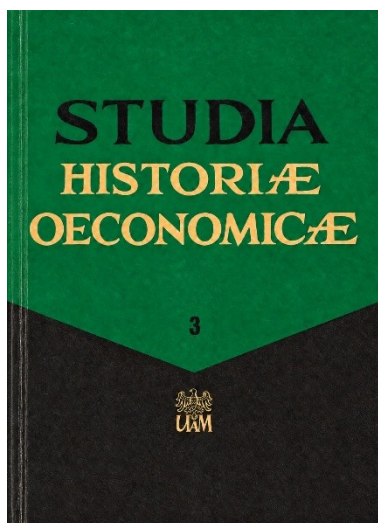




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Nauki II

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THE DEPORTATION OF POLISH POPULATION BY THE OCCUPATION NAZI AUTHORITIES IN THE YEARS 1939—1945

After the Nazi take-over various conceptions of population policies started to emerge in Germany. As the war was approaching, more and more attention was paid in those conceptions to Eastern Europe, and in Eastern Europe mainly to Poland, the greater part of whose territory, according to Nazi plans, was to undergo a process of germanization. When the war broke out those projects were made even more concrete. On the basis of the assumptions of the racist theory a number of nations, among them the Poles, were included into the category of "sub-humans" and as such were ear-marked to be in vast majority removed from Europe. Thus the most extreme of the Nazi plans (Generalplan Ost) included a requirement of deporting from 80 to 85 per cent of Poles. In one of the several versions of those plans it was stipulated that ca. 20 million Polish population expelled from their native country would be settled in the remote Siberia, but even when this solution was suggested it was feared that such a big concentration of Poles in that area could originate a possible centre of revolt and hence a danger to Germany. Others discussed the possibility of settling the Poles in White Russia in the Smolensk region and of separating in this way the Russians from the White Russians. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Reich also contemplated the re-settling of a part of the Polish nation to South America, above all to Brazil and also to Central and North America¹.

¹ Cz. Madajczyk, *Generalna Gubernia w planach hitlerowskich (The "General-Gouvernement" in Nazi Plans)*. Warszawa 1961 (cit. Cz. Madajczyk, *Generalna Gubernia...*), p. 80, 86—87, 93—96 a. 108—09; Cz. Madajczyk, *Przywódcy hitlerowscy wobec sprawy polskiej w okresie od października 1939 do września 1940 r. (Nazi Leaders and the Polish Cause from October 1939 till September 1940)*. Przegląd Zachodni, 1958, No. 1, p. 1—46. Poznań (cit. Cz. Madajczyk, *Przywódcy...*) p. 22, 32 a. 37; K. M. Pospieszalski, *Hitlerowskie „prawo” okupacyjne w Polsce. Wybór dokumentów. Część I. Ziemie „wcielone” (The Nazi Occupation "Law" in Poland. A Selection of Documents. Part I. The "Incorporated Territories)*. Poznań 1952, p. 174—75.

All those re-settlings were expected to provide a final solution of the Polish question in Eastern Europe. It is obvious that the implementation of all those above mentioned plans depended on the victorious ending of the war by Germany. Thus, these were long-term plans the implementation of which was made impossible by the victory of the allied armies over the Nazis.

Apart from the above mentioned long-term plans there were also short-term ones, immediate and ready for implementation without delay in the territories conquered by Germany. Among those plans of foremost importance was the total germanization of the so-called territories incorporated into Germany, i. e. the western and partly also central territories of pre-war Poland, that is to say of Pomerania, Great Poland, the voivodeship of Silesia and of parts of the Lodz, Białystok, Warszawa, Kielce and Kraków provinces. This germanization was expected to be effected by means of settling in those territories of Germans brought over from Germany and other countries of Europe, by putting Poles on the German nationality list (in Silesia and Pomerania), by direct extermination of Polish population and by re-settling into other territories².

We are going to deal here only with the last mentioned link in the process of germanization.

The deportation of Polish population from the so-called territories incorporated to the Reich may be divided into two kinds: unorganized, touching single persons and families and organized one, including masses of people.

