

6,000,000 JEWS WERE WIPED OUT NAZI FILES SHOW

Slaughter in Warsaw Ghetto Overshadows Long List of Sadism

Nuernberg, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Six million European Jews were ruthlessly slaughtered in the Nazi campaign of extermination, said German secret police estimates placed to-day before the international military tribunal trying 21 of Hitler's top leaders on war crimes charges.

Allied prosecutors filed an affidavit by Dr. Wilhelm Hoettl, right-hand man to defendant Ernst Kaltenbrunner in the secret police, giving the estimate.

"Jew Catcher"

"Approximately 4,000,000 Jews had been killed in the various extermination camps while an additional 2,000,000 met death in other ways, the major part of which were shot by operational squads of security police during the campaign against Russia," Hoettl said in his affidavit.

Hoettl attributed his figure to Adolf Eichman, chief "Jew catcher" in the secret police. He said Eichman confessed it to him in August, 1944, in expressing the conviction that he would have to pay for "the millions of Jewish lives on his conscience."

Gestapo Chief Himmler thought Eichman's total was too low, Hoettl's affidavit revealed. But, Hoettl added that Eichman was the best informed official on Jewish executions.

Thousands were killed when S.S. troops wiped out the Warsaw

ghetto in a 29-day massacre in 1943, according to records submitted by the prosecution.

Details of the mass murder in Warsaw were read from the reports of the S.S. police chief of the city, who wrote that he ordered troops "to destroy the entire Jewish residential area by setting every block on fire."

The reports showed that the S.S. chief, a Major-Gen. Stroop, directed the annihilation campaign from April 17 to May 16, 1943, and that he boasted he had killed 7,000 Jews in battle, 5,000 to 6,000 by explosions and fires and collected 49,000 others "whose extermination in camps can be proved." The cost to the Germans was 15 dead.

Established at German insistence and over the protests of Polish city officials, the ghetto housed 400,000 Jews behind guarded walls until "resettlement"—transfer to Majdane or elsewhere—reduced the population to less than one-fourth by the spring of 1943.

"Cleansing" Job

Stroop was entrusted by Gestapo Chief Himmler with the forced evacuation of the remainder, described as a "cleansing operation" to "preserve the health of the German forces."

He started by attacking with tanks and armoured cars what the Nazis called "Polish bandits" reinforcing the Jews. Sweatshop arms plants, which had been producing inside the ghetto for the Wehrmacht, provided the victims with the means of resistance.

Flame throwers and artillery were called into action by the Germans and Wehrmacht engineers were detailed to blow up hideouts with TNT. Chemical smoke was used to flush fugitives from sewers. Systematically block after block of buildings was set ablaze.

Among sample excerpts from the daily operation reports teletyped to higher S.S. headquarters were the following:

"April 22, 1943—One thousand, one hundred Jews caught for evacuation, 203 bandits and Jews killed. When engineers blew up dugouts a considerable number of Jews and bandits were buried under the ruins. When we found it necessary to execute some bandits they collapsed shouting: 'Long live Poland.'"

"April 24, 1943—Despite the danger of being burned alive, Jews and bandits preferred to return into the flames rather than risk being caught by us. Over and over again the Jews kept up their firing almost to the end of the action."

"April 27, 1943—Jews who were leaders of the entire resistance movement . . . jumped from burning windows and balconies abusing

Germany and the Fuehrer and cursing German soldiers."

Describing gas chamber executions at Oswiecim, the prosecutor read the official report of the War Refugee Board of Washington, D.C., estimating that 1,165,000 Jews had been killed at the one concentration camp.

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