

POGROMS AND OTHER ATROCITIES BY BASSAM IMAM

CHAPTER ONE

Babi Yar is a small ravine on the outskirts of Kiev, the Ukrainian capital. It is also the site of massacres conducted by German forces during their violent military operations against the Soviet Union. The first and best chronicled massacre occurred on 29-30 September 1941, killing nearly 34,000 Jews. The commitment to slaughter all the Jews in Kyiv was made by the military governor General-Major Kurt Eberhard, police commander for Army Group South. The operation was carried out by the Wermacht, the SS (Schutzstaffel - a very powerful Nazi paramilitary organization headed by Heinrich Himmler), Ukrainian auxiliary police; the Einsatzgruppen, headed by Reinhard Heydrich, were mobile killing units whose purpose was to kill political enemies, Polish government officials, gypsies, Jews, and any other undesirables. The Einsatzgruppen (Einsatz) consisted of 4 Groups (A,B,C,D); group C was involved in the Babi Yar massacre. The Einsatz performed -their killing duties without mercy or curtailment.

The German Army did not wait long to begin their mass slaughter. Only 10 days after taking Kiev, roughly 30 thousand Jews, consisting of small groups, were taken to the Babi Yar ravine. The men, women, and children were forced to toss all of their belongings. The first group was gunned down without mercy.



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The second group was forced to lie down on the first, many were shot in the neck by a marksman, repeating the process until there was no one else to shoot. The corpses were covered with dirt and rocks. This mass murder was the largest of its kind, to date, under the umbrella of the Nazi regime and its collaborators throughout its campaign against the Soviet Union. The Odessa Massacre of October 1941, would take the lives of 40,000 Jews.

Between 1941 and 1943, Babi Yar would be the site of additional massacres, taking the lives of thousands of Soviet officials, and Russian POWs. When the tide of Operation Barbarosa turned, the retreating German armies attempted to conceal their crimes against humanity by exhuming the bodies and burning them in bonfires. As is the case regarding the Jewish Holocaust, there were too many victims, independent witnesses, physical evidence, and thorough investigations that resurrected the truth. To put it simply, the Nazis committed too many war crimes in too many places; impossible to hide all atrocities. The Soviets claim that a total of 100,000 people from all the targetted groups were killed in Babi Yar.

The Jewish victims had no choice or viable options. As this stern, direct order, written in Russian and German indicates:

“Kikes {a highly insulting, racist term} of the city of Kiev and vicinity! On Monday, September 29, you are to appear by 7:00 A.M. with your possessions, money, documents, valuables and warm clothing at Dorogozhitshaya Street, next to the Jewish cemetery. Failure to appear is punishable by death.” (Jewish Virtual Library; The Einsatzgruppen: Babi Yar).

Local anti-Semitism often made the Nazi policy towards the Jews easier:

"The bitter hostility of the Ukrainian population against the Jews is extremely great, because it is thought that they were responsible for the explosions in Kiev. They are also seen as NKVD informers and agents, who unleashed the terror against the Ukrainian people. All Jews were arrested in retaliation for the arson in Kiev, and altogether 33,771 Jews were executed on September 29th and 30th. Gold, valuables and clothing were collected and put at the disposal of the National-Socialist Welfare Association (NSV), for the equipment of the Volksdeutsche, and part given to the appointed city administration for distribution to the needy population". (Yitshak Arad, Yisrael Gutman, Abraham Margaliot, eds., Documents on the Holocaust, Jerusalem, 1981, p. 416).

The Black Death Pogroms (also known as the Pestilence, the Great Plague, or the Plague) were a series of pogroms against Jewish communities during the plague in Europe, occurring from 1348 to 1351. Naturally, someone had to be blamed. The Jews had long been the punching bag of Europe, they were a weak and vulnerable target, and within reach. Although the official church policy was to safeguard the safety of Jews, the hatred and loathing of the masses was too widespread to curtail.

The plague was a terrifying worldwide pandemic that took the

lives of over 100 million people. It devastated Europe, killing one-third to one half of Europe's population (20 to 30 million).

The plague's onset in Europe is believed to have occurred in October 1347. A dozen ships from the Black Sea docked at the Messina Port in Sicily. The plague is believed to have originated in Asia 2,000 years ago. Europeans were ill-equipped to deal with this devastating enemy. Many of its victims were healthy in the morning, and then sickly or dead at night. The plague is bacteria-based (*Bacterium Yersinia Pestis*), emanating from fleas. The fleas commonly infected humans and rodents, and sometimes other animals, through bites.

Symptoms include swollen lymph nodes, vomiting, puss-filled boils and tumours, rotting black skin, swellings on the groin or under the armpits often attaining the size of a golf ball and less commonly that of an apple; pus drained out of the swellings. Other unpleasant symptoms include vomiting, fever and chills, horrible pain in different parts of the body, lung and blood problems, and finally death. The plague did not discriminate against any person; rich and poor alike could be infected; even Pope Clement VI (Born Pierre Roger; 1291 - December 6, 1352), feared for his own life.

As the plague quickly spread throughout Europe, and with a wholesale lack of scientific and medical knowledge available, Jews became the number one target for scapegoating. They were accused of poisoning drinking wells. It is true that in some Jewish communities the effects of the plague were noticeably less or non-existent. But this was likely due to community isolation (ghettos) and the sanitary habits of Jews concerning the washing of one's hand before eating bread, and cleansing the corpse's body before burial. This made no difference those who were intent on punishing the Jews. Jews were tortured into confessing that they did in fact poison drinking wells. This led to large-scale murders and brutality against Jews; in addition much of their properties were taken as booty. Pope Clement VI spoke out in defence of the Jews:

"He forbade violence against Jews, issuing two papal bulls for this purpose. He said that those who blamed the plague on the Jews were 'seduced by that liar, the Devil'. He urged the clergy to protect the Jews." (June 2012; 1352: The Pope who Protected Jews during the Black Death; history.info).

Massacres occurred in Toulon Province, the Jewish quarter was decimated, dozens of Jews were murdered in their homes. Thereafter, another massacre occurred in Barcelona, Spain. Massacres of Jews began to spread in earnest across Europe, in particular but not limited to Germany, France, and Switzerland. Erfurt, Germany's Jews were massacred on March 21, 1349. Estimates of dead vary considerably, from over 100 to 1000. In a 10-week period in 1350, 16,000 people in Erfurt died of the plague.

Even in places where no plague-related deaths had yet occurred, Jews were punished. On February 14, 1349, in Strasbourg, a city located at the border between France and Germany (today in France), a horrible catastrophe occurred; it was a precursor of things to come, centuries later. Hundreds of Jews (some historians estimate up to 2,000) were assembled and then corralled to a cemetery, where a wooden stand had been built. They victims were burned to death, those who were not burned were expelled from the area. This atrocity is known as the 'Valentine's Day' Strasbourg Massacre.