The first form was implemented from the moment of the invasion of the Nazi army into a given town or village till about the end of November 1939 and it consisted in individual order by the local authorities to leave the town, village or district in question in a specified time. This form was applied mainly to big land-owners, to merchants and craftsmen. Those persons usually had to leave the district in 24 hours under the threat of being imprisoned in a concentration camp³. They were permitted to take with them only the indispensable clothes and some food for the travel. Thus the whole property of the deported persons was left on the spot at the disposal of the local

² J. Sobczak, *Hitlerowskie przesiedlenia ludności niemieckiej w dobie II wojny światowej* (*Nazi Re-settlements of German Population during World War II*). Poznań 1966 (cit. J. Sobczak, *Hitlerowskie przesiedlenia...*), p. 49—52 a. 70—76.

³ Wojewódzkie Archiwum Państwowe w Bydgoszczy, Oddział w Inowrocławiu (*The Voivodeship State Archive in Bydgoszcz, The Inowrocław Branch*). (cit. OAPI) — Magistrat Strzelno No 917 p. 31.

German authorities. That type of deportation took place only as a result of an application of the local Germans who lived in Poland before September 1, 1939 and were effected to satisfy their personal claims. They submitted applications to the authorities in which they made claims for some specified Polish property. Those petitions were as a rule accepted and the indispensable condition of their satisfaction was the removal of the Pole from the enterprise which that Pole had been the owner of. Today we have no exact statistical data pertaining to the number of Poles deported as a result of that kind of action. We only know that scores of Poles were expelled in that fashion from many districts till the end of November 1939. It may be thus assumed that in the whole territory of the areas incorporated into the German Reich several thousands of Poles were thus deported. Most of them stayed for a time with their relatives or friends in other districts of the areas incorporated into the Reich from which they were expelled later anyway⁴. The deportations taking place till the end of October 1939 were effected with the full approval of the Nazi army which, in accordance with the Führer's orders governed the conquered territories of Poland.

The mass, organized deportations lasted from the beginning of October 1939 till October 1944. The deportation of Polish population was effected within that period in a planned way, in accordance to rules set beforehand which found their main legal basis in Hitler's decree of 7th October 1939. The initiative in these matters was taken wholly by Himmler as a result of his being nominated the commissar of the Reich for the strengthening of the German element. He formed a special institution for that purpose called *Dienststelle des Reichsführers als Reichskommissar für die Festigung deutschen Volkstums*. He also nominated for each province (Gau) a plenipotentiary of the commissar of the Reich for the strengthening of the German element who was a higher officer of the SS and police in the area. Those officers in turn delegated the whole action of the deportations to the security police (Sicherheitspolizei, Sipo) and security service (Sicherheitsdienst, SD). In 1940 as a result of an order by the Main

⁴ Archiwum Państwowe Miasta Poznania i Województwa Poznańskiego (*The State Archive of the City and Voivodeship of Poznań*). (cit. APMP i WP) — SS Ansiedlungsstab Posen No 3 p. 281 of 2 VI 1940; OAPI — Magistrat Strzelno No 917; J. Sziling, Wysziedlanie ludności polskiej z Pomorza w okresie okupacji hitlerowskiej (*Deportation of Polish Population from Pomerania during Nazi Occupation Period*). Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika w Toruniu. Nauki Humanistyczno-Społeczne No 15 — Historia 1, p. 5—24, Toruń 1965 (cit. J. Sziling, Wysziedlanie...), p. 19.

Security Office of the Reich, another unit for the purposes of deportation was formed, i.e. the Umwandererzentralstelle (UWZ). This in turn had its branch offices within the police inspectorates of Poznań, Gdańsk and Katowice⁵.

The security police and security service in a close co-operation with the centres of the NSDAP and the subprefects of the districts drafted detailed plans of deportations of the Polish population. At first it had been planned to deport more than 7 million Poles from Western Poland. With the lapse of time these plans were modified under the pressures of the increasing local demand for labour and as a result of changes in the opinions of some of the viceroys of the Reich as far as the germanization of a part of the Polish population was concerned. Thus it was decided to deport quite a smaller number of people than that originally planned, mainly in Pomerania and Silesia, where a part of the Polish population, in conditions of strong terror was included into the German nationality list. On the other hand, in the Warta Country, where the viceroy of the Reich, A. Greiser was against the germanization of the Poles, regarding them as unworthy to be included into the German community, deportation developed in most intensive way⁶.

