

Hans von Tschammer und Osten, Military Commandant [Feldkommandant] of Minsk, orders to set up a ghetto in the city on 19th of July 1941

Directive of the Military Commandant of Minsk on 19th of July 1941

Decree!

1. With the date of this decree, a Jewish residential area is set up, exclusively inhabited by Jews.
2. The entire Jewish population of Minsk has to move to the Jewish quarter immediately after the release of this decree within a period of five times 24 hours. Anyone found outside the Jewish residential area after the end of the given time will be arrested and punished with strictest penalties.
3. The transfer of household effects is allowed, the transfer of somebody else's property is punishable by death.
4. The Jewish residential area is delimited by the following streets: Kolchosnij-Pereulok, followed by: Kolchosnajer-Street, followed by: along the river, followed by: Nemigskaja-Street, except the Orth. church, followed by: Respublikanskaja-Street, followed by: Schornaja-Street, followed by: Kolektornaja street, followed by: Mebelnej-Pereulok, followed by: Perekopskaja-Street, followed by: Nisowaja-street, followed by: the Jewish cemetery wall, followed by: Obuwnaja-Street, followed by: 2. Opanski-Pereulok, followed by: Saslawskaja, followed by: up to the corner of Kolchosnij-Pereulok.
5. The Jewish residential area is to be separated from the rest of the city by dry-stone walls after the end of the resettlement. The construction of the dry-stone walls is to be carried out by the inhabitants of the Jewish residential area themselves through the use of the usable stones of inhabitable houses.
6. Any lingering outside the allocated residential area is forbidden to the Jews subsumed in a work detail. They may leave the residential area only as part of the work detail and only stay outside the residential area for the work mandated by the municipality of Minsk. Violations are punishable by death.
7. Jews are only permitted to enter and leave the Jewish residential area via the two entrances in the Opanski- and the Ostrowski-Street. The crossing of the limiting walls is forbidden. The German guards and the auxiliary police are instructed to shoot at offenders.
8. Access to the Jewish residential area is only permitted to Jews, except for members of German formations on duty and of the municipality of Minsk.

9. For the implementation of the administrative measures arising from the relocation of the Jews, a forced loan of 30-000 Chervonets [*Tscherwoncen*] is imposed on the Jewish council. The amount of money, the interest for which will be regulated at a later date, is to be payed within 12 hours to the cash register of the municipality, Karl-Marx-Street 28.
10. After the relocation, the Jewish council will immediately register all flats outside the Jewish residential area, which are vacated by Jews but not inhabited by the Aryan population, to the housing office of the municipality.
11. The public order inside the Jewish residential area will be maintained by a Jewish order service [Ordnungsdienst]. (Special instruction to follow.)
12. The entire responsibility for the full implementation of the Jewish resettlement lies with the Jewish council of the city of Minsk. Violations will be punished most severely.

translated by Giles Bennett and Regina Sandler