

SAMU Atlas

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Lviv

“August Aktion” in Lviv, August 10-22, 1942

LG Stuttgart Ks5/65 Urteil v. 29.4.1968 gegen Röder u. a. (BArch B 162/14365, Bl. 81-88)

In the verdict of the jury trial at the district court of Stuttgart handed down on April 29, 1968 in the case against Rudölf and 14 co-defendants, this operation was described as follows:

At the time about 100,000 Jews lived in Lviv, approximately 20,000 more than in official statistics. But even these 80,000 Jews seemed to Katzmann (the SS and police commander in the District of Galicia) to be too large a number to be sent to Belzec and killed there. It's possible that another consideration was that immediately exterminating all of Liviv's Jews would bankrupt almost all the city's suppliers as well as military industries and other businesses, which were mostly staffed by Jew.. That's why the number of victims captured during the August operation in Lviv was limited to 40,000. [...] To the extent possible, the operation was supposed to spare only the most essential workers and their families. In order to make the verification of the victims rounded up by SS units and the police in July 1942 go as quickly and smoothly as possible, all firms and companies in Lviv were asked to submit the employee identification credentials (red employment cards) of their Jewish staff to be checked by the SS and police commander's administration and other police agencies. In this way, those Jews that were still essential workers received a visible mark in the form of a stamp in their employment card, while all the others, who didn't receive this stamp due to illness, poor physical condition, or unemployment, were assigned for deportation, that is, death. In the SS and police commander, Katzmann's administration, it was the defendant Inquart who, as he himself described, during the course of a week to ten days singlehandedly stamped the red official stamp of the SS and police commander in the employment cards submitted to him. [...]

The “August Aktion” in Lviv began on August 10, 1942. It lasted two weeks and cost the lives of at least 40,000 Jews, who were suffocated with toxic gas in Belzec. SiPo, Ordnungspolizei, Feldgendarmarie, Sonderdienst, and Ukrainian police units participated in the operation. Unlike the March operation, concealing extermination objectives was no longer required [...] With extreme cruelty people were dragged from their homes, gathered in the street, and driven to collection points near the Janowska camp, in the Sobieski school and on St. Theodore's Square, then after a brief check, they were taken to Klepariv train station; they were also abused and beaten. There they were stuffed eighty to a hundred people into a freight cars, which often

stood all day in the heat, thus creating inhumane conditions, and the victims weren't even given water or anything else to ease their suffering. Because of the abuse and shooting, people were already dying on the way to the train station and in the station itself. Corpses were hastily thrown into the freight cars. On intermediate stops, when victims attempted to escape, the guards would shoot indiscriminately and the fugitives were hunted down. The corpses of Jews that had been shot down would sometimes lie in the streets for days...