

Since the foregoing reports went to print, fresh evidence of the non-stop destruction of the Jews in German-occupied territories has come to hand.

A well authenticated account of the massacre of Jews in the Baltic States by German occupation forces has reached the Belgian Government in London (B.B.C. Sunday, 16th August).

In Riga last April the Gestapo murdered thousands of Estonian and Latvian Jews. Many hundreds of Dutch and Belgian Jews, originally sent East to join labour battalions, were included in these massacres.

A great number of Estonian Jews, men, women and even young children, together with thousands of Jews from the local ghetto, were taken in April in batches to a great plain outside Riga and mown down with machine-gun fire. The massacre occupied fourteen consecutive days. The scenes were even filmed by the Gestapo.

The Germans took measures against the Jews immediately they occupied the Baltic States. They took a census, confiscated all Jewish property and herded the Jews into ghettos.

From Russia a message has just been received that a teacher escaping from Minsk and arrived in Kuibishev had reported the slaughter of about 36,000 of the 72,000 Jewish inhabitants of Minsk.

"The Times" of August 17th quotes the following dispatch by Reuter from Zürich:

"Suicide by Mayor of Warsaw Ghetto.

"Zürich, Aug. 15. — The Mayor of the Jewish ghetto of Warsaw, L. M. Czerniakov, has committed suicide, it is learned here. He took his life with poison that he always carried with him, ready to die if the Germans ever demanded 'the impossible' from him. He took it because the German authorities, considering that the ghetto was 'overcrowded' — there are more than half a million Jews within its walls — decided that at least 100,000 should be deported to 'an unknown destination in the East.' Czerniakov, who knew that the 100,000 would most probably be massacred, was ordered by the Germans personally to prepare and submit the list of his people to be deported at the rate of 7,000 daily.—Reuter."

The Polish Government in London received, at the end of July, a report to the effect that the German authorities ordered 6,000 Jews from the Warsaw ghetto to be deported to the East. Each person was permitted to take with him or her about 35 lbs. of personal luggage and — this is supremely significant as indicating the intended fate of these deportees — all their jewellery and valuables. Two train loads have already departed.

Many Jews in the Warsaw ghetto have already committed suicide, aware of the terrible fate awaiting them. All through the day and night in the Warsaw ghetto are to be heard fusilades of shots from houses and in the streets, proof that the insane slaughter never ceases.

Professor Raszeja, a Pole of the University of Poznań, who was assisting a Jewish doctor in giving a consultation to a Jewish patient, was shot dead, along with his Jewish colleague and the patient.

Here are a few extracts from the German papers which reached this country quite recently:

**Rid the World of the Jewish Pest.** (R. Farinacci. "National Zeitung," 7.7.1942.)

We have accepted the Jewish challenge and we will wage a struggle which will rid mankind once and for all of the Jewish pest.

**Exterminate the Jews.** (Carl B. Homman. "Deutsche Ukraine Zeitung," 6.6.1942.)

The anti-Jewish war on the European Continent has also opened French eyes and once again proved true the words of the Führer that this War will wipe out Jewry.

**Wipe out Jewry.** (Dieuwerge. Source unknown. March 1942.)

The words of the Führer will be fulfilled. This war will not annihilate the Aryan race but will wipe out the Jew.

It is evident that the policy of the Germans is to wipe out entirely, not only the Jews in Poland, but the Jewish population of the whole of Europe.

