

## Nomination form International Memory of the World Register

### Checklist

Nominees may find the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to the International Memory of the World Secretariat. The information provided in italics on the form is there for guidance only and should be deleted once the sections have been completed.

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary completed (section 1)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declaration of Authority signed and dated (section 2)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified, and <b>all</b> Declarations of Authority obtained  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History/provenance completed (section 3.4)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bibliography completed (section 3.5)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of owner completed (section 4.1)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of custodian – if different from owner – completed (section 4.2)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of legal status completed (section 4.3)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented to support fulfilment of the criteria? (section 5)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Additional information provided (section 6)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of consultation with stakeholders completed (section 7)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Assessment of risk completed (section 8)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan attach details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 9) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other information provided – if applicable (section 10)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Suitable reproduction quality photographs identified to illustrate the documentary heritage. (300dpi, jpg format, full-colour preferred).   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Copyright permissions forms signed and attached. Agreement to propose item(s) for inclusion on the World Digital Library if inscribed   |

## Nomination form International Memory of the World Register

Report Jürgen Stroopa *Es gibt keinen jüdischen Wohnbezirk – in Warschau mehr! (There is no more Jewish district in Warsaw!)*

*title of item being proposed*

ID Code [2016-123]

### 1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

Jürgen Stroop's Report is an exceptional document illustrating the crime of the Holocaust - extermination of Jewish population during World War II. The Report is an official recording of the German suppression of the Warsaw ghetto uprising and liquidation in the spring of 1943 of that largest fenced, closed residential area for Jews in occupied Europe. The uprising was a sign of Jewish people's determination, which – despite the absence of any hope for success, raised arms against their oppressors, fighting for maintaining their dignity. The Holocaust in the Report is presented from the point of view of the oppressor, not a victim, which makes the document – despite the intention of the author – does not glorify the German “strength” and “courage” but becomes the indictment and evidence of the crimes committed against the Jewish population; instead of praising the merits of the soldiers ruthlessly carrying out the orders, it is a tribute to the innocent victims. The document pertains to a specific population, at a particular time in a particular place, however, it has a universal character – as a warning – that does not allow to forget the cruelty and brutality, that commemorates the heroic struggle of people fighting for their dignity and humanity, which has been going on forever in all parts of the world. The photographic part of the Report contains especially suggestive images which have become a solid part of universal memory of the Holocaust.



*Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated and the reasons for proposing it.*

*This is the “shop window” of your nomination and is best written **last!** It should contain all the essential points you want to make, so that anyone reading it can understand your case even if they do not read the rest of your nomination.*

### 2.0 Nominator

#### 2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation

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## 2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Nominating party is an institution having ownership rights and archive custody over the album.

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## 2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

Wojciech Sawicki – Deputy Director of the Bureau of Provision and Archivization of Documents of the Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation in Warsaw

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## 2.4 Contact details

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
Bureau of Provision and Archivization of Documents Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation	ul. Woloska 7 02-675 Warsaw, Poland

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<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i>	<i>Email</i>
(22) 581 89 04		<a href="mailto:archives@ipn.gov.pl">archives@ipn.gov.pl</a>

## 3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

### 3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

Jürgen Stroop Report: *Es gibt keinen jüdischen Wohnbezirk – in Warschau mehr!* (There is no more Jewish district in Warsaw!)

The Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation in Warsaw is the owner of the album. It is stored in the archives of the Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation in Warsaw.

The Report stored in the archives of the Institute of National Remembrance consists of three parts: introduction, daily reports from the pacification operations and a collection of photographs. The album comprises 126 pages of the dimensions: 22 cm x 30 cm, threaded through with a leather ribbon. It is leather bound. The introduction is preceded by a list of soldiers who were killed or injured during the operation in the ghetto and a list of military units taking part in the suppression of the uprising. This part of the album comprises 18 pages completed with the list of date: Warsaw, 16 May 1943, along with a hand-written signature of Jürgen Stroop. Then, the Report contains 31 daily reports (32 pages altogether) from the period from 20 April to 16 May 1943. Each of the pages containing the reports is confirmed for its authenticity with the signature of SS-Sturmbahnführer Max Jesuiter – Stroop's chief of Staff. The photographic part consists of the title page and 49 pages containing 53 photographs in most cases provided with handwritten captions in German.