Mainz, Germany had a population of 3,000 Jews; all were murdered. In 1350, the Jewish communities of Antwerp and Brussels, Belgium were wiped out. Massacres also occurred in Aragon, Spain, and in Flanders. Basel's Priests tried to protect the Jewish residents, to no avail; 600 Jews, including the local Rabbi, were burned at the stake. In all, hundreds of Jewish communities were obliterated; what usually followed the murders was the acquisition and distribution of former Jewish properties. In addition, all debts to Jews were annulled. The plague massacres of Jews were a continuing of violent anti-Semitism that had been in existence and would last for centuries more.

"The European Jewry were no strangers to persecution preceding the Black Death. The Black Death of 1348 led to a more widespread persecution as the European Jewry became the scapegoats for the cause of the plague," writes historian Catherine M Porter in her article, 'The Black Death and the persecution of the Jews'. (By Adriha Roychowdhury, New Delhi, Updated May 13, 2020; Black Death: How Jews were blamed for the plague and massacred; indianexpress.com).

The plague massacres and tortures had a long-term effect on Jewish populations in Europe. Large populations of Jews migrated from Western Europe to the east, in particular, Poland. During this period Poland had a more tolerant attitude towards Jews. Later generations of Jews would return to Western Europe. It would take about 400 years for Western Europe to be a hub for Jews again.

Bogdanovka was a concentration camp housing Jews in the Transnistria Governate by the Romanian authorities during the Second World War. Three concentration camps were used near the villages of Bogdanovka, including Domanovka, and Acmechetca. Note that the term Transnistria was used during the Second World War that refers to a part of Ukraine conquered by German and Romanian armed forces in the summer of 1941. There were an estimated 300,000 Jews in the area before the war.

Bogdanovka contained 54,000 inmates by the end of 1941. During this period there were several flare-ups of typhus (an infectious disease caused by bacteria contracted by humans through fleas, lice, and chigger bits) occurred. Fleas and lice were prevalent in concentration camps, given the horrible sanitation and

densely packed nature of housing. Naturally, the inmates were blamed and suffered the consequences.

A decision was made by the German adviser to the Romanian administration of the district and the Romanian District Commissioner to kill all the inmates. The brutality began on December 21, carried out by Romanian soldiers and gendarmes, Ukrainian police and civilians from Golta, and local ethnic Germans under the commander of the Ukrainian regular police, Kazachievici.

Thousands of physically challenged and ailing inmates were placed into 2 locked stables, then were doused with kerosene and were set on fire, burning alive the victims therein. Other inmates were forced into a ravine in a nearby forest; they were shot in the neck, a common method of killing during this period.

Other Jewish inmates were forced to dig pits with their bare hands, in the freezing cold, then putting corpses into the pits. Thousands of Jews died of exposure. A brief respite occurred for Christmas, but the murders continued on December 28. By the end of the year, the death toll had reached 40,000.

The memory of the tragedy of Bogdanovka has been somewhat silenced in Belarus, a former Soviet republic located between Poland and Russia, an area where 800,000 Jews perished during the Second World War. Worse yet, in 2007, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko compared Jews to pigs.

"In school textbooks, the history of the Holocaust is told in several paragraphs ... In encyclopedias and academic literature, the history of the Jews is still suppressed.," says Belarusian Jewish community leader Yakov Basin. (By Ron Vossler, Fold3.com: Bogdanoka - Stories).

But there was some justice. In early 1945, Col. Modest Iso-pescu, the district commissioner, Vasile Manescu, the military government official in charge of the affected district, and the camp commandants, were put on trial. Initially, the men responsible for the war crimes were sentenced to death, later, their sentences were commuted to life in prison. The other defendants received lengthy sentences.

Most people still believe that the Jewish Holocaust was the large-scale killing of people in extermination camps and that the numbers of people killed elsewhere or in a different manner is minimal. In fact, the brutality of the final solution reached into many homes, ghettos, the streets of towns and cities, synagogues, cemeteries, forests, ravines, in line-ups, and death marches; victims could be shot while standing, kneeling, lying down, or running away. Even babies weren't spared. Wherever and however the Nazi killing machine could do its dirty work, it did, and overwhelmingly with coldness and brutality.

It was on January 20, 1941, at a conference in Wannsee, a suburb of Berlin, that the master plan was formulated for the complete extermination of European Jewry, but not before much

forced Jewish labour was acquired. I sometimes wonder what Adolf Hitler would have done to the Jews of the Middle East and Ethiopia if he had entered and completely conquered those lands, unhindered.

Following the implementation of Operation Barbarosa (the attack-invasion on the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941), and the retreat of Soviet forces from Buczacz, the Jews of the area faced an onslaught of problems. Even before the arrival of German forces into the town, Ukrainian vigilantes murdered Jews who were active participants of the Soviet administration.

Members of the Ukrainian police attacked Jews as part of a mass riot, looted property, and killed. The riot was lead by a Ukrainian school teacher. According to the rioters' beliefs, the Jews were rebuked for being protagonists of communism and as supporters of Soviet Russia in the persecution suffered by Ukrainians. What's more shocking is that many of the perpetrators and victims were neighbours and friends prior to the sudden turnaround. In the 1860s the Jews were granted citizenship under the Austro-Hungarian constitution, but by the beginning of the First World War trouble and nationalism began to tear off the normal ties among the ethnic groups.

There was much more violence to come, following the arrival of German troops. The Einsatz called up local anti Semites to aid in the round-ups, to brutalize and murder the Jews of Buczacz and nearby communities.

"The Einsatz unit would enter a village or town and order the prominent Jewish citizens to call together all Jews for the purpose of "resettlement." They were requested to hand over their valuables and shortly before execution to surrender their outer clothing. They were transported to the place of execution, usually an anti-tank ditch, in trucks - always only as many as could be executed immediately. In this way it was attempted to keep the span of time from the moment in which the victims knew what was about to happen to them until the time of their actual execution as short as possible." (By Martin Rudner, 1993; THE HOLOCAUST IN BUCZACZ).

"The normalization of murder, the removal of Jews as part of a day's work, as entertainment, as background noise to drinking bouts or amorous relationships, along with puzzlement at the Jews' conduct, mixed with anger at making it so easy to kill them {in the overall picture of Operation Barbarosa, many of the other victims included Russians, Poles, other Slavs, Roma and Sinti; so-called sub-human inferiors} - they were part and parcel of the German experience of genocide, rarely reflected in post-war ruminations, let-alone historiography. (By Jonathan Steinbers, January 20, 2018; Massacre of the Innocents).

Jews were living in Ejszyszki from the mid-18th century. By the mid-1920s there were approximately 2,800 Jews residing in the town, comprising over two-thirds of the residents. Jews were successful in agricultural dealings, small business, and trade. A powerful Zionist movement, along with Jewish culture, and educa-

tional activities were present therein. This success lasted until 1939.

On September 17, 1939, owing to the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact (in reality, it was the Hitler-Stalin Pact, 2 tyrants who dictated all major agreements in this arena), Enszyzski was incorporated into Lithuania. In June of the following year, Lithuania was incorporated into the Soviet Union. Hence, private property, much of it owned by Jews, was nationalized. Furthermore, Jewish political, educational, and cultural activities were outlawed.

