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KRASILOV

Pre-1941: Krasilov, town and raion center, Kamenets-Podolskii oblast', Ukrainian SSR; 1941-1944: Krasilow, Rayon center, Gebiet Antoniny, Generalkommissariat Wolbrynien und Podolien; post-1991: Krasyliv, Kbmel'nyts'kyi oblast', Ukraine

Krasilov is located 120 kilometers (75 miles) southeast of Równe. According to the census of 1939, 1,250 Jews lived in Krasilov (17.2 percent of the total). There were an additional 1,442 Jews living in the villages of what was then the Krasilov raion, including the village of Kul'chitsy.

After the German invasion of the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, a few hundred Jews were able to evacuate to the east or were conscripted into the Red Army. Around 1,000 Jews remained in Krasilov at the start of the occupation.

On July 8, 1941, forces of the German 6th Army occupied Krasilov. In July and August 1941, a German military administration took control of the town. The military authorities appointed a mayor and recruited an auxiliary Ukrainian police force.

In September 1941, Krasilov was placed under German civil administration and included in Gebiet Antoniny. Regierungsassessor Harald Schorer became the Gebietskommissar in Antoniny until 1943, when he was succeeded by Gerhard

Friedrich, who had served previously as his deputy.¹ A German Gendarmerie post with four Gendarmes was established in the town; it supervised the local Ukrainian police.

In the summer and autumn of 1941, German forces implemented a series of anti-Jewish measures in Krasilov. Soon after the arrival of the German military authorities, Jews were ordered to wear distinctive markings in the form of the Star of David, and later the Gebietskommissar ordered them to sew yellow patches onto the back and front of their clothing. In addition, they had to perform forced labor and were prohibited from leaving the limits of the town.

In or around October 1941, Mikhail Grinchuk, the head of the local Ukrainian administration in Krasilov, signed a public notice prepared by the Gebietskommissar informing all the Jews that they would have to live in a ghetto. Jews from the surrounding area were brought into Krasilov by the local police and were placed initially in three long one-story buildings next to where the market was located after World War II.² About two weeks after the announcement, Gerhard Friedrich, the deputy of the Gebietskommissar, arrived in Krasilov and organized the creation of the ghetto, personally choosing the section of town that was to be surrounded with barbed wire. The ghetto, consisting of about 25 houses, was located adjacent to the buildings that initially held the new arrivals. The Gendarmerie and local police assisted Grinchuk in obtaining barbed wire for the ghetto.³

All the Jewish residents of Krasilov had moved into the cramped space of the ghetto by January 1, 1942, with the exception of the Jewish craftsmen (shoemakers, glaziers, plumbers) and their families, who now lived in three buildings outside the fence. The perimeter of the ghetto was guarded day and night by two to four Ukrainian policemen. Jews were officially prohibited from visiting the market, and no rations were provided. The worst aspect was the lack of access to water in the ghetto. However, some Jews were able to trade items for food with the local population and also to obtain water after making arrangements with the guards.⁴ The local non-Jewish inhabitants of Krasilov became aware that Jews in the ghetto were dying, frequently from starvation or disease.

The Jews living in the ghetto were assigned forced labor tasks by the local administration, such as repairing roads or working in the sugar refinery, which was supervised by the Ukrainian police.

On April 25 or 26, 1942, the most respected and educated Jew in the ghetto, Moisha Hammerschmid, was summoned to the Gendarmerie post. On his return he bore the scars of beatings and torture and fainted into the arms of his fellow Jews. When he came round, he started to scream in Yiddish that everyone should try to get to safety wherever they could, as they all faced death. He then explained that the Gendarmerie had ordered all the ghetto inhabitants to assemble on the square next to the fence on the morning of May 1, as they were going to be resettled. They could take with them only property up to a weight of 16 kilograms (35 pounds) for adults and 8 kilograms (17.6 pounds) for children.

