

Situation report for the week from 12.-19.12.1943 (excerpt)

At the top of the events of the last few days are the public mass shootings in Lwów¹⁾, which were almost exclusively committed against Poles. Here is the sequence of events:

On 14.12. in the morning hours (around 9 o'clock) 9 people were shot on Solski Square behind the Great Theatre 21 and on Strzelecki Square.

The people of Lwów were deeply moved by this unexpected act of terrorism. For two days it was not clear (there were many guesses and all were wrong - as it turned out later) who was executed and for what.

Even the news from "serious" Ukrainians or even Germans that these were the members of the construction service [Baudienst] were wrong ...

Groups of people stopped in front of the freshly dug earth on the facade of the house on Solski square. They looked with an expression of vengeance at blood clot stains ... On the wall someone has written in Ukrainian: "Away with the occupiers" and "Long live the revolution".

On 16.12.43, posters signed by the police commander were put up announcing that 55 people had been sentenced to death by the Standing Court for membership of prohibited organisations, possession of weapons, support of gangs and in some cases for hiding Jews.

30 people, including two women, were executed; another 25 people, including five women, were pardoned under conditions: if violence were to be inflicted on a German or the German reconstruction effort in the next three months, these hostages would be shot immediately, ten for a German. No nationality was noted with the names. From the names (by ear) of the condemned, it can be seen that among 30 executed there were at most five Ukrainians and among the 25 hostages two to three Ukrainians. On the list of those killed were various prisoners from Łackistraße²⁾, including a few 19-20 year-old youths who were alleged to have belonged to banned organizations ...

Until recently, more serious crimes against Germans were punished not with death but with concentration camps. There is a suspicion - since there are not many Poles in Lwów prisons, but a majority of Ukrainian fighters - that this time they were to be spared ...

In the evening on the execution day an unknown man was shot dead on Dunin-Borkowscy Street. The next day another body was found near yesterday's event on Zadwórzańskastr. The reason and the perpetrator were unknown. Such cases happened quite often. The security situation in Lwów and eastern Malopolska is very bad. Murders and robberies are happening every day and their number is even increasing. Unfortunately, the second murder turned out to be the murder of a German, Teodor Matt of the Todt organisation. In response to this, the police erected gallows for the first time. On 17 December at 9 o'clock on the spot where the German was killed, i.e. Zadwórzańskastraße, two people were

hanged and five were shot. The signs on the gallows pointed to the paver Józefek, in whose cellars 30 Jews had been found, and to Berdolak Kazimierz, a participant in the famous assassination attempt on the German Eggers, director of the Rucker factory, carried out a few months ago. The names of the five people shot were not made public. Since Józefek and Berdolak were the first of the ten hostages to be chosen, the others are certainly also from this list. They were young people who looked like workers or farmers. The fact that seven people were publicly shot and not ten, as had been threatened earlier, can be explained by the fact that among the executed were three women who were to be killed in prison.

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Notes:

- 1) *In the report the Polish name for the city is used - German: Lemberg, Ukrainian: Lviv*
- 2) *In Lackistraße (ul. Łackiego) was the prison of the KdS (Security Police and SD)*

Source: ZNiO, rkps. 16599/II. Sprawozdania wydziałów i placówek Okręgowej Delegatury Rządu we Lwowie skierowane do Delegatury Rządu na Kraj w Warszawie z lat 1942-1944. K. 39.

Translation: Wiesława Jurasz (PL>DE), Klaus Hasbron-Blume (DE>EN)