Things took a drastic turn for the worse, on June 23, 1941, with the German occupation of Ejszyszki. Hundreds of Jewish men were sent to forced labour (brutalized slavery), a place to be shamed, disgraced, and tortured.

On September 24, 1941, the remaining Jews of Ejszyszki, in addition to Jews from Olkieniki, Lejpuny, Desznia, and Salo were shot in the Jewish cemetery of Ejszyszki. The Red Army liberated Ejszyszki on July 13, 1944.

Fastov, a city in the Ukraine, was founded in the late 14th Century. In 1919, the Jewish community suffered immensely from several pogroms. The most savage of which were the workings of the Deniken Volunteer Army, more than 1,000 Jews were murdered. The first Deniken pogrom took place on August 25, 1919. The savage riots started as soon as Deniken's forces entered the city. Some of the volunteers were Cossacks. These men forcefully entered Jewish homes under the catchphrase:

"Kike, get us money or we are going to hang you!" (Kniga pogromov. Sbornik documentov (Book of pogroms. Pogroms in Ukraine, Belorussia and European part of Russia during the civil war of 1918-1922. Collection of documents); pp. 241-255 (in Russian). Moscow, 2007).

For several days hoodlums attacked and robbed many Jews, killing and sexually assaulting many. Some individuals and families invited officers or commanders to live in their homes, and gave them up to 10,000 rubles per night, a large sum for the day. These homes were off limits to Cossacks. The violence ended when Deniken's volunteers left the city, retreating from the Bolsheviks.

Deniken's Volunteer Army retook Fastov, entering the city on September 8, 1919. Another, more brutal pogrom began the following day. For nearly a week, hoodlums robbed and brutally slaughtered Jewish residents. When all was done, the attackers had acquired a large sum of money. Many families were burned alive in their own homes. Many who sought protection in synagogues were gunned down, but the attackers preferred killing babies and children with bayonets or sabres.

Girls as young as 8, and adults, were gang-raped in front of terrified, helpless family members. Attempted escape from the area was punishable by execution in nearby ravines. Other esca-

pees made it to the train, posing as Russians. Those who were caught were removed from the train and shot. The arrival of the military authorities put an end to the pogrom.

The final result was catastrophic. The Jewish quarter of Fastov was reduced to a state of utter decay. Fastov market was stripped of goods and burned down, dead men, women, and children were scattered throughout the streets. In the opinion of Emma Goldman, as many as 4,000 people died in the pogrom. Many others were maimed, wounded, and mentally traumatized.

Emma Goldman (June 27, 1869 - May 14, 1940), a native Lithuanian-born in Kovno, Russian Governate, Russian Empire, was a renowned anarchist, political activist and writer. She immigrated to the United States in 1885, and was deported back to the Soviet Union in 1919. She wrote, spoke, and travelled for the remainder of her life.

Goldman saw the devastation of Fastov during a trip while touring Russia from 1919 to 1921.

"That Town [Fastov], once prosperous, was now impoverished and reduced to less than one third of its former population. Almost all activity was at a stand-still. We found the market place, in the centre of the town, a most insignificant affair, consisting of a few stalls having small supplies of white flour, sugar, and butter. There were more women about than men and I was especially struck by the strange expression in their eyes. They did not look you full in the face; they stared past you with a dumb, hunted animal expression..." (Goldman, Emma. *My disillusionment in Russia* { initially printed in 1923}. Dover Publications, 2003).

Glukhov is a town located in Sumy region of Ukraine, its origin is at least 1,000 years. In the second half of the 19th Century Glukhov was a sprouting, seemingly quiet town of roughly 10,000 inhabitants, including Ukrainians, Russians, and Jews in similar proportion. For the time being, the town was open-minded. Several churches and a synagogue were located next to another. The calm and ease between the ethnic groups shattered in the early 20th Century. The Russian Revolution of 1905 brought about a wave of pogroms in regions of the Russian Empire. Some of the hostility was directed by political and social turmoil that spread through vast areas. The First World War resulted in increased hardship, deprivation, and anger resulting in food riots. Jews were blamed, becoming targets of anti-Semitism and violence.

Pogroms became more frequent, when hoodlums and retreating or deserting Red Army soldiers passed through Glukhov. On March 15, 1918, "Renaissance" newspaper wrote:

"GLUKHOV. Peasants from the nearby villages together with gangs of Red soldiers brought "Massacre of St. Bartholomew Day" to Glukhov. Up to 500 of the local intelligentsia were killed, mostly Jews. Property were looted, many houses on the main streets were bombed. Murders were committed with unusual cruelty; children were killed in the eyes of the parents. No one family is without victims ..." (My Travel Mosaic:

Remember Glukhov).

Jews have lived in Ilyintcy, Ukraine since the second half of the 18th Century. In 1897, there were approximately 5,000 Jews in the town. The Jews suffered immensely from the turmoil of the revolutionary years and civil war in Russia. In early Fall of 1920, Russian Army troops from Semyon Budyonnyi's red cavalry attacked Ilyintcy 3 times, plundering 40 houses.

During the initial years of Soviet rule the occupational makeup of Jews changed dramatically. The Soviet social blueprint forced many Jews, particularly those who were employed in commerce, to search for new occupations. Some Jews found employment in the local sugar factory and in agriculture.

In 1939, Ilyintcy had about 2,300 Jewish residents, comprising just under two-thirds of the town's population. Following the German Army's invasion of the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, a number of Ilyintcy's Jews fled eastward into the Soviet interior.

German military occupation of Ilyantcy began in August 1941. Jewish homes were plundered by German soldiers and local Ukrainians. Several weeks later, a four-member Judenrat (Jewish Council) headed by Gersh Usyatinskiy, was formed. It was despised by local Jews owing to the belief that its members were corrupt. A Judenrat is a council representing a Jewish community, particularly in German-occupied territory during the Second World War.

In August 1941, Ilyintcy Jews were forced to enter a ghetto established in the most poverty-stricken section of the town near the river Sob. They were forced to wear white arm bands with a Star of David. The ghetto residents were shamed and disgraced, physically assaulted, robbed of their belongings, and forced to perform manual labour. Many females, young and old were raped. Ghetto residents had to appear every morning for roll call executed by Germans and local auxiliary policemen. In early November 1941 around 40 Jewish men were taken to the outskirts of Ilyintcy and shot; several more massacres were committed the following year.

In late Fall of 1941 able-bodied Jews were sent to a state farm near Balakhovka, therein, a labour camp was established. Some Jews went into hiding, but if they were discovered, punishment was brutal. On December 15, 1942 Germans burned down a house that was used as a hiding place; there were people inside the house. The murders did not abate until the first half of 1943. Today there is a tiny Jewish presence in Ilyintcy.

The Iasi Pogroms were a series of pogroms committed by government forces commanded by Marshal Ion Antonescu (June, 1882 - June 1, 1946), a Romanian soldier and authoritarian Prime Minister, who ruled Romania from 1940 to 1944.

In Iasi, Romania the targetting of its Jewish community began on June 29 to July 6, 1941. At the time, Jews had a 400 year

history in the town, but this didn't make any difference. Nearly 13,270 Iasi Jews , or roughly one-third of the Jewish inhabitants, were initially slaughtered in this pogrom, many were deported.

