w.

Progress of operation on 25-th April 1943, start 1300 hours.

For today 7 search parties were formed, strength 1/70 each, each allotted to a certain block of buildings.

Order: „Every building is to be combed out once more; dug-outs have to be discovered and blown up, and the Jews have to be caught. If they resist anyhow or if dug-outs cannot be reached, the buildings are to be burnt down“. Apart from the operations undertaken by these 7 searching parties, a special operation was undertaken against a center of bandits, situated outside the former Ghetto — wall and inhabited exclusively by Poles.

Today's operations of almost all the search parties ended in the starting of enormous conflagrations. In this manner the Jews were forced to leave their hideouts and refuges. A total of 1.960 Jews were caught alive. The Jews informed us that among them were certain parachutists who were dropped he-

re⁶⁸ and bandits who had been equipped with arms from some unknown source. 274 Jews were shot. As in the preceding days, uncounted Jews were buried in blown up dug-outs and, as can be observed over and over again, burned. With this bag of Jews today, we have, in my opinion, caught a very considerable part of the bandits and lowest elements of the Ghetto. Intervening darkness prevented immediate liquidation. I am going to try to obtain a train for T. II⁶⁹ tomorrow. Otherwise liquidation will be carried out tomorrow. Today also, repeatedly armed resistance was encountered; in a dug-out three pistols and some explosives were captured. Furthermore, considerable amounts of paper money, foreign currency, gold coins and jewelry were secured today. The Jews still have considerable property. While last night a glare of fire could be seen above the former Ghetto, today one can observe a giant sea of flames. Since we continue to discover great numbers of Jews during the combing out accomplished regularly and according to plan, the operation will be continued on 26-th April 1943. Start : 1000 hours.

Including today, a total of 27.464 Jews of the former Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw have been captured.

Our forces: as on the previous day.

Our losses: 3 members of the Waffen-SS and one member of the Security Police wounded.

Total losses up to date:

Waffen-SS	27	wounded
Police	9	wounded
Security Police	4	wounded
Wehrmacht	1	wounded
Trawniki-men	9	wounded
	50	wounded

and 5 dead:

Waffen-SS	2	dead
Wehrmacht	2	dead
Trawniki-men	1	dead
	5	dead

The SS and Police Führer
in the District of Warsaw
s. (S t r o o p)

SS-Brigadeführer and Majorgeneral of Police

Certified copy:

(Jesuit)

SS-Sturmbannführer

C o p y.

Teletype message

From: The SS and Police Führer in the District of Warsaw

Warsaw, 26-th April 1943.

Ref. No.: I ab/St/Wdt-16 07-Journal No. 550/43 secret.
Re: Ghetto Operation, supplementary report.
To: The Higher SS and Police Führer East,
SS-Obergruppenführer and General of Police
Krüger — or deputy,
C r a c o w.

The operation on 25-th April 1943 was terminated at 2200 hours.

General effect of the execution of this operation:

The Poles resident in Warsaw are much impressed by the toughness of our operations in the former Jewish residential area. As can be seen from the reports, since the current action a general calming (apart from little incidents) took place, especially within the city area of Warsaw. From this fact one may conclude that the bandits and saboteurs resided till now in the former Jewish residential area and now have been destroyed.⁷⁰

In this connection the fact may be of some interest, that an illegal ammunition store exploded when we burned down a certain building in the dwelling area on which we were working at the time.

The SS and Police Führer
in the District of Warsaw
s. (S t r o o p)
SS-Brigadeführer and Majorgeneral of Police

Certified copy:

(Jesuit)
SS-Sturmbannführer

C o p y.

Teletype message

From: The SS and Police Führer in the District of Warsaw

Warsaw, 26-th April 1943.

Ref. No.: I ab/St/Wdt-16 07-Journal No. 551/43 secret.
Re: Ghetto Operation.
To: The Higher SS and Police Führer East,
SS-Obergruppenführer and General of Police
Krüger — or deputy,
C r a c o w.

Start of operation: 1000 hrs.

The whole of the former Jewish residential area was once more combed through today by the same search parties, each of them allotted to the same district as before. In this way I tried to bring about that the leaders get into the streets, blocks of buildings and courtyards which they know already and that thus they are able to penetrate deeper and deeper into the maze of dug-outs and subterranean passages. Almost every raiding party reported resistance, which however was broken entirely either by returning fire or by blowing up the dug-outs. It becomes clearer and clearer that it is now the turn of the toughest and strongest among the Jews and bandits.⁷¹ Several times dug-outs have been forcibly broken open, the inmates of which had not come to the surface during the whole of this operation. In a number of cases the inmates of the dug-outs were hardly in a condition, when the dug-outs had been blown up, to crawl to the surface. The captured Jews report that many of the inmates of the dug-outs became insane from the heat, the smoke and the explosions. Several Jews were arrested who had kept close liaison with the group of Polish terrorists,⁷² and collaborated with it. Outside the former Jewish residential area 29 Jews were arrested. During today's operation several blocks of buildings were burned

down. This is the only and final method which forces this trash and subhumanity⁷³ to the surface. Arms, incendiary bottles, explosive charges and considerable amounts of cash and foreign currency were captured. Today I also arranged that several so-called armament and defense enterprises will evacuate their stores at once, so that these blocks into which the Jews now have penetrated, under the protection of the armament of the German Wehrmacht and police, can be combed out. In one case appeared the same image as had been seen often, that behind the pretended giant enterprise there existed almost no stores or goods. One factory was closed immediately, and the Jews were evacuated.

