

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies

Central State Archive of Public Organizations of Ukraine (TsDAHO); f. 62, op. 9, spr. 4, ark. 149-155

The Holocaust in Ukraine – German Mass Shootings

Translation: B06 Report of the Soviet Armed Forces (15 January 1942)

Top Secret

To Division Commissar  
Comrade Mamonov,  
Chief of the Political Administration of the Southern Front

Secret agents “Klimenko” and “Romanchuk,” left behind for work in the enemy’s rear, appeared on January 8, 1942 at the 8th Branch of the Political Department of the 18th Army and reported as follows:

German troops entered Kyiv at 12.00 on September 19, 1941. At this time they used the familiar German propaganda of “German benefactors of the Ukrainian population.” Was staged of “fascist virtue even with regard to the enemy.” “People of Kyiv, look and admire how kind German officers are.”

Two hours after German troops occupied Kyiv, two cars with several German officers drove along Korolenko Street. At this time an unknown person dressed in a Red Army uniform threw a grenade. The grenade did not explode, and the sham Red Army soldier did not flee. Officers emerged from the car with revolvers in their hands. The Red Army soldier went down on his knees and began licking their boots and begging for mercy. At this moment a senior officer disengaged the grenade and threw it away. The “Red Army soldier” was not arrested. The effect was achieved. The crowd of spectators was pleased. German press photographers recorded the scene.

Before German troops entered the city, a welcoming was staged on Kalinin Square. Gestapo men and a propaganda unit arrived in Kyiv before the troops did with an assignment to prepare a welcoming of the predatory Hitlerite army. Criminals and petty thieves of various kinds were dressed in Ukrainian national costumes, and their ranks were augmented by traitors to the Ukrainian people. This gang of traitors was supposed to represent the population of Kyiv. It was formed up, and some of them had bouquets of flowers in their hands. This rabble was supposed to show its “joy” on orders from its masters and to present them with flowers as soon as the predatory army appeared in the square. This second staging was also recorded by German cameramen and press photographers.

Continuing to make advances to the population of Kyiv, the German command gave the Ukrainian population permission to visit theatres and cinemas along with German soldiers and officers. Ukrainian identity was determined by examination of passports. The German command allowed Ukrainians to take back their radio sets, which they had handed in at the start of the war. At present three daily newspapers are being published in Kyiv: *Ukrains’ke*

*slovo, Chas and Dilo* [Only the first paper was published in Kyiv during the German occupation. The other two were published in western Ukraine before September 1939.]

These newspapers propagate a bestial nationalism. The main slogan of these squibs is "Ukraine for Ukrainians." Traitors, pogromchiks and bourgeois nationalists call for a struggle with the "Judeo-Bolshevik gang." At institutions conversations are conducted only in Ukrainian.

On September 20, 1941 a loudspeaker was set up on the Khreshchatyk and the first German orders were broadcast in Ukrainian. The population was required to hand in weapons, report the whereabouts of partisans, hand in radio sets and so forth. Failure to obey the order could be punished by execution.

To create the appearance of self-rule and to conceal the fascist rule in Kyiv, a municipal administration was set up. Professor Aleksandr Oglobin [sic] was "elected" as the head of the municipal administration. The son of the composer Lysenko is in charge of the cultural department. The unsuccessful film director Kavaleridze heads the art department.

Having organized an authority that consisted of traitors to the Ukrainian people and concealing themselves behind their screen, the fascist swine began carrying out monstrous reprisals against Soviet people. The night of September 19–20, for example, tens of corpses of Soviet people that the fascists had not permitted to be buried lay in the streets of Kyiv.

The people's avengers went into action. On September 24, 1941 the Children's World shop was blown up. The German municipal commandant's office had been established in this building. For four days one building after another was blown up on the Khreshchatyk and adjacent streets. The Germans suffered great losses here, for the most part in senior officers.

In response to the partisans' actions the Hitlerite swine began carrying out bestial reprisals against the peaceful population.

On September 28, 1941 the German commandant of the city issued an order. It said approximately: "All Jews in Kyiv are to report by 8.00 on September 28, 1941 to the Baikove cemetery. Every Jew must bring warm clothing and valuables. Failure to obey the order will mean execution on the spot." The German bandits undressed and executed all the Jews who appeared at the cemetery. Some Jews went into hiding when they learned about this violent reprisal. Then the city commandant issued orders that "All building managers are immediately to carry out searches and immediately report any Jews they discover to the police." On September 29 and 30 Hitlerite bandits assisted by members of the Black Hundred and Ukrainian nationalists carried out monstrous pogroms. A round-up of the Jewish population was carried out. All who were ill, elderly or crippled were dragged from their flats, placed in vehicles and driven to the cemetery. There they were mocked and executed.