The action of the deportation of Polish population in the so-called areas incorporated into the Reich developed in the successive years and even in the various seasons of the year with variable intensity. Its increase or slowing down in a given period of time depended on many complicated factors as e.g. numbers of arriving German settlers for whom places of work and dwellings had to be prepared; possibilities of organizing means of transport, the degree of preparation of the authorities of the Generalgouvernement to receive the deported persons and the military situation in the war fronts.

Mass deportation of Polish population in the territories incorporated into the Reich was started at the beginning of November 1939 and it was most intense till the middle of 1940. Such formations as the gendarmerie, Schutzpolizei, Selbstschutz, SA troops, the SS and the NSKK took a direct part in the deportations. The technique of deportation was more or less similar in all places. The factor of surprise was always brought into play, that is why the decisions on deportation were kept in strict secrecy. Deportation took place almost always at

⁵ APMP i WP — Gausestverwaltung Posen No 139; J. Sziling, *Wysiedlanie...*, p. 6—13.

⁶ APMP i WP — Der Landrat Schrimm No 100 p. 2—6; Der Reichsstatthalter im Reichsgau Wartheland (cit. Der Reichsstatthalter) No 1878 p. 42, yr. 1940/41; Sicherheitsdienst des Reichsführers SS Posen No 56—59; J. Sziling, *Wysiedlanie...*, p. 18—21.

night and it started with sealing off the villages in question with a strong cordon of police forces. In towns a quarter, a street or just a group of houses where deportation took place was thus sealed off.

Then the police or the co-operating members of the various Nazi organizations entered the dwellings of the persons listed for deportation. They were forced to dress with the accompaniment of shouts and very often beating, they were forced to pack their indispensable belongings in 10 or 30 minutes, according to the mood of the policemen⁷. Each of the deported persons was allowed to take only some hand luggage with the following objects: clothes, blanket, knife, fork and spoon and some vessel to eat their meals from. Apart from that they were allowed to have up to 200 zlotys on them. As a matter of fact, however, the Germans sometimes took away from the deported persons even that negligible luggage⁸. In the evicted families there were sometimes also seriously ill persons who were unable to move and those persons were also rigorously evicted from their dwellings⁹. During some of the

⁷ APMP i WP — Landratsamt Schrimm No 102 p. 24; Archiwum Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Hitlerowskich w Polsce (*The Archive of the Main Committee for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Poland*) (cit. Archiwum GKBZHWP) — No 3272a. No 1022z/OL/IV of 10 XI 1939; Biblioteka Główna Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu, pamiętniki (*The Main Library of Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Memoirs*) AHP I p. 17; Instytut Polski i Muzeum im. Generała Sikorskiego, Londyn (*The Polish Institute and General Sikorski Museum, London*) (cit. ISL) — Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych. Wydział Społeczny (*The Ministry of Interior Affairs, Social Department*), Sprawozdanie No 5/42 p. 201—03; *The German New Order in Poland*. London, (undated) (cit. *The German...*), p. 196—98; B. Wdaly, Niemcy w Polsce (*The Germans in Poland*). Londyn 1941, p. 42—43.

⁸ APMP i WP — Landratsamt Jarotschin No 20 p. 2—3; J. Sziling, Wy-siedlanie..., p. 21.

⁹ Such a case is reported by Dr Tadeusz Silnicki, a professor of Poznań University in the following way: „The time we were given was very short indeed: after 10 minutes they started to hurry us up, they scolded us, uttered threats, hammered the floor with the butts of their rifles and smote the table with their horse-whips. But even during those 10 minutes we were not able to prepare, because much of the time was used for money confiscation. The female servant who tried to save some of our belongings was beaten with rifle butts. The most tragic, however, was the case of my mother. Eleven months before the eviction she had undergone a fracture of her leg in the hip joint and was operated twice by professor Jurasz. She not only failed to regain command of her leg, but she lost the ability of all movement as a result of a long stay in bed and general exhaustion of her system. Her condition was aggravated by a chronic inflammation of bladder which caused severe pain and needed frequent help. A doctor visited her each day. But the German soldiers shouted that my mother should get up and dress. I tried to

deportation actions many persons were severely beaten up and in many other cases some defenseless Poles were murdered ¹⁰.

