

## 3.2. Watching Jewish Apartments

*The belongings left behind by deported Jews were considered Reich property. Confiscations at this stage were in the province of the Finance Ministry, which was anxious to make sure that the contents of the apartments were not disturbed at the last moment by persons having some inkling of impending deportations. The following letter is a request for cooperation by the Finance Office in Aachen to the Police president in the city. The police consisted of two branches: security police (state police—i.e., “Gestapo”—and criminal police) and order police (protective police in cities and gendarmerie in rural areas). The requested patrols involved the protective police.*

*Source: Alexandria document EAP VIII-173-b-16-14/31, Microfilm T 175, Roll 409 in Documents of Destruction: Germany and Jewry 1933-1945, Edited with commentary by Raul Hilberg (Quadrangle Books, 1971), pp.117-19 Used with permission.*

Finance Office, Aachen—City  
 To Police President—or deputy—in Aachen  
 July 15, 1942

Subject: Management and utilization of property falling to the Reich; here: securing property transfer

I am told by the Secret State Police—State Police Office Aachen—that the last remaining Jews who may be considered for removal under existing regulations will probably be moved on July 25, 1942 to Theresienstadt. The management and utilization of the property of these Jews will be my responsibility.

To guard the property in the interest of the Reich, everything must be done to avoid the possibility that unauthorized third persons lay their hands on movable belongings of the Jews before I can take them over. I request, therefore, that all appropriate steps be taken to guard the property of the Jews until the moment they are removed. Among other things it may be useful to have police officers watch the Jewish apartments several days in advance. The following houses are involved:

Alexander Street 95  
 Emmich Street 39  
 Eupener Street 249  
 Förster Street 28

Horst-Wessel Street 87  
 König Street 22  
 Promenaden Street 21  
 Frankenberger Street 20

Commando of Protective Police, Aachen  
To Precincts 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6  
July 21, 1942

Confidential: [Enclosure of copies of above]

The above-mentioned Jewish apartments are to be watched with special care by the patrol force. The precinct leaders have to organize their patrols in such manner that these houses are under constant observation. The completed patrols are to be entered in the watch and patrol books. Controls are to be undertaken by precincts.