For months, unproven rumours promulgated by the Romanian authorities had been circulating accusing the Jewish inhabitants of aiding the Soviets in bombing Iasi.

The lies were accepted by many non-Jews. From 1940 until 1944, Romania was an ally of the Nazis. Iasi's inhabitants knew what was going to happen. The Romanian government did not grant Jews citizenship, even though the government was obliged to do so under the terms of the 1919 Versailles Conference.

"Christians protected themselves from the inevitable violence by displaying signs on their homes: 'Here live Christians: NOT Jydani!'"(Article referenced from the Shabbat Shalom site via Rabbi Dr. Eliyahu Safran, July 2, 2011; The Iasi Pogrom: aish.com).

Iasi was located near the Soviet border and had a large Jewish population, was considered troublesome, a fifth column of sorts by Marshal Ion Antonescu. In mid-June 1941 Antonescu ordered:

"All the Judeo-Communist coffee shops in Moldavia be closed down, all kikes, Communist agents and sympathizers be identified by region..." (Ioanid, Radu "The Holocaust in Romania: The Iasi Pogrom of June 1941" pages 119-148 from Contemporary European History, Volume 2, Issue # 2, July 1993 page 122).

In June of 1941, Antonescu signed an order that all Jews between the ages of 18 and 60 residing between the Siret and Pruth Rivers be deported to the concentration camp in Targu Jiu, southern Romania. As was the case with numerous other deportations during the Second World War, many deportees did not survive the trip to the camps. It was meant to be that way. In addition to their pre-existing problems, deportees taken by train were usually stuffed in carts like sardines packed in a can, with minimal breathing holes, perhaps just one, one bucket for relieving oneself, to be shared by all occupants, no food or water, or rest.

In the death train that left Iași for Călărași, southern Romania, which carried perhaps as many as 5,000 Jews, only 1,011 reached their destination alive after seven days. (The Romanian police counted 1,258 bodies, yet hundreds of dead were thrown out of the train on the way at Mircești, Roman, Săbăoani, and Inotești.) The death train to Podu Iloaiei (15 kilometers from Iași) had up to 2,700 Jews upon departure, of which only 700 disembarked alive. In the official account, Romanian authorities reported that 1,900 Jews boarded the train and "only" 1,194 died." ("The Holocaust in Romania" (PDF). Bucharest, Romania: International Commission on the Holocaust in Romania. 11 November 2004. Archived from the original (PDF) on 16 June 2013. Retrieved 4 April 2013).

German troops and Romanian intelligence services personnel were allowed to photograph the ongoing pogrom. The Romanian Peo-

ple's tribunal took place in 1946, 57 persons were put on trial for their part in the Iasi pogroms, with 165 witnesses, mostly survivors, testified. Antonescu was executed on June 1, 1946, prison sentences with hard labour were handed out to the other defendants, however, several of the accused were acquitted.

The Jedwabne pogrom occurred on July 10, 1941 in the town of Jedwabne, located in North-east Poland; it was under German occupation. Jedwabne was settled in the 18th Century. In the 1930s there were just under 1,500 Jews out of a population of nearly 2,170.

Jedwabne was a typical shtetl, with the countryside consisting mainly of gentile Poles. The area politically affiliated itself with the ultra-conservative National Democrats whose desire was to reverse what they believed to be Jewish economic competition opposing Catholic Poles.

With the start of the Second World War, Jedwabne and the surrounding areas were initially occupied by the Germans; they demolished the local resistance and burned the synagogue. Jedwabne was later occupied by the Soviets, as part of the German-Soviet Boundary Treaty of September 1939. Initially, many Jews were overjoyed by the arrival of the Soviets, ridding their area of the ruthless Nazis, the true face of the new occupiers became apparent soon afterward; Russian-atheism and anti-Semitism. Polish Hebrew schools were closed down, holy days that were recognized by the Polish authorities were banned, shops and businesses were seized, which were predominately Jewish.

Some Jews had formed paramilitary units, aiding the NKVD in compiling lists of Poles to be sent to Siberia. The NKVD was a predecessor of the KGB. The NKVD (the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs) was extremely ruthless and often sadistic, more so than the KGB. Many gentiles and Jews were arrested, others were executed without trial. Roughly 22,350 Poles were deported; many of the victims included whole families. Worse yet, Red Army troops confiscated food and other goods stripping the local population of necessary resources.

Soon after the German reoccupation of Poland, on July 10, 1941, the mayor of Jedwabne, Marian Karolak, and the German military police gave orders for the gathering of the town's Jews, and those originally from neighbouring areas who took refuge in Jedwabne.

The dreaded day of the main Jedwabne massacre occurred on July 10, 1941. Jews were forced to march to the centre of Jedwabne, forced to pluck grass, and were physically assaulted by local and neighbouring area ethnic Poles. Several Jews were forced to destroy a statue of Lenin (b. Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov 22 April 1870 - 21 January 1924; best known as the leader of the Bolshevik revolution and Bolshevik Party). 40 persons, including

the town's rabbi, Awigdor Bialostocki, and the town's kosher butcher, were forced to carry the statue out of the town's limits while singing Soviet songs. The men were later taken to a barn where they were killed.

Most of the remaining Jews of Jedwabne, estimated at 300, some estimates are considerably higher, were taken to the same barn, locked inside, and then burned alive. The Germans were the occupiers, and overall, a large massacre of this sort could not have occurred without their approval (tacit or given). Furthermore, Several witnesses claimed that the Germans took part in the atrocities. The charred bodies were buried in 2 mass graves, including women, children, and infants.

As reported in a diary written during the war, conveying reports by Jews who fled Jedwabne and Radziłów, "With the help of local farmers, the Germans gathered the Jews of these places, the rabbi and community leaders foremost, in the market square. At first, they beat them cruelly and forced them to wrap themselves in their tallitot and to jump and dance, accompanied by singing. All this was done under an unceasing stream of blows from cudgels and rubber whips. Finally, they pushed all the Jews, beating and kicking them, into a long threshing house and set it on fire with them inside." (Maik, Michael; Ben-Dov, Avigdor; Ben-Dov, Laia (2004). *Deliverance: the diary of Michael Maik : a true story*. Avigdor and Laia Ben-Dov. pp. 38-39).

The Kiev pogrom of 1881 lasted for 3 days, starting on April 26 (May 7; New system), 1881 in the city expanding into villages of the surrounding region. Intermittent violence continued until winter. The Kiev pogrom of 1881 is believed to be the most devastating of the pogroms that occurred in south-western Imperial Russia for that year. Tsarist authorities did not intervene; Alexander III (Alexander Aleksandrovich, 'Alexander the Peacemaker'; 10 March 1845 - 1 November, 1894), Emperor of Russia, King of Poland, and Grand Duke of Finland from March 13, 1881 to November 1, 1894.