Result of today's operation:

30 Jews evacuated, 1,330 Jews pulled out of dug-outs and immediately destroyed, 362 Jews killed in battle. Caught today altogether: 1,722 Jews. This brings the total of Jews caught to 29,186. Moreover, it is very probable that numerous Jews have perished in the 13 dug-outs blown up and in the conflagrations.

At the time of writing not one of the Jews caught still remains within Warsaw. The scheduled transport to T. II had no success. Strength: as on preceding day.

Our losses: none.

End of today's operation at 2145 hrs. Will be continued on 27-th April 1943 at 0900 hrs.

The SS and Police Führer
in the District of Warsaw
s. (S t r o o p)
SS-Brigadeführer and Majorgeneral of Police

Certified copy:

(Jesuit)

SS-Sturmbannführer

C o p y.

Teletype message

From: The SS and Police Führer in the District of Warsaw

Warsaw, 27-th April 1943.

Ref. No.: I ab/St/Gr-16 07-Journal No. 555/43 secret.

Re: Ghetto Operation.

To: The Higher SS and Police Führer East,
SS-Obergruppenführer and General of Police
Krüger — or deputy,
C r a c o w.

Progress of operation on 27-th April 1943. Start: 0900 hrs.

For today's operation 24 raiding parties were formed with the same task as on several days of last week: to search the former Jewish Ghetto by smaller search parties. These search parties pulled 780 Jews out of dug-outs and shot 115 Jews who resisted. This operation was terminated about 1500 hrs., some of the parties had to continue to operate because they had found more dug-outs.

At 1600 hrs. a special battle group, 320 officers and men strong, started cleansing a large block of buildings situated on both sides of the so-called Niska Street in the northeastern part of the former Jewish residential area. After the search the entire block was set on fire, after having been completely cordoned off. In this action a considerable number of Jews were caught. As always, they remained in the dug-outs, which were either below the ground or in the lofts of the buildings, until the end. They fired their arms to the last moment and then jumped down into the street, sometimes from as far up as the fourth floor, having previously thrown down beds, mattresses etc., but not until the flames made any other escape impossible. A total of 2,560 Jews were caught today within

the former Jewish residential area, of whom 547 were shot. Moreover, Jews as always in a not ascertainable number perished when dug-outs were blown up, resp. in the flames. The sum total of Jews, caught in this action in the former Jewish residential area till now, amounts to 31.746.

We learned from an anonymous letter that there were a considerable number of Jews in a block of buildings adjoining the northeastern part of the Jewish residential area,⁷⁴ but outside of it. A special raiding party under the command of 1-st Lt. of Police, Diehl, was dispatched to attack these buildings. The raiding party discovered a gang of about 120 men, strongly armed with pistols, rifles, light machine guns and hand grenades, who resisted. They succeeded in destroying 24 bandits in battle and arresting 52 bandits. The remainder could not be caught or destroyed since darkness intervened. The buildings, however, were surrounded at once, so that an escape will hardly be possible. This cleansing action will be continued tomorrow. Moreover, 17 Poles were arrested, among whom 2 Polish policemen who should have been aware of the existence of this gang. In this operation we captured among other things 3 rifles, 12 pistols, partly of heavier caliber, 100 Polish „pineapple“ hand grenades, 27 German steel helmets, quite a number of German uniforms, tunics and coats, which were even furnished with ribbons of the East Medal,⁷⁵ some reserve magazines for machine guns, 300 rounds of ammunition etc. The leader of the raiding party had a difficult task because the bandits were disguised in German uniform, but despite this fact he asserted himself successfully with great dash. Among the bandits who were caught or killed, there were some Polish terrorists⁷⁶ who were identified with certainty. Today we succeeded furthermore in catching and liquidating one of the founders and leaders of the Jewish-Polish defense formation. The external appearance of the Jews caught now shows that it is now the turn of those who were the leaders of the entire resistance movement. They jumped

from the burning windows and balconies, abusing Germany and the Führer and cursing the German soldiers.

SS-men who descended into the sewers discovered that a great number of corpses of perished Jews are being washed away by the water.

Our strength:

From 0700 to 1900 hrs.	{ 288 German police 200 Trawniki-men 140 Polish police	} Cordon- ing forces
From 1900 to 0700 hrs.	{ 288 German police 250 Waffen-SS 140 Polish police	

Strength of used forces:

3/115 German police
4/400 Waffen-SS
1/6 Engineering Serv.
2/30 Security Police
2/21 Engineers.