The deported persons were housed in most cases at least for a few days, in transitory camps and various other concentration centres from which they were deported to the Generalgouvernement, sometimes in unheated goods waggons, without the provision of cooked food for more than one day ¹¹. Such places to which the deported persons were brought after eviction were usually located in most cases in old huts, prisons, barns and churches. People slept there on straw, sometimes in scores on the same premises and they were fed on black coffee, brown bread and a dish of soup. The situation was still made worse by very bad hygienic conditions. Hence many cases of diseases and as a consequence very often deaths among the inmates. It also happened that in some cases the deported persons were located upon an open ground in bad atmospheric conditions where they waited for further transport (e. g. in the Żywiec district) ¹².

As it was pointed out above, deportation was effected on the basis of a previously prepared list in which were entered in the first place the names of politically and socially active persons of any orientation, the representatives of the intelligentsia, participants of uprisings: the Silesian and the Great Poland ones, owners of bigger property, incurables and old people and persons who had been well known for their anti-German stance before the war ¹³.

explain to them that the condition of my mother made it impossible and uncovering the quilt a bit I demonstrated to them the big scar resulting from the operation. This however, failed to convince them. In order to force my mother to get up they aimed their rifles at her and threatened that they would shoot her. I told them they could shoot my mother, but they would not be able to make her get up. At last they believed me. They took the carpet from the table, rolled my mother down on the carpet which they put on the floor, they told me to carry my mother from the head end and one of the soldiers carried her from the legs end and that was how she was removed to the truck waiting outside. I was not allowed to take with me the necessary medicines and syringe, although I made a special request for these things". (Archiwum GKBZHWP — akta No 5772/I).

¹⁰ Archiwum GKBZHWP — Materiały Jana Sehna (*Jan Sehn's materials*) vol. 36; ISL — Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych, Wydział Społeczny, Sprawozdanie No 5/42 s. 201—203; The German..., p. 196—98; B. Wdały, Niemcy w Polsce, p. 24.

¹¹ APMP i WP — Landratsamt Schrimm No 102 p. 24.

¹² Archiwum GKBZHWP — No 1032z/OL/119/XV p. 40 and No 1058/OL; APMP i WP — Der SS Ansiedlungsstab Posen No 105.

¹³ APMP i WP — Der Landrat Schrimm No 100, p. 2—6 of 16 XI 1939; Der Reichsstatthalter No 1878 p. 42, yr. 1940/41; Sicherheitsdienst des Reichsführers SS Posen No 5 p. 117 of 14 XI 1939, No 56, 58 a. 59; SS — Ansiedlungsstab Posen No 101 p. 17 of 13 XII 1939; J. Sziling, Wysiedlanie..., p. 20.

The total number of persons deported during the Nazi occupation from the territories incorporated into the Reich to the Generalgouvernement amounted to more than 700 000 and within that number ca. 500 000 were deported from the Warta Country ¹⁴.

Tens of thousands of Poles who corresponded to the Nazi authorities' racial requirements were also deported into the Reich where they were expected to undergo germanization ¹⁵. Two hundred thousand children were also kidnapped and they underwent a process of germanization ¹⁶. Apart from that only from the Warta Country 23 512 peasants were re-settled in France ¹⁷.

Altogether then from the territories incorporated into the Reich several hundred thousand Poles were deported, not including in this estimate those deported as slave labour into the German Reich nor those who went to the Generalgouvernement on their own initiative. Thus a considerable number of Poles still remained in the Polish territories incorporated into the Reich and constituted the indispensable reservoir of manpower. Their deportation was planned for a post-war period extending from several to almost twenty years.