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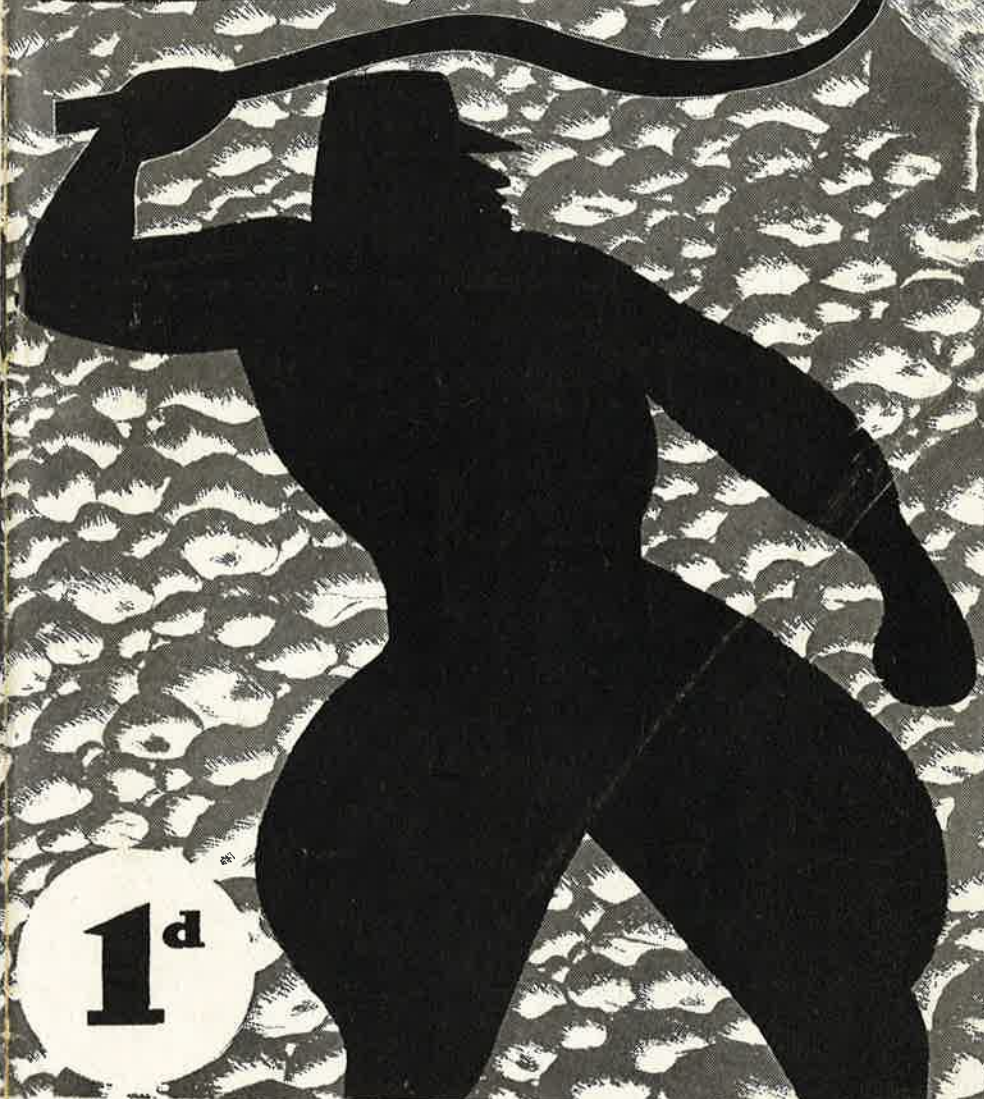
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# STOP THEM

# NOW

## GERMAN MASS-MURDER OF JEWS IN POLAND



1<sup>d</sup>

*With a Foreword by Lord Wedgwood*

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**FOREWORD**

*WHEN the Polish Socialists first asked me to write a preface I declined. I was born long ago into a decent world; the Nazis have made it indecent. Must we read these pages of insane cruelty? I now think we must. The area subjected to these horrors still grows. Those who shut their eyes, who refuse to believe and seek to escape from thought of what is going on in Poland and Russia, are guilty. They are allowing the horror to spread.*

*The abominable cruelties of the wars of the religions, the extermination of the Morenos in Spain, of the Albigenses, of the Anabaptists, were a trifle compared with the delight in torture inspired by the religion of race. The Huns and the Mongols, Tamerlane with his mountains of skulls, all these demons of long ago were patterns of chivalry compared with the pure-blooded devils into which Hitler has converted Germans.*

