



The Jews of Makó are Deported

ETERNAL ECHOES

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The Ghetto of Makó is liquidated

On June 16, 1944 the ghetto of Makó was emptied. The financial officials took away the last belongings of the Jews and women were examined by midwives in the Neolog synagogue.

The mayor charged the people 1 Pengő for the train-ride between Makó and Újszeged. From the Makó ghetto Jews were first taken to a temporary tent camp in Szeged, where they spent four days. On June 21 they were marched on to the ghetto in the brickworks in Szeged. Nearly 9 000 people were concentrated here from the ghettos of Csanád, Csongrád and Bács-Kiskun counties among inhuman conditions.

From the brickworks Jews were deported in three phases on transports leaving on June 25, 27 and 28. One train consisted of 45 cattle cars and 3 000 people were crowded on it.

The first train and part of the second one was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where the children and the sick and old were immediately killed.



Jewish stolen property.



Deportation of Hungarian Jews.



Jews in Hungary waiting for deportation.

The plan was to send the other two trains to Auschwitz-Birkenau as well, just like almost everywhere in rural Hungary. However, in Szeged something else happened. Part of the second transport and the whole third one was deported to Austria.

Deportation to Concentration and Labour Camps

The reason for why and how Hungarian Jews got to Austria – is still not known for sure. Besides Szeged there were some other towns (Szolnok, Baja, Debrecen, Békéscsaba) from where trains were sent to Strasshof, near Vienna with a total of about 10-15 thousand people. What is known for sure is that the Mayor of Vienna needed Jewish workforce and the SS officer Adolf Eichmann, who was coordinating the deportations from Budapest, got informed about that.

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View of Bergen-Belsen.



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Jewish children and elderly women on the way to the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Here at first, they were taken to Strasshof (near Vienna), then to Austrian labor camps, or to larger concentration camps of the Empire (for example Bergen-Belsen). Although they faced harsh conditions, there was still a chance to survive.

During the Holocaust, more than 1 200 Jewish residents of Makó were killed. The memorial plaque honouring them was engraved with the text: “Who loved each other in their lives, cannot be separated by death.”

© Dr. Kecskeméti Ármán Association Makó



A memorial plaque in Makó.

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