



12 DPA SERIES: THE NAZI HOLOCAUST - SERIES II — At the end of the war, Polish authorities estimated the total number of civilians killed to be 5,384,000. Of these, 3,200,000 were Jewish. The German solution to this "Jewish problem" in the occupied zone was to dissolve all Jewish communities of less than 500 people and move them to a concentration point. This concentration point was a ghetto usually located in a larger city that had access to a railroad. The goal of the Germans was to isolate the Jews behind barbed wire and high walls, hoping to decimate them through starvation and disease. Besides being death traps, the ghettos were way stations to the death camps. Concentrating the Jewish population in ghettos near railroads made it easier for the Germans to ship the survivors to the extermination camps. The above photo aid shows old and sick Jews from the Lodz Ghetto being shipped to the death camp at Chelmno. September, 1942.

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