*Presently Hitler will cease killing off and will keep them alive instead, to work. That point always arrives. That is the origin of slavery. But then those who are kept alive would be better and happier dead. If we cannot—you and I—may plague, pestilence and famine destroy Hitler and all his inhuman works. Better all die together.*

*Meanwhile let us all, Poles, Russians, Jews and Englishmen, enter into a covenant never to rest till these vile cruelties are made, in the only way possible, impossible in future.*

WEDGWOOD.

## It IS True

I realise that the facts contained in the two documents received from Poland and published in this booklet are so monstrous and inhuman that most normal persons would hesitate to believe them. And yet they are true and real and so is the fact that millions of people in Poland are to-day suffering immeasurably.

I was in Poland myself during the first six months of the German occupation. I saw with my own eyes bestiality and cruelty which made my blood run cold. Several times I was myself the victim. Now, when I read all about this, when I hear the names of those towns, I see in my mind's eye hundreds of familiar, suffering faces, and with them Gestapo and S.S. men who, with their cynical smiles, torture and murder people without distinction of sex or age. They do not seem to harbour hatred towards the persons they ill-treat, they are simply doing their job and doing it in cold blood.

These reports are written by the most responsible of persons, persons who have themselves suffered and must therefore be believed. I know these people and I know their tormentors and I am convinced that every word they write is true.

From these reports, as well as from other official news which the Polish Government here has received, it is apparent that

**the Germans in occupation have begun the studied and cold-blooded extermination of the Jewish population which they have for so long threatened.**

They not only use machine-guns, hand grenades and poison gas for this purpose, but they are also systematically starving the Jewish population to death. The mortality rate in the ghettos is higher than has ever been known in the history of mankind. In the year 1941, for instance, there were nearly 50,000 deaths in the Warsaw ghetto, according to official statistics of the Warsaw City authorities, i.e., 10% of the population, and in 1942, the average number per month is 6,000.

All this can lead to but one conclusion. The Germans are trying to exterminate the whole Jewish population of Poland—3½ million people. This is, however, only part of a plan to exterminate the whole population of Poland. Right from the beginning of the occupation the Germans, having started off with the persecution of the Jews, have invariably ended by turning their attention to the Poles. Even now we hear of mass executions of Poles and of the burning down by the Germans of peasants' cottages with the occupants still inside, for some offence either genuine or imagined.

The conditions under which the people are living are worse far

than death. Millions of people in ghettos are living like prisoners, hourly expecting to be dragged off to execution. The following letter from a Jewish woman in Zychlin, where the Jews were killed with poison gas, to her sister in the ghetto of another town, is a good example of local conditions:—

“ My dear, my hands shake so, that I cannot write. It is very bad here. Our hours are numbered. God alone knows if we shall ever see one another again. I write and weep and my children are in despair. We want so much to live. We all take leave of you and kiss you. If you do not get another letter from me very soon, we shall be no more.”

The woman who wrote this letter, and her children, have since died. They were killed by poison gas. And this is only one of the many thousands of letters travelling between the ghettos of Poland.

I must mention here that the Polish population gives all possible help and sympathy to the Jews. The solidarity of the population of Poland has two aspects: first, it is expressed in the common suffering, and secondly, in the continued joint struggle against the inhuman occupying Power. The fight with the oppressors goes on steadily, stubbornly, secretly, even in the ghetto, under conditions so terrible and inhuman that they are hard to describe or imagine. Scores of newspapers appear in the ghettos and hundreds outside the ghetto walls. The Polish and Jewish population keep in constant touch, exchanging newspapers, views and instructions. The walls of the ghetto have not really separated the Jewish population from the Poles. The Polish and the Jewish working masses continue to fight together for common aims, just as they have fought for so many years in the past.