Apart from the persons evicted from their dwellings and deported outside the territories incorporated into the Reich, re-settling of persons within the administrative areas was carried out. In practice thus consisted in removing of particular Polish families from one place to another, from the centre into the outskirts of the town, from better flats into worse ones, from bigger farms into smaller ones. Such re-settling, called „Verdrängung” in the Warta country and in Pomerania „Interne Umsiedlung”, was nearly always combined with leaving the whole property of those undergoing the re-settling on the spot. In Pomerania 18 815 persons were re-settled in that way from the 1st of April 1941 till 31st of December 1942 and it must be pointed out that the re-settling was most intensive in the years 1939—1940. In the Warta Country several hundred thousand persons were thus „ousted” from their dwelling places. A part of those people was re-settled in villages specially appointed for them, villages sometimes called reservations for Poles (Polenreservate). Those villages were expected to

¹⁴ Archiwum GKBZHWP — No 327z; APMP i WP — Der Reichsstatthalter No 2198 of 23 II 1944; Instytut Zachodni Poznań — Doc. I — 580; J. Sziling, *Wysiedlanie...*, p. 21—22.

¹⁵ APMP i WP — Der Reichsstatthalter No 2198 of 23 II 1944; Instytut Zachodni Poznań — Doc. I — 580 yr. 1943 annex 2; J. Sziling, *Wysiedlanie...*, p. 21—22.

¹⁶ J. Sobczak, *Hitlerowskie przesiedlenia...*, p. 75—76.

¹⁷ APMP i WP — Der Reichsstatthalter No 2198 of 23 II 1944.

supply cheap labour for agriculture and industry in German hands and for public works¹⁸.

Alongside with the strengthening of German power in the General-gouvernement, also that part of Polish territories became the area of mass re-settlement of Poles. It was decided to give priority in the deportation action to a part of the province of Lublin, the so-called Zamość region, i.e. the Zamość, Biłgoraj, Tomaszów and Hrubieszów districts. The fact that this particular region was chosen for the first deportation actions was a result of many discussions and a lot of premeditation the part of the Nazi authorities, who wanted to make a bulwark of the German element of the Zamość region, situated east of the frontiers of the Reich, arbitrarily established during the war. The germanized Zamość region was expected to become a bridge of German element between the Baltic states and Transylvania, where quite a great number of Germans were living. The other objective was to exert a pressure against the Poles living between the Warta Country and Lublin and to weaken them both economically and biologically¹⁹.

Himmler was showing his personal interest in the action of germanizing the Zamość region, he was in Lublin several times in connection with that action, he took part in a conference devoted to that problem which was convened from 13th till 14th March 1942 in Kraków. Himmler's plans also included the task of germanizing Lublin as early as possible and proclaiming it a German city in 1944. The preparations for the deportation action were under the immediate direction of the commander of the SS and police for the region of Lublin, Odillo Globocnik and he was helped in his action by the successive commanders of security police for the Lublin region Walter Huppenkothen (1940—1941) and Helmut Müller. The execution of the whole action was entrusted to the police and the detachments of the SS with the co-operation of the Wehrmacht²⁰.

¹⁸ APMP i WP — Der Reichsstatthalter No 2121 of 14 XII 1940 and No 2198 of 23 II 1944; SS Ansiedlungsstab Posen No 3 p. 149 of 2 V 1941; Instytut Zachodni Poznań — Doc. I — 580; J. Sobczak, *Hitlerowskie przesiedlenia...*, p. 77; J. Stoch, „Polenreservate” w tzw. Warthegau („*Polenreservate*” in the so-called *Warthegau*). *Biuletyn Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Hitlerowskich w Polsce*, XVI, 1967, p. 153—69. Warszawa. p. 153—58.

¹⁹ S. Datner, J. Gumkowski, K. Leszczyński, *Wysiedlania w Zamojszczyźnie (Deportations in the Zamość Region)*. *Biuletyn Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Hitlerowskich w Polsce*, XIII, 1960, p. 5—58. Warszawa (cit. S. Datner, J. Gumkowski, K. Leszczyński, *Wysiedlania...*) p. 5—6; Cz. Madajczyk, *Generalna Gubernia...*, p. 107—15.

²⁰ Cz. Madajczyk, *Generalna Gubernia...*, p. 114—17.