The catalyst for the pogrom in Kiev, and in other regions, was the assassination of Tsar Alexander II (April 1818 - March 13, 1881), Tsar of Russia from March 2, 1855 to March 18, 1881). The fomenters blamed the Russian Jews. Worse yet, the Southern-Russian Workers Union printed a pamphlet (of which the police confiscated about 125 copies) that was widely distributed, and by their logic 'justified' violence against Jews:

"Brother workers. You are beating the Jews, but indiscriminately. One should not beat the Jew because he is a Jew and prays to God in his own way - indeed, God is one and the same to all - rather, one should beat him because he is robbing the people, he is sucking the blood of the working man." (M. Kishkinky, "The Attitude of the Southern-Russian Workers' Union toward the Jews (1880-1881)" in *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (June 1982), p. 206. Centre for Israel Education, 2015).

Other factors that likely aggravated the situation were economic turmoil, and business competition between Gentiles and

Jews. The fact that the Jewish communities as a whole had nothing to do with the assassination didn't seem to matter. In spite of that, retributive brutality on entire Jewish communities ensued; the pogroms resulted in the destruction of thousands of Jewish homes, countless families fell into abject poverty, many people were physically assaulted.

The Kiev pogrom of 1905 (October 31 - November 2, 1905, New System) occurred as a result of the collapse of the city hall meeting of October 18, 1905 in Kiev in the Russian Empire. Hence, a mob formed into the streets, including monarchists, those who yearned for the previous political system, anti-Semites, and hoodlums, proclaiming that Russia's turmoil arose as a result of schemes of the Jews and Socialists. The pogrom cost the lives of approximately 100 Jews.

The Kiev pogroms of 1919 occurred in several locations around Kiev initiated by White Volunteer Army Troops. This was the main force that fought against the Bolsheviks; two wicked forces vying for power. Below is a synopsis of events:

- Skvira, June 23, 1919: a pogrom in which 45 Jews were massacred, many were severely wounded, and 35 Jewish women were raped by army insurgents. (Michael L. Brown. "More Tears". Our Hands Are Stained with Blood. Destiny Image. p. 105 - via Google Books, preview).
- Justingrad, August, 1919: where a pogrom made its way through the shtetl with an unspecified number of Jewish men murdered and Jewish women raped.
- Ivankiv Kiev district, 18-20 October 1919. In the pogrom carried out by Cossack and Volunteer Army troops, 14 Jews were massacred, 9 wounded, and 15 Jewish women and girls were raped by units under the command of Struk in three days of carnage. (Harry James Cargas, Reflections of a Post-Auschwitz Christian. On meeting Kurt Waldheim. Pg. 136).

The top commanders of the White Army officially condemned the pogroms, for the most part to no avail, anti-Semitism was too prevalent. Lenin condemned the pogroms granting aid to victims. The Bolshevik press gave it scant coverage. During this period thousands of attacks occurred throughout Ukraine costing the lives of 30,000 to 70,000 Jews. These pogroms were especially sadistic with many acts of person-to-person savagery. Thousands of women were raped, hundreds of shtetls were plundered, and Jewish communities were devastated. For the period of 1918-1921 hundreds of thousands of Jews were left homeless. In the overall picture, the main culprits included Ukrainian nationalists, White Army Volunteer troops, Bolshevik Army troops, and local hoodlums. At the time of these pogroms the Ukraine had a large Jewish population.

Jozefaw was an archetypal Eastern Polish shtetl. Before the

Second World War its Jewish population was roughly 2,000, 60 per-cent of the total population. The Jewish community was formed in the beginning of the 18th Century.

Jozefaw had a successful paper mill, leased by the Wax family, which produced Hebrew books that were sold internationally. But the town was poor, a few decades later the printing house closed down due to competition from modern printing houses in Lublin, Warsaw, and Vilnius.

At the eruption of the Second World War in September 1939, Jozefaw was bombed by the German Luftwaffe resulting in a large part of the town centre being destroyed. At the end of September, as per the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact the Soviet Army entered Jozefaw, but left shortly thereafter. Around 1,000 local Jews left with them, taking up residence in the Soviet Union.

During the initial stage of the German occupation of Jozefaw no real changes were felt by the Jews. A Judenrat was formed, headed by Baruch Goldsztaj, and Szymon Parzenczewski (the pre-war Rabbi as one of its members). On march 18, 1941, the situation started to worsen, as nearly 1,100 Jews were resettled from Konin, a poor Jewish population that had recently lost their property and possessions, within the group were the old and ill. The new arrivals were housed together with Jozefaw Jews, resulting in significant overcrowding of homes. It didn't take long for food shortages and hygiene problems to develop. In addition, living conditions were primitive, resulting in a serious typhus outbreak, striking the Konin deportees very hard. During 1941-1942, Jozefaw was the worst hit area in the Bilgoraj region. Worse yet, there was no local hospital or Jewish physician, only 2 dentists who had no medical equipment. The best thing available was an 'isolation house'. It was too small to deal with the large number of ill persons.

The horrible conditions in Jozefaw were detailed in a letter sent in 1941, by resettled Jews from Konin to the Jewish Social Self-Help (JSSH; Polish: ZSS) in Krawkow. The JSSH was a social welfare committee established by Jews, shortly after the German occupation of Warsaw.

"We are in a small town, destroyed because of the war, among very poor people, who in fact need our help. We are living in very bad conditions. We feel mainly the lack of food, clothing and shoes, because we have lost everything." (Holocaust Historical Society: Jozefaw).

The resettled Jews sent another letter to the ZSS in Krakow, written by M. Furszt, the representative of the Jews from Konin, who worked in the community kitchen, who wrote:

"There is no way for us to earn anything. The majority 'are living' on what they can sell - clothes and linen. And even these things are almost finished. We are the leading place in the whole Lublin district for the number of

people who have typhus. Death from starvation and hunger is visiting every home. It is Horrible to see how our children, emaciated and pale-faced are going from house to house pleading for bread." (ibid).

There was more terrible news, elsewhere. On June 20, 1942, Reserve Police Battalion 101 from Hamburg, Germany, which included 11 officers, 5 administrators, and 486 men were sent to Poland. A few days later, they reached Bilgoraj, south of Lublin. They were told what their mission was: to expel the Jews of Jozefaw. The following morning, each man was given a whip to be used as an incentive to expel Jozefaw's Jewish residents. Any person who resisted would be executed on the spot.

The Jews of the Jozefaw ghetto were brutally rounded up. Dead bodies were strewn throughout the ghetto. The sick were executed on the spot, wounded Russian soldiers were left alone. Survivors were taken to the market place. Thereafter, they were sent in groups to the forest near the town.

The executioners were divided into bands of up to 10 men, choosing a victim, be it a man, woman or child, and then walking beside the victim to a designated spot. The victims were told to lie face down, then were shot. This routine was repeated many times over. Executioners' uniforms were splattered with much blood and flesh. Within four hours, a single platoon had killed between 200 - 300 people. Including all the platoon killings, the death toll for the day was estimated to be more than 1,200. Some members of Police Battalion 101 refused to continue killing. Many requests were granted, there were always individuals who gladly take their place. This happened elsewhere during the Nazi reign of terror. Following the defeat of Germany, 21 members of Police Battalion 101 were convicted of war crimes, 14 of which received a death by hanging sentence.