Our losses:

3 wounded:
2 Waffen-SS
1 Trawniki-man.

Termination of operation: 2300 hrs. Will be continued on 28-th April 1943 at 1000 hrs.

The SS and Police Führer
in the District of Warsaw
s. (S t r o o p)

SS-Brigadeführer and Majorgeneral of Police

Certified copy:

(Jesuit)

SS-Sturmbannführer

Copy. Teletype message

From: The SS and Police Führer in the District of Warsaw

Warsaw, 28-th April 1943.

Ref. No.: I ab/St/Gr-16 07-Journal No. 562/43 secret.

Re: Ghetto Operation.

To: The Higher SS and Police Führer East,
SS-Obergruppenführer and General of Police
Krüger — or deputy,
C r a c o w.

Progress of operation on 28-th April 1943. Start 1000 hrs.

Today 10 raiding parties were dispatched for combing out the whole of the Ghetto. These raiding parties again discovered, proceeding step by step, a number of dug-outs, which were found to have been prepared as far ago as the middle of last year for use in the resistance of the Jews. A total of 335 Jews were forcibly pulled out of these dug-outs. Apart from these operations, we continued to attack the nest of the Jewish military organization, situated at the borders of the Ghetto. We succeeded in shooting 10 more bandits beyond those caught yesterday, in arresting 9 and in capturing more arms, ammunition and military equipment. In the afternoon a battle group again was directed against a block of buildings which had already been combed out; the block was set on fire during this operation. As on previous days, masses of Jews emerged, forced out by the flames and the enormous clouds of smoke. At another point an Engineer officer, attached by the Wehrmacht to the units, with great trouble opened a dug-out situated about 3 meters below ground. From this

dug-out, which had been ready since October of last year and was equipped with running water, toilet, electric light and other equipment, we pulled out 274 of the most influential and richest Jews. Today again we encountered very strong armed resistance in many places and broke it. It becomes clearer and clearer that we are now encountering the real terrorist and activists, because of the duration of the operation.

Result of today: 1,655 Jews caught for evacuation, of whom 110 were shot in battle.

Many more Jews were killed by the flames; resp., Jews in an unascertainable number were destroyed by the dug-outs being blown up. By the successes of today the total number of Jews caught or destroyed rises to 33,401 altogether. This number does not include the Jews who were burned or destroyed in the dug-outs.

Our strength:

as on the previous day.

Our losses:

3 wounded (1 police, 2 Waffen-SS).

Termination of operation: 2200 hrs. Will be continued on 29-th April 1943. 1000 hrs.

The SS and Police Führer
in the District of Warsaw
s. (S t r o o p)

SS-Brigadeführer and Majorgeneral of Police

Certified copy:

(Jesuit)

SS-Sturmbannführer

C o p y.

Teletype message

From: The SS and Police Führer in the District of Warsaw

Warsaw, 29-th April 1943.

Ref. No.: I ab/St/Gr-16 07-Journal No. 566/43 secret.
Re: Ghetto Operation.
To: The Higher SS and Police Führer East,
SS-Obergruppenführer and General of Police
Krüger — or deputy,
C r a c o w.

Progress of large-scale operation on 29-th April 1943. Start 1000 hrs. As on the previous day, search parties were dispatched, which had the special task of searching those blocks of buildings which had been recently separated. A larger battle group was detailed to clean a certain block of buildings (formerly the Hallmann concern) and to burn this block down. 36 more dug-outs used for habitation were discovered altogether, and from them and other hideouts and from the burning buildings 2,359 Jews were caught, of whom 106 were killed in battle.

Captured are again 2 rifles, 10 pistols, 10 kilograms of explosives, and ammunition of various types.

When a large dug-out was blown up, the entire building collapsed and everyone of the bandits perished. In the ensuing conflagration loud detonations and darting flames showed that the building must have contained large stores of ammunition and explosives. Some sewer entrances were blown up. 2 exits discovered outside the Ghetto were also made unusable by blowing or walling them up.

The depositions of several inmates of the dug-outs are to the effect that these Jews have not left the dug-outs for 10 days and that their food etc. is now beginning to grow short

because the large-scale operation has lasted so long. Furthermore, the Jews testify that Jewish and also Polish bandits appeared at night, wearing black masks, who walled the dug-outs up from the outside and admonished them not to give signs of life in any case, so that they could afterwards continue to live in the Ghetto. Some of the armament factories are being evacuated very slowly. In several cases one gains the impression that this is done intentionally. Thus I discovered with regard to one firm, Schultz and Co., which I had visited on Easter Monday and then instructed to start evacuation at once, it is within 3 days, that up till today, Thursday, nothing had been done.

Our strength:
as on the previous day.

Our losses:
none.

Termination of operation at 2100 hrs. The large-scale action will be continued on 30-th April 1943, 0900 hrs.

Total caught or destroyed: 35,760.

The SS and Police Führer
in the District of Warsaw

s. (S t r o o p)

SS-Brigadeführer and Majorgeneral of Police

Certified copy:

(Jesuit)

SS-Sturmbannführer