The deportation of the Polish population in the Zamość region was started in November 1941, but at that time only a few villages were involved from which more than 2 thousand persons were evicted²¹. Mass deportation began one year later, i.e. in the night of November 27 and 28, 1942 and was continued till August 1943. At that time more than 100 thousand Poles were expelled from 293 villages²².

The population was evicted in a barbarous way. A village or a group of villages was usually surrounded at night by the police, SS detachment or by soldiers and then each house was entered and all the persons found in it were expelled from it by force in 5 to 20 minutes. Those persons were then concentrated in one place for further transport. In the course of these evictions many persons were beaten and in some cases the inhabitants were murdered without any scruples. E.g. in the Zamość district 117 persons were killed during the evictions²³.

The evictions also accompanied the so-called pacifications of some villages. These pacifications consisted in setting the village on fire, shooting a part of the inhabitants and sending the rest to concentration camps and to work. Pacifications were in most cases conducted as a revenge for guerrilla activities. As the inhabitants of the villages, as I have pointed out above, were also murdered during the evictions, it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between the evictions and pacifications²⁴.

Those evicted were allowed to take with them only at best personal belongings and some food. Thus all the real estate and movable property, sometimes the result of hard work of several generations, was left on the spot for the German settlers to take over²⁵.

²¹ S. Datner, J. Gumkowski, K. Leszczyński, *Wysiedlania...*, p. 6; Z. Klukowski, *Zbrodnie niemieckie w Zamojszczyźnie (German Crimes in the Zamość Region)*. Biuletyn Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Hitlerowskich w Polsce, II, 1947, p. 45—120. Warszawa (cit. Z. Klukowski, *Zbrodnie niemieckie...*), p. 48; Cz. Madajczyk, *Generalna Gubernia...*, p. 116. In the first two publications the number of deported was estimated at 2098.

²² ISL — Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych. Wydział Społeczny. Sprawozdanie 1/43 p. 163; Z. Klukowski, *Zbrodnie niemieckie...*, p. 52; Cz. Madajczyk, *Generalna Gubernia...*, p. 113. Klukowski estimates the number of deported persons at 110 000 from 297 villages.

²³ Archiwum GKBZHWP No 667z/OL p. 5—7; S. Datner, J. Gumkowski, K. Leszczyński, *Wysiedlania...*, p. 9.

²⁴ Instytut Zachodni Poznań — Doc. I — 580; Z. Klukowski, *Zbrodnie niemieckie...*, p. 49—50; Cz. Madajczyk, *Generalna Gubernia...*, p. 171—72.

²⁵ Archiwum GKBZHWP — No 667z/OL p. 5—7; Z. Klukowski, *Zbrodnie niemieckie...*, p. 5.

All the evicted persons were transported and at shorter distances forced to walk on foot to transitory camps in Zamość, Budzyń, Zwierzyniec, Włodawa and Lublin. There they were subjected to various examinations and as a result all were divided into groups: those chosen to work at the farms of the German settlers, those eligible for germanization, those able to work in the Reich and those unable to work and to be imprisoned in the concentration camps. As a result of those selections families were divided and children were taken away from their parents. Persons included in the second and in the third group were deported to Germany, the former to be germanized and the latter for slave labour. Most of the inhabitants classed as group IV, including whole families and a great number of small children, were imprisoned in concentration camps in Majdanek and Oświęcim (Auschwitz). In the latter camp those unable to work were murdered in gas-chambers or killed by phenol heart injections²⁶. A part of the last group, including children, was transported to various places in the Generalgouvernement. The transport of those persons, lasting sometimes for a week, was conducted in most atrocious conditions, in most cases without any food or even without drinking water. As result at the arrival at their place of destination many casualties were found. Thus, e.g. in the transport which arrived in Siedlce in February 1943 it was found that 22 persons had died during the way²⁷.

Many people also died in the transitory camps as a result of bad conditions (frost, hunger, filth, crowding). There was the greatest number of casualties among children. In the Zamość camp for instance 199 children died from December 7th 1942 till the 22nd of April 1943²⁸.

The continued mass evictions, planned for 1944, were made impossible, because of the approaching Soviet front²⁹.