The Kaminets-Podilskyi pogrom was a large-scale massacre that took place on August 27 and 28, 1941, during the initial stages of Operation Barbarosa. The perpetrators included a German Police Battalion, a unit of Einsatzgruppen, Hungarian troops, and the Ukrainian Auxiliary Police. Note that Kamienets-Podilskyi is presently part of the Ukraine. By official Nazi German accounts, 23,600 were people were killed, including 16,000 who had been previously expelled from Hungary.

Soon thereafter, Hungary began its war against the Soviet Union. On June 27, 1941, officers with the bureau responsible for foreign citizens residing in Hungary decided to deport foreign Jews; mostly Russian and Polish Jews, there were also many refugees from western Europe. Jews who were unable to prove their Hungarian citizen status at the drop of a hat (without delay) were at risk of deportation. Wholesale Jewish communities, in particular, the Governorate of Subcarpathia (at the time part of

Hungary) were deported.

Hungarians packed Jews into freight cars then sent them to Korosmezo (presently Yasinia, Ukraine) close to the pre-war Hungarian-Polish border, where they were sent across the former Soviet border and turned over to the Germans. By August 10, 1941, nearly 14,000 Jews had been expelled from Hungary to German-controlled territory, indeed a terrible nightmare. The Jews, many of which included families, were forced to walk from Kolomyia to Kamienets-Podilskyi. Kamienets-Podilskyi was 'liberated' by the Red Army on March 27, 1944.

The Liepaja pogrom involved large-scale massacres that occurred in 1941, in the city of Liepaja following the German occupation of Latvia. As a naval base, Liepaja was under the command of the German navy. Throughout the pogroms, Jews were the primary victims, others included Roma, communists, the mentally ill, and hostages. Any act of sabotage was met by extreme brutality. Lieutenant commander Stein, the town commandant: 10 hostages were to be executed for every act of sabotage.

On July 5, 1941, Korvettenkapitan Bruckner, who was Stein's successor, issued a set of anti-Jewish directives. Note that some these directives were issued in other regions occupied by the Nazis.

- All Jews must wear the yellow star on the front and back of their clothing;
- Shopping hours for Jews were restricted to 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Jews were only allowed out of their residences for these hours and from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
- Jews were barred from public events and transportation and were not to walk on the beach;
- Jews were required to leave the side-walk if they encountered a German in uniform;
- Jewish shops were required to display the sign "A Jewish-owned business" in the window;
- Jews were to surrender all radios, typewriters, uniforms, arms and means of transportation. (Ezergailis, Andrew (1996). The Holocaust in Latvia 1941-1944 The Missing Centre Riga: Historical Institute of Latvia in association with USHMM).

Liepaja's executions were usually in open areas, in plain view with little to no regard for secrecy. The primary culprits were units:

"of the Einsatzgruppen, the Sicherheitsdienst or SD, the Ordnungspolizei, or ORPO, and Latvian auxiliary police and militia forces. Wehrmacht soldiers and German naval personnel were present during shootings." (Ezergailis, Andrew (1996). The Holocaust in Latvia 1941-1944 The Missing Centre Riga: Historical Institute of Latvia in association with USHMM).

From December 15-17, 1941, German and Latvian units killed

an estimated 2,750 Jews, comprising more than half the city's Jewish population. Planning for the massacres began on December 13, 1941. Liepaja Police Chief Fritz Deidrich issued an order in the Latvian newspaper Kurzemes Vards announcing that Jews were prohibited from leaving their homes on Monday December 15, and Tuesday December 16.

On the night of December 13, Latvian soldiers started arresting Liepaja's Jews. The victims were taken to the Women's Prison, therein were victims of all ages, packed into the courtyard. The Jews had to stand facing the wall, and were told to maintain their gaze. A number of Jews were sent to Skede the following evening. The final destination was about 50 meters (150 ft.) from a large pit dug in the dunes near the shore. The victims were reordereed to lie face down. Groups of 10 persons were ordered to stand up away from the children, undress except for their underwear. They were shot by Germans and Latvians.

The Lviv pogrom of November 21-23, 1918, that occurred during the Polish-Ukrainian War was carried out by Polish troops, para-military groups, hoodlums, and people from various nationalities, targetting the Jewish population of Lviv (spelled Lviv since 1945). As many as 150 Jews were killed and many more were injured. Other victims included Ukrainians, perhaps outnumbering the Jewish victims. More than 1,000 persons were arrested for the pogrom. Be aware that there were many pogroms during the Polish-Ukrainian conflict. As an easy target, the Jews served as a convenient whipping boy for the frustrations of the fighting forces. Many women were raped, humiliation was another tool of violence orchestrated by Polish troops.

The 1918 pogrom received international coverage. President Woodrow Wilson (December 28, 1856 - February 3, 1924; President of the United States from 1913 - 1921) , set up a commission, headed by Henry Morgenthau, Sr. (April 26, 1856 - November 25, 1946), to investigate the crimes that were committed against the Jewish population of Lviv in an independent Poland. The Morgenthau report was published in October 1919.

The pogrom occurred after the retreat of the core of Ukrainian troops and the confiscation of weapons from the Jewish militia by Polish forces. Polish troops, civilians, hoodlums, and Polish militia began to plunder and burn Lviv's Jewish neighbourhood. Jewish stores and homes were looted.

The Lviv pogroms were a series of successive massacres of Jews in June and July of 1941 in Lviv, in what was then Eastern Poland-Western Ukraine. Today Lviv is legally in the Ukraine. The massacres were carried out by Ukrainian nationalists, in particular the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), German death squads, and local hoodlums from June 30 to July 2, and from 25 July to July 29, during the German invasion of the Soviet Un-

ion. Thousands of Jews were victimized during the pogroms and by the Einsatzgruppen (killing squads).

Ukrainian nationalists singled out Jews in the first pogrom on the pretence that they were responsible for the NKVD massacre in Lviv, resulting in the death of thousands in Lviv prisons. The succeeding orchestrated by the Germans; this was a part of the Jewish Holocaust in Eastern Europe. The facts and memory of the pogroms was ignored or muddled. Later, when the truth had to come out:

“A memorial was erected commemorating the victims of the pogrom on the site of the former Golden Rose Synagogue.” (<https://www.timesofisrael.com/controversy-as-lviv-opens-jewish-memorial-on-site-of-historic-synagogue>).

During the German invasion of the Soviet Union, there were about 160,000 Jews in Lviv. The Jewish population ballooned as a result of an inflow of Jewish refugees from German-occupied Poland in late 1939.