"Klimenko" and "Romanchuk" were on Shevchenko Boulevard on September 29, 1941 and saw a staggering scene. A cart was moving along the roadway. An ill elderly woman was lying in the cart. Elderly men and women who were barely able to move their feet were walking behind the cart. They were being escorted by Hitlerite rogues from the Gestapo. When the elderly people stumbled and fell, they were beaten with butt-stocks and forced to go on by bayonets. A mountain of corpses had been piled up at the cemetery. There were also children of those who had been executed, amongst them infants. The Hitlerite scoundrels pierced them with bayonets with monstrous bestial sang-froid or simply picked them up by their feet and threw them into the pit.

Having completed their monstrous crime against innocent people in Kyiv, the Hitlerite cutthroats blew up the square where the mountains of corpses were lying. But the Hitlerite gang was not satisfied with this. Using their favourite method of provocation, the Hitlerite bandits from the Gestapo found a pretext to set on fire all the markets in Kyiv. Afterwards came an order from the city commandant about the execution of a hundred and later three hundred persons.

Hunger prevails in Kyiv. The population is not supplied with food and bread. The flourishing capital of the Ukrainian SSR, a city of beauties, has been turned into a dead city, a cemetery, by the Hitlerite gang of cutthroats.

“Klimenko” and “Romanchuk” left Kyiv on November 5. Travelling through temporarily occupied Soviet territory, they saw burnt and plundered Soviet cities and villages. Unrestrained arbitrary rule, plundering and mockery of Soviet people. Executions, gallows, atrocities against Red Army prisoners and Soviet activists,, against old men, women, girls and children. Here are several facts about these terrible crimes. A German military unit was passing through the city of Chyhyryn. The fascists wanted to cut down for use as camouflage an acacia beside a collective-farm woman’s house. The woman came out and begged them not to cut down the tree. A fascist responded by hanging the defenceless woman on the tree. The woman hung there a long time because the Germans would not allow her to be buried.

At the Kueinikovo [?] station the Hitlerite command set up a brothel for officers. The Hitlerite rogues sent here girls and young women from near-by settlements and are staging wild orgies.

The arrival of the predatory Hitlerite army in a city or village means mass robbery of the Soviet population, [theft of] all property, grain and cattle. The robbery of the Soviet people by the Hitlerite bandits is not limited to this. The German command requires Soviet citizens to pay off all the debts of Soviet citizens up to the day the given locality was occupied. An additional tax of three hundred roubles is levied for cows. It was officially proposed to leave every two households with one cow and to requisition the rest, but this order is not being observed and all the livestock is being taken from the population. The Germans are imposing a tax of ten to twenty-five roubles a year for owning a dog. If a citizen does not want to pay the tax and says that he will not keep the dog, he is still required to pay the tax for the whole year.

In the city of Stalino a levy of eight million roubles was imposed on the Jewish population, supposedly as compensation for the plundering of government and public organizations. The deadline for paying the first four million was set as December 20, 1941, for paying the second as January 1, 1942.

### Partisan Actions

Great Stalin’s call to set up partisan units “to fight against units of the enemy army and to rouse a partisan war here, there and everywhere” has found a fervent response in the hearts of Soviet patriots. From Kyiv to our army’s front lines knights of popular vengeance are acting and are instilling fear in the occupiers.

The Kyiv partisans blew up and set on fire a number of buildings on the Khreshchatyk. There was no water in the fountains. The Germans stretched hoses all the way to the Dnieper River to put out the fires. The partisans cut these hoses several times and thus made it more difficult to put out the fire.

Large partisan units are in action between Cherkasy and Smila. The partisans are fighting with the Gestapo punitive units and are killing traitors to the homeland, village elders and policemen. To fight the partisan movement the Germans are being forced to send in not only large units, but also tanks and aviation. At the Synel'nykove station partisans are working alongside workers. When the repairs have been completed, the partisans mine the tracks and the first train that the Germans send goes up in the air.

According to reports from the local population, at the Mandrykyne station (Petrovs'kyi mine) the commander of the partisan unit proved to be a traitor. (His surname has not been established.) The Germans executed the partisans in the unit and did not spare the traitor.

According to reports from agents, there are few or almost no German troops in remote regions temporarily occupied by the Germans. In the cities there are a commandant and no more than two platoons of guards. In the countryside the police is staffed by traitors from the local population. Enemy forces are concentrated for the most part only in the frontline zone.

#### Railway Operations in the Rear of the Enemy

Railways are working between Vasyl'kiv and Khvastiv, Bila Tserkva, Znamenska, Piatykhvatky, Dnipropetrovs'k, Synel'nykove, Pys'menne, Prosiana and Chervonoarmiis'ke. Night and day the Germans are dispatching from these points trainloads of grain and other valuable looted goods.

Chief of the Political Department of the 18th Army  
Regimental Commissar

(Mel'nikov)

Chief of the 8th Branch of the Political Department of the Army  
Senior Battalion Commissar

[m.s.]  
(A. Mogilevich)

January 15, 1942  
Kamensk

Source: TsDAVOVU 4620/3/378/58.

*translated by Marco Carynnyk*