Poland lies bleeding. The whole population is paying a very heavy price for their refusal to capitulate and bow the knee to the conqueror.

But the people of Poland do not give in, they have never lost their dignity even through these most terrible of persecutions.

Poland fights on, it fights even in the ghettos, which have become nothing but a charnel house. This fact infuriates the Germans and, in their terrible vindictiveness, they are determined to annihilate the whole Nation.

Will the world allow it? Will YOU allow it? Means must be found to prevent it. **STOP THE GERMANS NOW!**

**S. ZYGIELBOJM,**

Member of the Polish National Council in London,  
Member of the T.U.C. in Poland, and of the  
Executive of the Jewish Socialist Party “Bund”  
in Poland.

## Statement of the Polish Vice-Premier

At a Press Conference in the British Ministry of Information on July the 9th, the Polish Vice-Premier and Minister for Home Affairs, Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, describing the situation in occupied Poland under German rule, said :

“ Still worse is the situation of the Jews. The Warsaw ghetto is already well known. Hunger, death and sickness are exterminating the Jewish population systematically and continually.

“ In the Lublin district on the night of March 23rd to 24th, the Jewish population was simply driven out of their homes. The sick and the infirm were killed on the spot. One hundred and eight children from 2 to 9 years old in a Jewish orphanage were taken outside the town, together with their nurses, and murdered. Altogether, in that night 2,500 people were massacred, and the remaining 26,000 Jews of Lublin removed to the concentration camps at Belżec and Trawniki.

“ Eight thousand people were deported from Izbica Kujawska to an unknown destination. In Belżec and Trawniki murders are also carried out by means of poison gas.

“ There have been mass murders at Rawa Ruska and Bilgoraj, where the Jewish communities have ceased to exist. At Wawolnica, near Kazimierz, on March 22nd, the S.S. shot 120 Jews in the market place. An unknown number of Jews were led out of the town and slaughtered. On March 30th, Jews were driven from Opole to Nałęczów, 350 being killed on the way. The rest were put into goods trucks, which were then sealed, and deported to an unknown destination.

“ Thirty thousand Jews from Hamburg were deported to Mińsk, and there all murdered.

“ The compulsion to dig one's own grave, the mowing down with machine-guns and hand grenades, and even the poisoning with gas are daily methods of annihilating the Jewish population. In Lwów the Jewish Council also had to provide a list of victims themselves.”

\* \* \* \*



Not an illustration from Dante's "Inferno," but a real photograph of a mass grave of massacred Jews in Central Poland

## 700,000 Victims

### *Report of the Underground Movement in Poland*

No sooner had the Russo-German war begun than the Germans began a systematic extermination of the Jews on Polish soil.

It first started, during the summer months, in Eastern Galicia. Men between the ages of 14 and 60 were herded together in public squares and cemeteries where, after they had been forced to dig their own graves, they were massacred with knife, machine-gun and hand-grenade. Children from orphanages, old people in the institutions, the sick in the hospitals and the women in the streets were shot down in the most ruthless fashion. In many places Jews were rounded up for deportation to an unknown destination. That destination was cold-blooded massacre in nearby woods.

In Lwów 30,000 Jews were murdered, in Stanisławów 15,000, in Tarnopol 5,000, in Złoczów 2,000, and in Brzeżany, out of 18,000

Jews who had lived there, only 1,700 were left alive after the slaughter.

The same organised murder took place repeatedly in a large number of other towns, and in most places, for example in Lodz, still goes on.

In October and November the murdering of Jews spread to Wilno and the Wilno County and into Lithuania, in the vicinity of Kowno. In November, 50,000 Jews were killed in Wilno. There are 12,000 left. According to various figures which have been given, the number of Jews killed in the Wilno district and in the neighbourhood surrounding Kowno in Lithuania, is something like 300,000.