In May 1941, the OUN issued directives to its militia units, making it clear that Russians, Poles, and Jews were antagonistic to the Ukrainian nation and were to be eradicated in warfare. Soon after the German invasion flyers were given out telling Ukrainians to fight the enemy and destroy them. Thousands of Jews and Gentiles were killed in a short period of time. The hatred, in particular, towards the Jews was apparent and undeniable:

“Moscow and Jewishness are the biggest enemies of Ukraine and are carriers of the corrupting Bolshevik international ideas. Considering the main and decisive enemy is Moscow (and not Jewishness), which actually kept Ukraine in captivity, nevertheless the indisputable harmful and hostile role of the Jews in Helping Moscow to enslave Ukraine should be evaluated. That’s why I stand in the position for the extermination of Jews and the reasonableness to transfer to Ukraine the German methods of exterminating Jews, avoiding their assimilation,” Yaroslav Stetsko (the closest associate of Stepan Bandera and active figure of OUN). (John-Paul Himka: “The Lviv Pogrom of 1941: The Germans, Ukrainian Nationalists, and the Carnival Crowd”).

On many occasions local Ukrainians took part in extreme acts of brutality against Jews. One witness, amongst many was Professor Maurycy Allerhand, who wrote in his diary, on the day of the pogrom that he witnessed a large group of Ukrainians assaulting Jews with whips and sticks:

“That they were Ukrainians was evident not only from the blue and yellow armbands on their left arm but also from the curses directed against the Jews in the Ukrainian language.” (ibid).

The series of pogroms that engulfed the Pale of Settlement (a region designated for the Jews) following the October Manifesto of 1905, issued by Tsar Nicholas II was another indicator of the ethnic and political strife that characterized widespread disturbances and scarred the social landscape of late Imperial Russia. Shortly after the issuing of basic civil rights and

political liberties, pogroms primarily targetting Jews, and to a lesser extent students, intellectuals, and other ethnic minorities occurred in hundreds of cities, towns, and villages resulting in many deaths, injuries, and destruction of property.

In Odessa, the police announced that no less than 400 Jews and non-Jews were killed and about 300 people, predominately Jews, were injured, and more than 1,600 Jewish homes and stores were damaged. The statistics are almost certainly lower than the actual figures. Other sources, including Dmitri Neidhardt, City Governor of Odessa at the time of the pogrom, and brother in-law of the future Prime Minister Peter Stolypin, believed that the pogrom brought about 2,500 casualties. The Jewish newspaper Voshkod reported that more than 800 were killed and several thousand wounded. In addition, a number of hospitals and clinics admitted treating 600 injuries during the pogrom. In 1905 Odessa suffered a more devastating pogrom than any other city in the Russian Empire. The perpetrators of the 1821 pogrom were ethnic Greeks.

"In Odessa, Greeks and Jews were two rival ethnic and economic communities, living side by side. The first Odessa pogrom, in 1821, was linked to the outbreak of the Greek War for Independence, during which the Jews were accused of sympathizing with the Ottoman authorities and of aiding the Turks in killing the Greek Patriarch of Constantinople, Gregory V, dragging his dead body through the streets and finally throwing it into the Bosphorus." (Ariel Parkansky "Anti-Semitism and Pogroms" KehilaLinks).

Below is a description of the 1859 Odessa pogrom, by the Jewish Encyclopedia (1906):

"The community did not escape the horrors of the pogrom. Indeed, the very first pogrom in Russia occurred in Odessa in the year 1859. This was in reality not a Russian but a Greek pogrom; for the leaders and almost all of the participants were Greek sailors from ships in the harbour, and local Greeks who joined them. The pogrom occurred on a Christian Easter; and the local press, in no wise unfriendly to the Jews, attempted to transform it into an accidental fight, the Greek colony at that time being dominant in the administration as well as in the commerce of Odessa ..." ("Odessa", Jewish Encyclopedia, 1906 ed.).

From 1871 onward pogroms in Odessa took a design more typical to the rest of the Russian Empire. Initially, both Russians and Greeks participated in pogroms; subsequent pogroms were by and large Russian dominated.

The Odessa pogroms of 1941 included the large-scale murder of Odessa Jews and of the outlying areas in the Transnistria Governate in the fall of 1941 and winter of 1942 under Romanian control. The Odessa pogrom of October 22-24, 1941 included the shooting or burning of up to 34,000 Jews. In addition, the killing of more than 100,000 Jews in Odessa and the regions between the Dniester and Bug rivers, while under Roman and German occupation.

Before the Second World War, Odessa had a significant Jewish population of around 180,000, just under one-third of the city's population. When the Romanians occupied the city, the Jewish population had shrunk to about 85,000, the remainder fled or were taken away by the Soviets.

On October 22, 1941, in the building on Marazlievskaya street, which previously housed the NKVD, but now housed the Romanian military commander's office and the headquarters of the 10th Infantry Division, a radio-controlled mine exploded, killing 67 people. The mine had been placed there by Red Army sappers before the surrender of Odessa to the Romanians.

Naturally, a convenient target had to be held responsible for the explosion; the Jews and communists. The following day witnessed the arrival of Romanian troops and German Einsatzgruppe, to kill thousands of people. Occupiers stormed into homes of Odessa residents and shot or hanged every person therein, no exceptions were made. They plundered the streets and markets of Odessa and outlying areas. Their victims were innocent and unarmed, nevertheless, they were executed. Nearly 100 men were taken to and then executed at the Big Fountain, around 200 persons were hanged in the Slobodka district, just over 250 were executed in Moldavanka. Many more hostages were hanged, executed, or burned alive.

"After the war, more than 22,000 corpses were found in mass graves." (Vishnevskaya, Irina. "Memory ... past ... occupation". Odesskiy.com. Retrieved 13 May 2018).

On October 12, 2018, German and Romanian officials attended a memorial service in Shalimovka for the 30,000 people, predominately Ukrainian Jews, murdered on October 22-23, 1941. Holocaust victims' organizations from other countries also took part in the memorial service.

"Whoever comes to this place with an open heart senses that a shudder is buried here under the asphalt. Germany has to make a statement in the sense of accepting historic responsibility, which in this case can only be asking for forgiveness. There is no way to make amends," said German politician, Marieluise Beck, (Anastassia Boutsko, October 22, 2018; The Odessa massacre: Remembering the 'Holocaust by bullets'; DW.com).

The Pavoloch pogrom was a large-scale massacre that occurred on September 5, 1941. The residents of the Pavoloch Shtetl of Ukraine were literally exterminated. Having heard terrifying stories of Nazi atrocities, the thing they dreaded the most was a Nazi entrance into their Shtetl.

An SS force drove into the shtetl with the intent of killing every single resident therein, as indicated by the order of SS-Brigadeführer Otto Rasch. They assembled the entire population of 1,500 inhabitants and took them to the nearby Jewish cemetery. As the Nazis had done many times in the Second World War, they forced the 1,500 victims to dig a mass grave, ordered them to

kneel beside the grave, then summarily shot them. The victims fell into the mass grave. Afterward, the SS filled the mass grave to destroy any evidence of the atrocity. They then drove away.

Following the end of the Second World War, a memorial was built in the cemetery, commemorating victims killed by the SS. In addition, the original synagogue was later turned into a museum which holds the records of the victims of the massacre and exhibits on village history.

On February 15, 1919, Sabbath Day, a catastrophe befell the Jews of Proskurov (now named Khmelnytskyi), Ukraine, during the Ukrainian Civil War. The Haidamacks (Cossack armed groups of commoners, peasants, artisans, former Cossacks, and the poor) took control of Proskurov from the Bolsheviks.

