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Left Top and Bottom: “It is said that in Lodz, Rumkowski issue his own money, called “Chaimki”. He is known as “Chaim the Terrible” (3).

“Rumkowski petitioned the Nazi authorities requesting permission for his work plan. He wanted the Nazis to deliver raw materials, have the Jews make the final products, then have the Nazis pay the workers in money and it food. . . Rumkowski believed that if the ghetto became an extremely useful workforce, then the Jews would be needed by the Nazis and thus, the Nazis would make sure that the ghetto received food” (4).

Top: Rumkowski did not do that. It was not until his brother was being deported that he left the ghetto. Upon arriving at Auschwitz, he was recognized and killed by a fellow Jew (2).

Right: “I must tell you a secret: they requested 24,000 victims, 3000 a day for eight days. I succeeded in reducing the number to 20,000, but only on the condition that these be children under the age of 10. Children 10 and older are safe! Since the children and the aged together equals only some 13,000 souls, the gap will have to be filled with the sick.

I can barely speak. I am exhausted; I only want to tell you what I am asking of you: Help me carry out this action! I am trembling. I am afraid that others. God forbid, will do it themselves. A broken Jew stands before you. Do not envy me. This is the most difficult of all orders I have ever had to carry out at any time. I reach out to you with my broken, trembling hands and beg: Give into my hands the victims! So that we can avoid having further victims, and a population of 100,000 Jews can be preserved! So, they promised me: If we deliver our victims by ourselves, there will be peace!!” (1).

Above: Rumkowski presiding over a meeting in the ghetto. Unlike other ghettos, all aspects of daily life were ruled directly by the ghetto administration (Judenrat) and its head, Mordechai Chaim Rumkowski. (1).

Judenrat Chaim Rumkowski
Lodz, Poland: 1939-1945

“Fathers and mothers: Give Me Your Children” (4)

“Futility . . .

They are demanding that I kill the children of my people with my own hands. There is nothing for me to do but die” (2) - Adam Czerniakow
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