The slaughter of Jews in the district of Slonim began in September. Nearly all the Jews in Żyrowice, Lachowice, Mir, Kosów and other towns were killed. On the 15th October the murder began in the town of Slonim itself and the victims numbered 9,000. In Równo, in three days early in November, 15,000 persons, men women and children, were done to death. In Hancewicze, near Baranowicze, 6,000 more were shot. The murder spread to the far side of the rivers Bug and San. Only a few of the names of the towns have been given here.

In November and December began the massacre of Jews living in the territories in the west annexed to Germany, the so-called Warthegau. The killing there was done by gas. In the village of Chelmno, about 12 miles from Kolo in the Kolo County, special vans with gas chambers designed to hold 90 people at a time were used. After their death, the victims were buried in graves dug in clearings in the Lubardzki woods. About 1,000 victims were destroyed each day in this manner, 5,000 from Kolo, Dąbie, Bugaj, Izbica, Kujawska between November, 1941, and March, 1942, as well as 35,000 from the Lodz Ghetto and a number of gypsies.

### *Millions Facing Certain Death*

In February, 1942, this extermination of Jews spread to the General-Government. It began in Tarnow and Radom, where Gestapo men and S.S. guards visited the Jewish quarter every day, killing all the Jews they found in the streets, in the backyards and houses. In March the Jews in Lublin were wiped out. Once again the children in orphanages and the aged in Old Peoples'

Homes, the sick in general and isolation hospitals, as well as the other inhabitants, were murdered. The number of victims was over 2,000. In addition, 25,000 Jews were taken from Lublin to "unknown destinations," and nothing more has been heard of them. A further 3,000 were put in barracks in the Majdanek Tatarowry in a suburb of Lublin.

There are now no Jews left in Lublin.

During the last days of March, 50 Jews were taken from Cracow and shot before the gates of the town. In Warsaw the Gestapo staged a massacre in the ghetto on the night of the 17th/18th April. Men and women were dragged from their homes and brutally murdered before the gates. Since the 18th April some Jews have been killed every day in the streets or in their homes. There is a list of Jews of all classes in the Warsaw ghetto, and the murders take place according to a system. In all, the Germans have so far murdered 700,000 Polish Jews.

**These facts prove that the crime-laden German Government is determined to bring to fulfilment Hitler's prophecy that, five minutes before the end of the war, whichever side may win, all the Jews in Poland will have been wiped out.**

The tally of the dead



We believe with all our hearts that Hitler Germany will meet with just retribution in time for all the horrors and brutality meted out to the Jews. But for the Jews who are going through this hell on earth such a promise is not much comfort. Millions of Polish citizens of the Jewish faith are faced with imminent death.

We appeal to the Polish Government as guardian and representative of all the peoples in Poland, to save us from this threat of complete annihilation. The Polish Government must influence the Allied Governments and the most important parties over there to mete out a similar treatment to Germans and Fifth Columnists living in Allied countries. The Allied Governments should inform the Germans of this form of reprisal and tell them they shall answer now for their inhuman effort to exterminate the Jewish people.

We realise that we are asking something very difficult and unusual. But how else are the millions of Jews to be saved from a certain and horrible death ?

## Mass Murder by Poison Gas

### *Eye-witness Reports received by the Polish Government*

October, 1941, was a black month for the Jewish population of the County of Koło. All the Jews of the county, numbering some 3,000 people, were squeezed into one town, Zagorowo (Hinterberg).

First a tax, at the rate of 4 reichsmarks per head, was extracted from them, after which they were forced to submit to a medical examination. Men between the ages of 14 and 60 and women between the ages of 14 and 50 were examined, ostensibly to determine their fitness for work. Then began the "deportation."

In parties of 60, the victims were herded into lorries, each person being permitted to take a parcel of personal belongings weighing not more than 1 kilo (2 $\frac{1}{4}$  lb.).

The journey was significantly short. It came to an abrupt end at the entrance to the Kazmierzowskie Woods not far from Zagorowo. Here the helpless victims were driven out of the lorries and into the woods. Nothing has been heard of them since, despite letters of enquiry and much searching by relatives both in Germany and the General-Government.

