

Daily report, Friday, 16 June 1944

Day chronicle no.: 167

Weather:

Daily mean 18-29 degrees, sunny

Deaths:

10/4 m., 6 w./

Births:

None

Arrests:

Various: 3

Population:

76,497

News today:

Today the following proclamation was issued in German and Yiddish:

Proclamation No. 416

ATTENTION!

Re.: Voluntary registration to work outside the ghetto

I hereby announce that men and women /including married couples/ can register to work outside the ghetto.

In as far as families are concerned with children at an age where they are capable of working, these children can also be registered together with their parents to work outside the ghetto.

These persons will be fully equipped: articles of clothing, shoes, underwear and socks. Each person may take with them baggage weighing up to 15 kg.

I would like to note in particular that postal traffic has been authorised for these workers, so that it is now possible to write letters. Furthermore, it is expressly pointed out that those persons registering for work outside the ghetto will be given the opportunity to immediately pick up the rations due to them without queueing. The aforementioned registrations are taken at the Labour Office Ghetto (Arbeitsamt-Getto), Hamburgerstr. 13, from Friday, 16 June 1944, daily between 8 am and 9 pm.

Litzmannstadt-Ghetto, 16 June 1944.

/-/ Ch. Rumkowski

The Elder of the Jews in Litzmannstadt

This proclamation speaks initially of voluntary registrations. But as things stand, this formulation is long outdated and there can be no doubt that very soon the whole apparatus will be immediately set in motion that has always slipped into gear and is always ready for such situations. The situation is as follows: in actual fact this is not a resettlement of only around 500 persons who are to be recruited through volunteers, but rather a more extensive dispatching of workers from the ghetto. Apparently, the first group of ca. 500 persons are designated for Munich, where they are to carry out rubble clearing work. A further group of ca. 900 persons are to be dispatched in the same week, probably on Friday, the 23rd of the month. Then over 3 weeks 3,000 each week, in transports of 1,000 persons each. A transport leader, 2 doctors, medical personnel and police (Ordnungsdienst) are to be provided for each transport. The latter are not to be drawn from the ghetto's police but are to be formed from those on the transports. The destination of the large groups is unknown. The same conditions apply for these large transports as for the transport the above announcement refers to. Baggage of 15-20 kg is permitted, but it should take up as little space as possible.

Commissar Fuchs assured higher ghetto officials that the worker transports are not endangered and that they are in fact detailed for rubble clearing work in bombed cities. This assurance alleviates somewhat the extreme fear that has hitherto accompanied every resettlement.

Awkward incident:

At around 5 in the afternoon an extremely awkward and regrettable incident took place in the Elder's office. Suddenly head official (Amtsleiter) Biebow appeared. Highly agitated, he ordered the other officials to leave the rooms immediately and lock them. He then stormed into the room of the president (Präses) Rumkowski, where he in a fit of rash agitation attacked the Elder of the Jews. The president suffered a rather serious injury to his face, on the cheekbone. The head official injured himself on a windowpane he smashed. Messrs Tscharnulla and Schwind followed right behind the head official, intent it seems on trying to calm him down, but did not succeed.

The president was taken to the hospital on Richerstrasse immediately after the incident, where he was given first aid treatment by Dr Eliasberg. This is the first time that head official Biebow has assaulted the president. We have indicated the serious and latent conflict between these two men repeatedly in these pages. No one would have thought however that this conflict could ever have led to such an excess, for president Rumkowski is, after all, including vis-à-vis the head official, not only the representative of now 80,000 income-producing Jews, but also a man almost 70 years of age. Anyone who knows the head official is aware that this is an outbreak of his violent temper he is certain to regret later. It is naturally impossible to know what words were exchanged before the violence broke out. It is undoubtedly linked to yesterday's visit by the lord mayor (Oberbürgermeister) Dr Bradfish. Several persons claim that the head official had scornfully accused the president that he, without consulting with him (Biebow), had agreed straightaway to the lord mayor's demand for the supply of an initial figure of 600 persons, which compromised the head official however because, whenever demands of this sort are made, he takes the standpoint that he cannot dispense with anyone.

It is naturally impossible to find out exactly what went on because the president is in hospital in a desolate state and it is in any case not his way to speak about such things.

Work outside the ghetto:

In the main prison around 40-50 persons register daily for work outside the ghetto. At this rate, the need to supply around 5-600 persons cannot be achieved by Wednesday, the 21st of this month.

Commission formed:

A commission has already been formed to solve the technical demands raised by the forthcoming dispatchment of workers. Its members are: the chief judge Jakobson as chairman, and the following: Blemmer, Kohl, Berkowicz /I. Police District/, commissar (Kommissar) Wollmann /Special Unit/, procurator Nussbrecher is attached to the commission probably in the capacity as secretary. The commission works in close contact with the Labour Office (Arbeitsamt). A joint sitting of the commission with commandant Rosenblatt, Dawid Warszawski and Sienicki is taking place tomorrow.

Food Supply

The situation in the ghetto remains poor.

The rations

Today the following was made public:

Re.: the allocation of food rations for the whole population:

As of Saturday, 17 June 1944, the following rations will be issued for coupon no. 23 of the food card for the period from 19.6.1944 through to and including 2.7.1944:

600 grams of rye flour, 150 grams of peas, 450 grams of sugar, white, 350 grams of spread, 200 grams of powdered soup mix, 200 grams of salt, 500 grams of coffee blend, 150 grams of "Vitamo", 150 grams of Saladine, 10 grams of citric acid, 20 grams of baking soda, 1 bar of soap, for 11.50 marks.

On the basis of the vegetable allowance 50 grams of fruit tea, one box of matches per family, are to be handed out for 0.50 marks.

Also on offer for coupon no. 55 of the food card as of Saturday, 17 June 1944, are: 250 grams of margarine, 100 grams of vegetable salad per head for 3.75 marks.

Meat and sausage allocation for the whole population:

As of Sunday, 18.6.1944, the following will be issued for coupon no. 64 of the food card: 250 grams of meat per head, and on coupon no. 47 of the food card: 50 grams of sausage/ smoked sausage/ for 1.00 mark.

Litzmannstadt Ghetto, 16.6.1944

Ghetto Administration

Medical Services

Contagious illnesses reported today: none

Cause of death of today's deceased: 5 pulmonary tuberculosis, 11 double pneumonia, 1 tubercular meningitis, 2 heart disease, 1 enteritis.

Addition to today's police report:

Suicide:

Widawski, Edith, b. 19.9.1910 in Stettin, died on 15.6.1944. It is suspected that she committed suicide.

Translated by Regina Sandler