*In this part of the form you must describe the document or collection in sufficient detail to make clear precisely what you are nominating. Any collection must be finite (with beginning and end dates) and closed.*

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### 3.4 History/provenance

The Strop Report was created at the initiative of a senior SS and police commander in the General Government (part of the Polish territories occupied by the Third Reich) SS-Obergruppenführer Friedrich Wilhelm Krüger and was the realization of SS Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler's request. It is not sure whether or not Jürgen Strop wrote the first, text part of the Report himself. During the investigation he claimed that it was the Governor of Warsaw – Ludwig Fischer, who wrote the Report. Certainly the daily reports from the operations taking place in the ghetto have been created by the Strop's chief of staff, SS-Sturmbannführer Max Jesuiter; 53 photographs provided in the Report were probably taken by the photographers of the Propaganda Kompanie No. 689, and an unspecified number of them – by Franz Konrad – head of Werterfassung office („property recovery office”) in the Warsaw ghetto.

After the war, Strop's Report was used as evidence in at least three war crimes trials, i.a. in Nuremberg before the International Military Tribunal. On 10 June 1948 Fred Niebergal, head of the Office of Chief of Counsel for War Crimes provided the album (then: evidence no USA 275, document no. 1061-PS) to Bernard Acht, head of Polish Military Mission in Nuremberg, to be used in historical archives. In Poland the Report was also used as evidence in 1951 in the trial against Strop held before the District Court in Warsaw. After the trial, the District Court in Warsaw transferred the Report to the archives of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, where it was stored until 1952, when it was transmitted to the Main Commission for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Poland. In 1998 the album was taken over by the newly-created Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation in Warsaw. The second copy of the Report remains the property of the American authorities. Currently it is stored in the National Archives and Records Administration (see point 5.1).

*Describe what you know of the history of the collection or document. Your knowledge may not be complete, but give the best description you can.*

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## 4.0 Legal information

### 4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
The Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation President dr Łukasz Kamiński	ul. Wołoska 7 02-675 Warsaw Poland

<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i>	<i>Email</i>
tel.: (+48 22) 5818522	(+48 22) 5818524	<a href="http://www.ipn.gov.pl">www.ipn.gov.pl</a>

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### 4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
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<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i>	<i>Email</i>
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### 4.3 Legal status

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Album is the property of the Republic of Poland, represented by the Institute of National Remembrance - Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation.

*Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage*

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#### 4.4 Accessibility

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*Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed:*

Due to the historical value of the Report, in 2009 the Institute of National Remembrance in cooperation with the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw published the Report to be accessible for the general public. For the purposes of that publication the original document was digitised (with Polish forward and translation); in the digital version it is available under the internet address: [http://pamiec.pl/ftp/ilustracje/Raport\\_STROOPA.pdf](http://pamiec.pl/ftp/ilustracje/Raport_STROOPA.pdf)

*All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:*

The issue of providing access to the documents by the Institute of National Remembrance is regulated by chapter four of the *Act of 18 December 1998 on the Institute of National Remembrance - Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation*. Pursuant to the provisions of the Act, the documents archived by the Institute of National Remembrance may be accessed by public authorities and other institutions, organisations and persons for the execution of statutory tasks, conducting research or publication of press releases, to private persons who file an appropriate request for obtaining access to the files.

*Encouraging accessibility is a basic objective of MoW. Accordingly, digitization for access purposes is encouraged and you should comment on whether this has been done or is planned. You should also note if there are legal or cultural factors that restrict access.*

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#### 4.5 Copyright status

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*Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection*

Jürgen Stroop Report is not covered by any copyright. It is available for all under following address: [http://pamiec.pl/ftp/ilustracje/Raport\\_STROOPA.pdf](http://pamiec.pl/ftp/ilustracje/Raport_STROOPA.pdf) with Polish translation.

*Where copyright status is known, it should be stated. However, the copyright status of a document or collection has **no bearing** on its significance and is not taken into account in determining whether it meets the criteria for inscription.*

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## 5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

### 5.1 Authenticity.

The Stroop Report archived in the collection of the Institute of National Remembrance is without a doubt an original and authentic document. The circumstances of the elaboration of the Report were described by Stroop himself, e.g. during the investigation that took place on 25 and 7–29 September 1948 before judge Józef Skorzyński from the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland. The Report was also mentioned by Karl Kaleske, Stroop's aide-de-camp, questioned in June 1946 in Wiesbaden by American authorities. Moreover, an important factor confirming the authenticity of the album is the fact that it was used as evidence in a number of trials: in 1946 in Nuremberg before the International Military Tribunal against main