In December a further "deportation" took place in County Koło. Again the 4 reichsmarks tax and the medical examination. Again the complete disappearance, this time of 2,000 Jews from Koło and 1,000 from Dąbie on the R. Narew.

In January, every Jew in Kłodawa, Izbica Kujawska and Bugaj met the same fate.

### *Gas-chambers*

On the 15th January, parties of Jews brought from the Lodz ghetto began to pour into the town of Chełmno. The first party consisted of 750 families, about 3,000 persons. Many thousands came thus to Chełmno, Jews of both sexes and of all ages from infants to aged, both the hale and the infirm.

No official reason was given for this deportation and concentration, but rumours were spread by the Germans to the effect that Chełmno was intended as nothing more than a camp from which the Jews would be taken to the County of Pinsk in Eastern Poland.

Whatever the rumours may have said, there seems little doubt the guards knew what it was all about. No one else knew what happened to the Jews who were sent to Chełmno. It was only known that they were driven into the local "palace" and from there in parties to the nearby woods where they had probably met their deaths. But to-day, despite all the careful preparation and organisation by the Germans, despite the great efforts to preserve secrecy, the grim truth stands starkly revealed.

As each party arrived, it was taken first to the Chełmno Church, where the parcels had to be left behind and from there to the "palace," a shaky, one-storey building destroyed in the Great War.

A strong cordon of uniformed and plain-clothes Gestapo men was drawn round the neighbourhood of the church and of Gendarmes round the "palace," so that no unauthorised person could get

anywhere near. Not once did any two parties of victims come face to face.

As the Jews arrived they were treated very courteously, especially by an elderly German of about 60 years of age wearing civilian clothes. They were ushered into a large barn which was heated and had the appearance of a bath. A flight of steps descended to a corridor which ended in a loading platform and off which doors led to small cell-like rooms.

Here the old German who had received the Jews, an S.S. man, addressed them. He told them they would all be sent to the Lodz ghetto, where the men would be employed in industry, commerce or crafts, the women would have the care of their homes and the children would be sent to school. Before they left, however, they would have to take a bath and have their clothes disinfected.

They were made to remove their clothes, the women down to their vests and the men to their shirts and pants. Their personal papers and belongings were taken from them "to prevent their getting spoiled."

Then they were pushed down the steps, as *they* thought to the baths, but in reality they were driven along the cold corridor to the loading platform. Then the mask was off and the farce of courtesy came to an end. With the aid of rifle-butt and truncheon, the Germans drove the terrified and despairing Jews, who prayed aloud as they realised their doom, into what were nothing less than murder-vans. These were two large grey motor-vans with airtight doors, metal-lined and floored with duck-boards under which were plainly visible the wire-gauze covered ends of tubes connected with an outside gas apparatus operated by the drivers.

The tightly-packed vans were now driven some seven miles into the nearby woods and halted in a clearing surrounded with gendarmes armed with tommy-guns.

At right-angles to the road a ditch had been dug, fifteen feet deep, fifteen feet wide at the top and five feet wide at the bottom. The spectators were some thirty German Gestapo men, S.S. men and civilians and a number of Jews who were the grave-diggers.

The vans had stopped a hundred yards from the grave. The drivers, S.S. men in uniform, now turned on the gas and

left the vans from which the sound of weeping and beating upon the walls could be distinctly heard.

At the end of fifteen minutes, when the sounds had all died away, the drivers approached the vans and shone their torches into the gas chambers. When they thought all the victims were dead, they drove the vans near to the grave and waited a further five minutes, after which the S.S. Officer in charge, a brutal sadist who bore the nickname "Whip" because he was never seen without one, gave the order to open the doors.

### *The Dead Desecrated*

Amid a strong smell of gas, eight of the grave-diggers began their work. Four of them threw the bodies from the car, two others dropped them in the grave and two more laid them in rows.

