

UNITED NATIONS WAR CRIMES COMMISSION

(Research Office)

DOCUMENTS SERIES

R/C/22/2 A

No. 27.

February, 1946.

THE THERESIENSTADT (TEREZIN) CONCENTRATION CAMP

NOTE: The following report by the Czechoslovak War Crimes Office at Wiesbaden has been communicated to the UN/WCC by the Czechoslovak Commissioner. The author of the Report has added that the Czechoslovak team is engaged in tracing the guards of the camp.

There were two different camps at Theresienstadt during the occupation. One of them called "The Small Fortress" originated so that all the civilian inhabitants of the town (Theresienstadt) were evacuated and a Ghetto was formed in the town. Jews were then sent to this camp and they came not only from Czechoslovakia but from Germany and from all German-occupied countries as well. The town Theresienstadt was built as a military fortress during the reign of Marie-Theresa, on the same pattern as Josefov.

During the time of the first Republic there was a large military garrison, as the town had not changed much in its architectural structure, nevertheless, there were about 5,000 civilian inhabitants living in the town.

During the time of the first Republic there was a population (civilian and military) of about 8,000 persons and the town was probably not capable of accommodating more than this number. After the forming of the Ghetto, however, 40,000 to 60,000 Jews were living in exactly the same living space during the occupation, and owing to this number, conditions in the camp can well be imagined. Besides this Theresienstadt was a sort of "transit-station" for those Jews who were later sent to Oswiecim or other camps so that living conditions in the camp continued to deteriorate all the time. The Ministry of Interior can supply the exact number of inhabitants and further details of the camp itself. The Ministry of Interior has the archives of the former Jewish religious body by whom, by way of "self-government" Theresienstadt was run.

Those mainly responsible for conditions in Theresienstadt are:

- (1) SS Sturmbannführer Günther, commander of the German office in Prague.
- (2) SS HStuf. Dr. Siegfried Seidl, born 1911, from Vienna. The first commander of Theresienstadt; during his activity several persons were executed in January and February 1942. Dr. Seidl later left for Belsen camp.
- (3) SS HStf. Ernst Moes born on January 30th, 1898, working with the Principal Reich Security Office, members of which went to Theresienstadt from time to time usually before the departure of mass-transports to Oswiecim and on the occasions of other important events.
- (4) SS Ostuf. Anton Burger, born on November 19th 1911, from Brno. The second commander of Theresienstadt and towards the end clerk of the Principal Reich Security Office in Berlin.
- (5) SS Ostuf. Karel Rahm born on April 2nd, 1907, from Vienna. The last commander of Theresienstadt.
- (6) SS HStuf. Heinrich Clausen, about 40 years old, the chief of the economic department in Theresienstadt.

- (7) SS Ostuf. Karel Bergel, born March 21st, 1902. The inspector of the camp; he interrogated the culprits and was one of the most feared men.
- (8) SS Ostuf. Troschke, approximately 35 years old, chief of economic department in Theresienstadt.
- (9) SS Hstuf. Heinrich Rinne, born on May 25th, 1909, chief of economic department in Theresienstadt.
- (10) SS Ustuf. Gerhard Rehbein, born on July 7th, 1912, working in the economic department in Theresienstadt.
- (11) SS Hstuf. Paul Synderhauf, born on January 4th, 1906, working in the economic department in Theresienstadt.
- (12) SS Hstuf. Ernst Müller, born on January 16th, 1918, from somewhere in Moravia, working in the economic department in Theresienstadt.
- (13) SS Ustuf. Heinrich Scholz, born on January 18th, 1914, the last chief of the economic department in Theresienstadt.
- (14) SS Ustuf. Fritz Baltrusch, born on April 18th, 1896, from Dresden, ADC and deputy to the commander of Theresienstadt.
- (15) SS Hscharf. Hans Vostrel, born on August 10th, 1904, from Vienna. Chief of the transport department in Theresienstadt.
- (16) SS Hscharf. Kurt Ulbricht, born on September 26th, 1914, chief of the production department in Theresienstadt.
- (17) SS Hscharf. Hans Lederer, born on June 16th, 1912, chief of the economic department - agriculture.
- (18) SS Oscharf. Hans Baumgartner, born on December 14th, 1920, from Vienna, guard in the crematorium.
- (19) SS Scharf. Rudolf Haindl, born on June 22nd, 1912, from Vienna, one of the worst members of the garrison in Theresienstadt.
- (20) SS Oscharf. Josef Czasny, born on June 22nd, 1912, from Vienna, driver in Theresienstadt.
- (21) SS Uscharf. Edgar Puhze, born on April 21st, 1906, chief of the Post Office in Theresienstadt.
- (22) SS Bowerber Rudolf Walentschka, born on September 3rd, 1908, manager of the clothing stores.
- (23) SS Bowerber Ludwig Netzbauer, born on August 14th, 1911, Slovakian, auxiliary employee in the production department.
- (24) SS Bowerber Karl Walaschek, born on January 29th, 1919, Slovakian, driver.
- (25) SS Bowerber Leopold Habenicht, born in 1920, Slovakian, driver in Theresienstadt.
- (26) SS Bowerber Czerba, approximately 25 years old, driver.
- (27) SS Bowerber Albert Pollak, born on July 30th 1911, driver.
- (28) SS Mann Josef Lasaky, born on September 17th, 1900, Slovakian, Garage manager.

This enumeration is certainly incomplete and the Czechoslovak Ministry of Interior will probably complete it.

This Mission is filing Wanted Reports for all the above named and will trace these persons.

A part of the town Theresienstadt (but not a part of the camp Theresienstadt) was "The Small Fortress". The Small Fortress was actually an affiliated prison to the German police prison in Prague, but it had its own administration and it also kept prisoners who were not handed over to any court.

In this prison there were prisoners who were being examined, persons sentenced by the Gestapo to a police-sentence, and also those who awaited transportation to further concentration camps or to various German courts. About 5,000 - 6,000 political prisoners used to be in this prison without distinction of religion. Commander of this camp was Joeckel who has just been surrendered to us by the American authorities.

Conditions were much worse in this camp than in the Ghetto as in this camp there were political prisoners. Interrogations were carried out there which were of such a character that even the officials of the Gestapo in Prague could not bring themselves to carry them out in such a manner, and apart from that "inconvenient" prisoners and witnesses were "liquidated" there.

"Sonderbehandlung" (i.e. shooting or execution without a trial) was also carried out there.

Almost all parachutists and all major prisoners were kept in this prison.

While from the Ghetto Jews were sent for agricultural labour, or for labour in the nearby surroundings, the political prisoners (including Jews, who were apart from their race, also imprisoned because of political reasons), worked on the hardest jobs, in the building of the underground air factory "mine Richard", in the Schict factories in Usti n/L. on the unloading of coal and other goods from the cargo boats at Lovosice and in Usti n/L. etc.

An exact outline of the conditions in the police prison in Theresienstadt and also the list of all commanders and guards from this prison will certainly be supplied by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Interior. This list was made immediately after the uprising.

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(Signed) Captain Dr. Hrbek.

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