In the territories of the Generalgouvernement the population also was not spared from the re-settlement actions. People were in many cases forced to leave their dwelling places and even their native villages or towns to leave room for army training grounds or for accommodation of German institutions and their employees. Thus, e.g. at the

²⁶ Archiwum GKBZHWP — No 667z/OL p. 5—7; 667z/OL p. 5; ISL — Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych. Wydział Społeczny. Sprawozdanie 1/43 p. 166; S. Datner, J. Gumkowski, K. Leszczyński, *Wysiedlania...*, p. 9—11; Z. Klukowski, *Zbrodnie niemieckie...*, p. 71; Cz. Madajczyk, *Generalna Gubernia...*, p. 136—41 a. 171—72.

²⁷ ISL — Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych. Wydział Społeczny. Sprawozdanie 1/43 p. 166; S. Datner, J. Gumkowski, K. Leszczyński, *Wysiedlania...*, p. 10.

²⁸ Archiwum GKBZHWP No 667z/OL p. 7; S. Datner, J. Gumkowski, K. Leszczyński, *Wysiedlania...*, p. 9.

²⁹ S. Datner, J. Gumkowski, K. Leszczyński, *Wysiedlania...*, p. 12.

beginning of 1941 the Polish population of 160 villages in the Radom district was expelled for military reasons. For the use of the SS 28 villages were emptied of Polish population in the Kolbuszowa district³⁰.

The Polish community in its attitude towards the evictions was not passive. In the territories incorporated into the Reich, where in conditions of atrocious terror of the occupants and because of unfavourable natural conditions any armed resistance of the underground was impossible, the inhabitants avoided in many cases the evictions by leaving their dwelling places earlier and staying with their relatives or friends in other villages or towns. People also fled and went into hiding in the forests and during the summer in the cornfields. Thus, e. g. in the Warta Country, according to official data, only 36 per cent of the persons entered on the lists were caught between the 10th and 15th June 1940. In Lodz 15—20 per cent of those on the lists succeeded in evading the evictions. People tried to evade the re-settlements in spite of atrocious penalties, such as beating and imprisonment in the concentration camps³¹. Most of the persons evading evictions were doing so, because they believed that thus they would have been able to avoid deportation. It was also believed that the war would be soon ended and that this would put an end to German action. Irrespective of the reasons for which these evasions took place, they disorganized German eviction actions and made it necessary for the Nazi authorities to be continually on the alert and to engage considerable police forces in chasing the people who thus absconded.

Also in the Generalgouvernement absconding was one of the forms of a struggle against the occupants. E. g. during the evictions in the Zamość region only 29 to 34 per cent of the inhabitants were found to be present in the villages where the evictions took place³². In the struggle against the occupants carrying through the actions of the mass evictions guerrilla troops also took part. They succeeded in many cases in thwarting Nazi plans and retaliated against the German settlers. This guerrilla activity of the Poles not only paralysed German settlement, but also caused unrest among the settlers themselves, making it difficult for them to pursue normal economic activity. That was an important psychological factor in the struggle against the germanization of the Lublin province³³.

³⁰ ISL — Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych. Wydział Społeczny. Sprawozdanie 1/43 p. 161 a. 9/43 p. 10; Cz. Madajczyk, *Generalna Gubernia...*, p. 66—67.

³¹ Archiwum GKBZHwP No 1001/OL/II; ISL — Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych. Wydział Społeczny. Sprawozdanie 5/42 p. 24.

³² Z. Klukowski, *Zbrodnie niemieckie...*, p. 49—50; Cz. Madajczyk, *Generalna Gubernia...*, p. 183.

³³ Instytut Zachodni Poznań — Doc. I-580; F. Kamiński, *Bataliony Chłop-*

The facts we have presented above prove that the Nazi authorities, in spite of many war difficulties, were consistent and completely ruthless in their implementation of germanization of Polish territories in the years 1939—1944. It was only owing to the allied victory over Nazi Germany that these Nazi actions were not finished and that the Poles, instead of being exterminated as a nation, could have joined with a success the action of the re-construction of war-ravaged Europe.

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skie w obronie Zamojszczyzny (*The Peasants' Battalions in the Defence of the Zamość Region*). Polityka No 5(570) of 3 II 1968.