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MINEK1. Locationa. Administrative 1/

- (1) Minsk is the capital of Minsk Oblast and of Belorussian SSR.

2. History 2/

a. The city's role in World War II:

(1) According to records of the German Fourth Army of Jul 1941, the city was destroyed almost to the last house, except only a few concrete public buildings, most of which, however, were gutted by fire.

(2) According to the war diary of the German 12th Armored Division, the city was occupied by the Germans on 28 Jun 1941.

The following names of German city commanders could be ascertained:

Col. Trierenberg, 28 Jun 1941 to 1
Gebietskommissar and Regierungsrat Becker, Jul 1943 (tenure of office unknown)

Records of the Commander of the Security Police and the SD for White Ruthenia, headquarters in Minsk (Strauch, commander in Feb 1942), give evidence of the following atrocities committed under German occupation in Jul 1941:

In the area of Einsatzgruppe B (White Ruthenia) a total of 8,000 persons were liquidated in reprisal for acts of arson, plundering, and murder; these persons were largely from the ranks of the Jewish intelligentsia. A Jewish Council was formed and a ghetto was established. Jews were required to wear a yellow cloth strip on their sleeves as identification. An additional 200 persons were liquidated, i.e. Communist Party functionaries, agents, criminals, Asiatics, etc. Fifty-eight Jews were killed under suspicion of having contact with partisans, also twelve Jewish women were executed because they had been active as Communist Party agitators during the Polish campaign.

During the night of 21 to 22 Sep 43, Generalkommissar Gauleiter Kube was killed in Minsk by a bomb placed under his bed.

3. Population

a. Total number: 238,770 (1939) 1/

c. Ethnic composition of city's population as of 17 Dec 1926:

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Total population: 131,428

White Ruthenians	55,778
Jews	53,686
Russians	12,617
Poles	4,481
Ukrainians	1,465
Latvians	349
Germans	752
Lithuanians	547
Others (Tatars)	1,283

11. Miscellany

The following materials may be used to obtain locations requested in paragraphs 5 through 10:

a. A 1918 city map (with German data up to 1940 superimposed), published in "Militargeographische Angaben Weissrussland" by Map and Survey Division of the German Army General Staff (GMDS, document No R29/ID2.30);

b. "Fuhrer durch die Sowjet Union (Guide Through the Soviet Union), published in 1928 by the Neuer Deutscher Verlag, Berlin, et al (GMDS document)

Sources:

- 1/ Militargeographische Angaben Weissrussland, published by the German Army General Staff in 1941
- 2/ Files of German Army field units, and activity reports of the Sicherheitspolizei und SD;
- 3/ Bevölkerungstatistik Weissrutheniens, by Publikationsstelle Berlin-Dahlem, 1942

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