

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies

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Persecution and Deportation in Western Europe – General Introduction

Translation: *A07 Report on the deportation of Dutch Jews*

The Higher SS and Police Leader
Attached to the Reich Commissioner
for the Occupied Dutch Territories

The Hague, 24 Sept. 1942
Confidential

To the Reichsführer SS and Chief of the German Police
Heinrich Himmler
Berlin SW 11
Prinz Albert-Str. 8

Re: Deportation of Jews

Reichsführer!

Allow me to submit an interim report on the deportation of the Jews.

Up until now, together with the Jews deported punitively to Mauthausen, we have marched off 20,000 Jews to Auschwitz. In the whole of Holland around 120,000 Jews are to be deported, a number that admittedly also contains the mixed Jews, most of whom are to remain here for the moment. There are about 20,000 mixed marriages in Holland. In consultation with the Reich Commissioner, I am also deporting all the Jewish sides of the mixed marriages in so far as no children have resulted from these mixed marriages. There will be ca. 6,000 cases, so that ca. 14,000 Jews from mixed marriages will remain here for the moment.

In the Netherlands there is the so-called “Werkveruiming”, a labour organisation subordinate to the Dutch Ministry for Social Affairs which forces Jews to perform various types of work in closed companies and camps. Up until now we have yet to touch these Werkveruiming camps so as to allow the Jews to flee there. There are ca. 7,000 Jews in these Werkveruiming camps. We hope to reach 8,000 Jews by 1 October. These 8,000 Jews have ca. 22,000 relatives throughout Holland. On 1 October the Werkveruiming camps will be suddenly occupied by me and on the very same day the relatives arrested and collected in the two large new Jewish camps in Westerbork near Assen and Vught near Hertogenbosch. I will attempt to obtain 3 trains each week instead of 2. These 30,000 Jews will be deported from 1 October onwards. I hope that we will have got rid of these 30,000 Jews as well by Christmas, so that in total 50,000 Jews, i.e. half will have been removed from Holland.

For weeks now preparations are underway in the population registers in the Netherlands for identifying the mixed marriages, i.e. for bringing forward proof that the Aryan members in the mixed marriages are indeed Aryan. These 13,000 mixed Jews are given a note on their Jewish identity card to the effect that they are entitled to remain in Holland. In addition, the workers in the armaments industry will be processed in the same way, the German Army desperately still need them here, ca. 6,000 + family = 21,000. Included in this number are the diamond workers from Amsterdam as well as certain prestige and NSB Jews (20).

On 15 October Jewry in Holland will be declared free game, i.e. a large police operation will be launched which will not only involve the German and Dutch police but also enlist the services of the operative section of the Nazi Party, the organisations of the Party, the NSB, the German Army, etc.. Every Jew found anywhere in Holland will be sent to the large Jewish camps. Thus, there will be no more Jews to be seen in Holland, unless they are privileged. At the same time I will begin issuing the proclamations to bring a halt to the flight of Jews, which is taking place in huge numbers, namely that Aryans who hide Jews or traffic Jews over the border or have counterfeited identity papers will have their property and assets seized and the culprits be sent to a concentration camp.

From the Christian Jews, the Catholic Jews have meanwhile been deported because the five bishops, at the forefront Archbishop de Jonge in Utrecht, have not adhered to the original agreements. The Protestant Jews are still here, and we have succeeded in breaking the unified front between the Catholic and Protestant church. At a conference of bishops, Archbishop de Jonge declared that he would never again join a unified front with the Protestants and Calvinists. The storm raised by the churches back at the time the evacuations began was thus jolted and has abated. The new units of Dutch police are doing excellently in the Jewish question and are arresting hundreds of Jews day and night. The only danger cropping up is that here and there one of the policeman acts out of line and plunders Jewish possessions. I have arranged for trials of the SS and Police Court to be heard in front of the assembled units.

The Jewish camp Westerbork is already completely finished, the Jewish camp Vught will be completed on 10 – 15 October.

Heil Hitler!

Your respectfully obedient,

Xxxxxx

Translated by Paul Bowman