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war crimes, in 1947 also in Nuremberg, during the trial before the American Military Tribunal against the heads of SS Main Economic and Administrative Office (trial no. 4) and in 1951 (18–20, 23 July) before the District Court in Warsaw against Stroop. Stroop himself testified that there were three copies of the Report: one for Reichsführer SS Heinrich Himmler, second for a senior SS officer in chief and Police in the General Government of SS-Obergruppenführer Friedrich Wilhelm Krüger, and the third for Stroop himself. Moreover, there was also a concept filed in the SS and Police office in Warsaw by the Stroop's chief of staff, SS-Sturmbannführer Max Jesuiter. Up until today, there are certainly two copies: one stored in the archives of the Institute of National Remembrance, addressed to Heinrich Himmler, and the second in the collection of the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington (NARA). The fate of the other copies remains unknown since the World War II.

*Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Have identity and provenance been reliably established?*

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## 5.2 World significance

The Stroop Report remains a very important document pertaining to the Shoah - especially important for maintaining the memory of the Holocaust crimes. The Report documents the ghetto uprising and its final liquidation in 1943 from the point of view of Nazi perpetrators. Despite the fact that the document pertains to concrete events, which have taken place in a specific place at a specific time, it remains a universal description of the Third Reich policies against Jews; it is also a symbol of hundreds of other similar campaigns conducted all over the world during war time. The extermination of Jews in the Warsaw ghetto reflects the fate of the Jewish people during World War II not only in Poland, but also in all countries occupied or dominated by the Third Reich with its racist ideology. At the same time it remains one of many examples of the power of man and a specific confirmation of a human incredible will to struggle, sometimes at any price, to preserve dignity. Military uprising of the Jewish population of Warsaw was the first of the uprisings that broke out in the ghettos in the occupied Europe. It should also be pointed out that the pre-war Warsaw housed the second largest population of Jews in the world; 380 thousand Jews living here made it a special place for the Jewish culture and identity.

For those reasons the document cannot be perceived only as a clerical document created for specific propaganda – to praise the “brave” German soldier. That is the most visible layer, but underneath there are many more very important documentary values. It is without any doubt a unique source: a testimony of its time – time of the fall of humanitarian values and triumph of criminal totalitarian regimes. The Report touches also upon other important universal problems – the ghetto uprising as the fight of the enslaved and of the doomed to preserve their dignity. Without any hope for being saved, the people take on a desperate attempt, which cannot end with a success. It is a statement of the refusal to accept being treated as sub-humans deprived of all rights. Photographs gathered in the Report present men, women and often children, ragged and dirty, who despite being led to death, maintain their dignity. This image constitutes a great contrast with the image of the Nazis - clothed in clean uniforms, well armoured and strong, but devoid of any human values, deprived of humanity.

It is a document shedding light not only on the victims, but on the perpetrators as well: their criminal activities and motivation. The initiative for the creation of the document came probably from the senior SS and Police officer in General Government SS-Obergruppenführer Friedrich Wilhelm Krüger, but at the open request of SS Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler. The Stroop's Report, in its textual layer is a typical clerical document, which is not very much different from other German reports regarding extermination of the Jewish population. The Extermination is described using an emotionless Nazi newspeak, generally treating these activities as a purely technical undertaking, which may be presented only in informative and statistical terms. But an in-depth analysis of the Report, in particular in connotation with the photographs illustrating the actual results of the operations, shows mechanisms and consequences of these actions not only

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for Stroop, but also – on his example – other criminals on his kind and the whole Third Reich modus operandi, involved in the extermination. The Report shows an attitude towards Jews as the main ideological enemy and a threat for the Reich. Contemptuous attitude toward the Jewish population transpiring from the Report is particularly evident in comparison with extreme concern for own soldiers and police officers involved in the pacification and the pride of their merciless proceedings against their victims.

*Is the heritage unique and irreplaceable? Would its disappearance constitute and harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created great impact over time and/ or within a particular cultural area of the world? Has it had great influence (positive or negative) on the course of history?*

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### 5.3 Comparative criteria:

*Does the heritage meet any of the following tests? (It must meet at least one of them.)*

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#### 1 Time

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The Report is a recording of a unique event, symbolic for the World War II period and an incredibly strong testimony of the Holocaust. It illustrates the tragic effects of the introduction of racist theories into state policies, in particular in a totalitarian state.