Inside the vans the sight was horrible. Although the victims appeared almost to be asleep, they were fouled by their own excrement, either from fright or the effects of the gas.

A disgusting ritual accompanied the interment. The civilian Germans examined all the corpses for valuables. Wedding rings were torn from fingers and gold chains from throats. Gold teeth were wrenched out and even the rectum and genital organs of the women searched for concealed valuables.

The thus shamefully despoiled and man-handled corpses were then arranged in the grave according to the orders of the S.S. man who pointed with a stick to the places where they were to be laid. They were arranged head to foot and the bodies of the children wedged into the gaps. One layer consisted of some 200 bodies which was covered with sand before the next layer was begun. Later the grave was strewn with chloride of lime.

From six to nine van loads of victims were buried daily. After each load the vans were scrubbed clean before returning.

## The True Story Revealed

To this mad orgy of slaughter, the only witnesses besides the Germans were the grave-diggers. These wretches were housed in the cellars of the "palace." At 7 o'clock each morning they were given bitter, lukewarm "ersatz" coffee and a little dry bread taken from the parcels of the victims. The triple lock on the door was then unfastened and the S.S. man ordered "Jews get out." The S.S. men took care never to enter the rooms for fear the poor grave-diggers might be driven to some desperate act of assault. After being carefully counted and recounted, they were packed into a car and driven to their grisly task. They were made to work from 8.30 a.m. to about noon or 1.0 p.m., when they were again given cold ersatz coffee and dry bread.

Those working inside the grave were not allowed to come out, but received their coffee, but no bread, where they were. At the end of the day they were ordered to lie down face downwards upon the corpses and were then shot through the head by the guards. The rest filled in the grave and were taken back to their cellar at about 5 p.m.

Sometimes, as when the large consignment of Jews arrived from Lodz, they had to work late into the evening, aided by floodlights.

From the moment they left their cellars to the time when they returned to them, the grave-diggers were constantly under the watchful eye of the S.S. men armed with tommy-guns. If they showed signs of exhaustion they were either flogged or shot.

Sometimes the grave-diggers had to bury the remains of their own friends and relations. One named Ajzensztab, from Klodawa, buried his wife and only daughter of fifteen; Chrzastkowski from Klodawa, his fourteen-year old son. Podchlebnik buried his parents, his wife and two children and Rozenthal his 60-years old father.

The "Whip," often drunk, flogged the grave-diggers unmercifully. Almost every day S.S. Officers arrived on the scene of murder and praised the "Whip's" skill and organisation.

On one occasion, it happened that a tiny infant lying on a pillow, had escaped the effects of the gas. When they discovered it they

killed it with a tommy-gun. Another day a German cook got into the gas chamber by mistake and although he shouted and beat upon the walls, the door was not opened again for him. He was simply buried in a separate grave. Perhaps it was a good way of getting rid of a witness.

The grave-diggers say they will all be killed. In that noisome, dark and icy dungeon in which they are locked, they weep and despair, but there is nothing they can do. Their guards make them chant in chorus: "We Jews thank Adolf Hitler for our Food," and other blasphemies.

Countless attempts at escape were made and in the early stages of the massacre efforts to apprise the outside world of what was going on. Letters were thrown from the cars, dropped through chimneys and so on.

At last three of the grave-diggers did contrive to escape and this is the story they have to relate. In their flight they were assisted by the Polish people, who were very kind and helpful.

### Starvation.

The Poles in the neighbourhood of Chelmno realise that they may meet the same fate. They remark: "In Chelmno they are massacring Jews and gypsies. When they have finished with them they will start on us." (A group of 2,000 gypsies were brought from the Lodz ghetto and murdered. They were immediately searched and buried, and it is strongly believed that these "gypsies" were none other than political prisoners from Yugoslavia.)

[The photographs reproduced in this pamphlet were smuggled out of Poland through underground channels.]