On May 1 and 2, 1942, most of the Jewish population of the ghetto was resettled into a "labor camp" in a stable in the village of Orlinty, close to Antoniny. At the end of May, the Germans also began to transfer the Jewish craftsmen to Orlinty. While escorting a group of 44 Jews on foot to Orlinty, Ukrainian police on horseback shot 8 Jews who fell behind the column, owing to weakness. In Orlinty at this time, some 100 Jews from various locations in Gebiet Antoniny were being held. From the labor camp, selected Jews were forced daily to drag heavy stones in a cart behind them for several kilometers. Subsequently, most Jews from the Orlinty camp were taken to Manivtsy to be killed. The Jewish survivor Moysey Katz managed to escape back to the Krasilov ghetto shortly after his transfer to Orlinty at the end of May.⁵

In Krasilov, Katz continued to live in the buildings for specialist workers, while some elderly Jews and children remained in the ghetto, as they were unfit for work, together with a few adults who had somehow avoided the transfers.

In July 1942, the ghetto in Krasilov was cleared. The Gendarmerie and Ukrainian police drove the Jews out of the ghetto and escorted them on foot to the village of Manivtsy. Those who were unfit were loaded onto carts. In Manivtsy, they were held for a few days and then shot along with other Jews from Gebiet Antoniny.⁶ The mass murder was organized by a detachment from the Security Police and SD outpost in Starokonstantinov. The Ukrainian police guarded the victims before they were shot and cordoned off the killing site during the shooting.⁷

The remaining 300 or so Jewish craftsmen with their families in Krasilov were then moved from the neighboring buildings into the ghetto, which was also reduced in size and now surrounded with two rings of barbed wire. On about September 10 or 12, 1942, the guard on the ghetto was strengthened, and about 30 Jews managed to flee at night, anticipating a final Aktion. The remaining craftsmen from the ghetto were also shot in Manivtsy. Many of those who escaped were subsequently also caught and shot.⁸

After the last Jews had been removed from the Krasilov ghetto, any remaining property of value was taken away by the Gendarmerie to Antoniny. The local population plundered the empty houses. With the permission of the Gebietskommissar, the local Ukrainian administration sold off some of the houses for local residents to live in, while others were dismantled either for firewood or as building material. Remaining items of lesser value, such as old furniture and crockery, were also sold to the local population. The proceeds from these sales, along with other local taxes, were booked to the account of the Gebietskommissar in Antoniny.⁹

SOURCES Documentation regarding the extermination of the Jews of Krasilov can be found in the following archives: DAKhO (R863-2-44); GARF (7021-64-793, 800); and YVA (M-33). BA-L (II 204 AR-Z 442/67: Gebietskommissariat Antoniny) contains materials on the crimes committed by officials of the German police and civil administration in the Krasilov raion. In these files, there are some detailed

1394 VOLHYNIA AND PODOLIA REGION

descriptions of the persecution and massacres of the Jewish population.

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NOTES

1. BA-L, II 204 AR-Z 442/67, Abschlussbericht, March 18, 1971, Verfügung, June 18, 1974.

2. Descriptions of the ghetto are all based on postoccupation testimonies.

3. BA-L, II 204 AR-Z 442/67, vol. 1, pp. 199–203, statement of defendant Mikhail A. Grinchuk, March 30, 1947; see also vol. 1, p. 221, statement of Yakov M. Omelyaniuk, December 21, 1972; vol. 1, pp. 275–276, statement of Moysey M. Katz, December 22, 1972.

4. Ibid., vol. 1, pp. 275–277, statement of Katz.

5. Ibid., vol. 1, pp. 277–279, statement of Katz. See also Abschlussbericht, March 18, 1971, Verfügung, June 18, 1974.

6. GARF, 7021-64-793, p. 95.

7. BA-L, II 204 AR-Z 442/67, Abschlussbericht, March 18, 1971, Verfügung, June 18, 1974.

8. Ibid., vol. 1, pp. 280–281, statement of Katz.

9. Ibid., vol. 1, pp. 199–203, statement of Grinchuk.

Abbreviations used in Sources and Notes.

BA-L Bundesarchiv Aussenstelle Ludwigsburg (German Federal Archives External Branch Ludwigsburg)

DAKHo Derzhavnyi arkhiv Khmel'nyts'koi oblasti (State Archives of the Khmel'nyts'ky Oblast'), Ukraine

GARF Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv rossiiskoi federatsii (State Archives of the Russian Federation), Moscow

YVA Archive of the National Institute for the Memory of the Victims of Nazism and Heroes of the Resistance, Yad Vashem, Israel