The idea is described in more detail under point 5.2.

*Is the document evocative of its time (which may have been a time of crisis, or significant social or cultural change? Does it represent a new discovery? Or is it the “first of its kind”?*

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#### 2 Place

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This unique document pertains directly to a specific place and time – the Warsaw ghetto in 1943. As mentioned before, it was the largest ghetto created by the Nazis in the occupied Europe. As many as 460 thousand people lived on an area of 4 km<sup>2</sup>, both the pre-war Warsaw’s inhabitants and those moved by force from several other places. As already mentioned before the Second World War Warsaw was a European and global centre of Jewish thought and culture and was particularly important for Jewish culture in the pre-war times. After the events described in the Stroop Report, the Warsaw ghetto ceased to exist. The population living in that area, apart from a very few exceptions, was murdered, and the distinctive urban architecture – destroyed without a trace.

*Does the document contain crucial information about a locality important in world history and culture? For example, was the location itself an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the document? Does it describe physical environments, cities or institutions that have since vanished?*

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#### 3 People

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Despite the fact that the document describes a single event (liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto), it remains a major part of the Holocaust – the extermination of Jews during World War II. Liquidation of the largest European ghetto constituted a major loss for the Jewish nation. The Experience of Holocaust has an enormous impact on the history of not only Jewish people living in the Warsaw ghetto, but also of the population of Europe and of the world. This should be reminded in discussion of this comparative criteria that the Stroop Report despite of intention of its creators has a particular value as a testimony to people’s heroic struggle for their dignity.

*Does the cultural context of the document’s creation reflect significant aspects of human behaviour, or of social, industrial, artistic or political*

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*development? Or does it capture the essence of great movements, transitions, advances or regression? Does it illustrate the lives of prominent individuals in the above fields?*

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#### **4 Subject and theme**

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The Report is a clerical document describing the operations of soldiers and officers of the Third Reich against the Jewish population. Here we have the relationship between the executioner and the victim. It presents an important part of the global history – Holocaust, not through the eyes of the victims, but through the eyes of the perpetrators, which led to the liquidation of the largest ghetto of the occupied Europe.

Most photographs in the album have been provided with handwritten captions. Some of them in a strangest of ways seem odd as compared to what is seen in the picture. It is the case for example for the image presented at the beginning. The original caption reads: “Removed from bunkers by force”, while the photo presents a group of people, mainly women and children leaving a gate of a housing estate. They are clothed well and carry luggage. The presence of armed SS-officers indicates that they were just forced to leave their homes, but they rather did not hide in bunkers. There are more examples of such “stretched” captions. They seem to confirm the propagandist nature of the Report, which was supposed to present Stroop's people as heroic fighters who have completed a very difficult and dangerous task and hide the fact that they had a problem with handling a much weaker opponent for quite a long time.

*Does the subject matter of the document represent particular historical or intellectual developments in the natural, social and human sciences? Or in politics, ideology, sport or the arts?*

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#### **5 Form and style**

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*Does the document have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value? Or is it a typical exemplar of a type of presentation, custom or medium? Is it an example of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format?*

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#### **6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:**

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Jürgen Stroop's Report *There is no more Jewish district in Warsaw!* is strongly visible in the awareness of all Holocaust researchers – an event which is still very much alive in collective memory, in Warsaw, in Poland, Europe and all over the world. Due to the nature of the Report - boastful Nazi report of the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto – it remains a document which is not to be underestimated as a historical source. It is an appalling source, requiring good reading and interpretation skills and remaining an example of a “bad” document constituting a difficult heritage, which – however – should not be forgotten.

*Application of this criterion must reflect living significance – does documentary heritage have an emotional hold on people who are alive today? Is it venerated as holy or for its mystical qualities, or revered for its association with significant people and events? (Once those who have revered the documentary heritage for its social/ spiritual/ community significance no longer do so, or are no longer living, it loses this specific significance and may eventually acquire historical significance.)*

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### **6.0 Contextual information**

#### **6.1 Rarity**

The copy stored in the Institute of National Remembrance was intended for Heinrich Himmler, which makes it exceptionally unique. It was also used in court cases, e.g. in Nuremberg trials. In the Warsaw court the circumstances of the creation of the Report were reported by Stroop himself (see 5.1).

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## 6.2 Integrity

The document integrity has never been questioned.

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