In just a few hours, 1,500 Jews were murdered; other estimates are a bit higher, and over 1,000 were wounded, without distinguishing between men, women, children, or the elderly. The massacre was perpetrated by the Ukrainian People's Republic Service under the command of Ivan Samosenko (1894 - 1920), a Ukrainian military leader and war criminal who was executed for his crimes). The perpetrators were order to save their bullets, and to use lances and bayonets.

The Proskurov pogrom created a state of fear among world Jewry regarding Ukraine's Jews. The population of Proskurov was 50,000, of which around half were Jews. At a dinner celebrating his new command, Samosenko gave a speech pronouncing that he believed the Jews were the enemy of Ukraine and the Cossacks, and Jews should be eliminated in order to save the Ukraine. He claimed that Jews were Bolshevik revolutionaries and opponents of Ukrainian independence. Samosenko ignored the fact that members of other ethnic groups supported the Bolsheviks and that during this period shtetl Jews were not very active in politics.

A few days before the pogrom Haidamacks paraded through Proskurov, armed and riding horses. Their goal was to put fear into the hearts of the Jewish residents.

February 15, 1919, Shabbat Day in Proskurov, was sunny. Large groups of Cossacks divided into smaller ones, then began attacking Jews in the streets and in their residences. The brutality had begun. Knives, swords, and bayonets were the primary weapons of choice, but there are claims of some hand grenades being used. Cossacks butchered without distinction of age or gender. Victims were dragged out of their homes and cellars and murdered. Haia Greenberg, a survivor and nurse, later testified:

"The young girls were repeatedly stabbed; the two month old baby with hands lacerations. The five- year old who had been pieced by spears. The elderly man who had been thrown out of a window by his beard. The 13 year old who became deaf because of his wounds. His brother, who received eleven wounds to his stomach and left for dead next to his slain mother, the paralyzed son of a Rabbi who was murdered in

his bed; The two young children who were cast alive into a fire ... I will never forget the reddened snow sleds filled with the hacked bodies going to a common pit in the cemetery." (By Larry Domnitch, February 22, 2019; Proskurov 1919: One Century Ago; jewishpress.com).

The Felshtin pogrom, which lasted only a few hours, occurred at about the same time as the Proskurov pogrom. In Felshtin, more than 480 people were killed, over 100 of the 180 wounded died shortly afterward, making the death tally close to 600, just under one-third of the town's Jewish population. The number of rapes and robberies exceeded that of Proskurov's. In 1919, there were hundreds of pogroms, in Podolia alone, there were dozens with around 15,000 people killed by groups owing allegiance to Symon Vasylevych Petlyura (May 10, 1879 - May 25, 1926), a socialist leader of Ukraine's unsuccessful fight for independence following the Russian Revolutions of 1917.

Although the Red Cross stated that it was impossible to make more than an estimate, it calculated 120,000 deaths resulting from the pogroms, 600,000 others suffered material loss; more than a million people suffered grievously.

The Kielce pogrom of 1918 was one of the precursors of things to come. It included mob attack and killing that occurred on November 11, 1918 in Kielce, Poland. Henry Morgenthau, Sr. (April 26, 1856 - November 25, 1946), renowned U.S. Ambassador, naturalized U.S. citizen and German Jew, headed the Mission of the United States to Poland, at the time of Poland's fight for independence near the end of the First World War, and after Hungarian troops were cleared out from Kielce by their superiors, city officials allowed the local Jewish inhabitants to hold a rally at the Polish theatre.

One U.S. source claims that during the rally a number of the speeches given were anti-Polish. A prominent lawyer named Frajzyngier was booed while attempting to give a speech in Polish. The angry listeners shouted, 'No Polish language Here!' Talk quickly spread of an anti-Polish meeting held by Jews. Soon Poles gathered outside the theatre.

As stated in Morgenthau's report, early the morning a number of people inside the theatre started to leave, about 300 stayed. A short while later, Polish soldiers entered the theatre to search for weapons, corralling the Jews towards the stairs, where a group of radicals, some armed with clubs and bayonets, were waiting for them. The Jews were brutally assaulted.

Another group of radicals who were waiting outside the theatre assaulted those who were leaving; the situation worsened into an act of mob violence. Jewish homes and stores were damaged. The final tally included 4 Jewish deaths and many wounded. At the time of Morgenthau's report, some of the rioters were indicted for their actions, but hadn't yet been brought to trial.

The Kielce pogrom of July 4, 1946 was a series of violent attacks against Jewish refugees who had gathered at the Jewish center in Kielce, Poland. The perpetrators were soldiers, police officers, and citizens. 42 Jews were killed and more than 40 were harmed. This was the worst post-war massacre.

The Kielce pogrom, occurring so soon after the Second World War and the Jewish holocaust, was in itself a very powerful message: Jews in Poland beware! Many Jews, Poles, and people around the world were horrified by the event. It's believed that this may have been this was major catalyst for the rapid exodus of many Polish Jews who were survivors of the Holocaust.

"[Kielce] really is a symbol of the exodus of Jewish survivors from Poland, and a symbol sometimes that there is no future in Poland for Jews ... That despite what Jews had endured during the Holocaust, and despite the fact that the local Polish population had observed all that, had witnessed all of that ... Jews cannot feel safe in Poland," said Joanna Sliwa, a historian with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany who focuses on modern Polish Jewish history and the Holocaust. (By Rachel E. Gross, January 8, 2018; Kielce: The Post-Holocaust Pogrom That Poland Is Still Fighting Over; Smithsonianmag.com).

On July 1, 1946, only 3 days before the Kielce pogrom an incident occurred that may have been an additional catalyst, the final nail in the coffin regarding the exodus of Holocaust Jews from Poland. A 9 year-old boy named Henryk Blaszczyk, left home without telling his parents. He went to visit friends of his parents in the village of Bielaki, about 25 kilometres (15.5 miles) away.

It was summer, and not the first time Henryk went to the city. His family had lived in Bielaki before. Soon afterward, Walenty Blaszczyk, Henryk's father, worried by his son's absence, began to search for him, to no avail. At midnight, Henryk was reported missing to the police.

Henryk returned home on July 3. Naturally, his parents and neighbours questioned him about his whereabouts. It is safe to assume that Henryk knew that he had to come up with a cover story, or else he'd be in big trouble with his parents. Typical parents don't appreciate it when their 9 year-old child willingly leaves home for 2 days without getting permission first.

Henryk made up a story about a stranger whom he had met in Kielce. The man asked Henryk to deliver a package, but Henryk was placed in a cellar. With the help of another boy, Henryk was able to escape on July 3; it appears that most of the people believed this story. But 2 individuals who were at the Blaszczyk home had serious doubts; their questions however, were leading to a particular kind of answer. Was the man a Jew or a Roma (Gypsy).

Henryk said that the man didn't speak Polish, therefore he must be a Jew. He knew that a Jew would be a good scapegoat. Henryk's response was reported to the police the evening of July 3.

The next morning, Henry's father, Henryk, and a neighbour walked to the local police station. On their way, they passed a house on Planty Street occupied by Jews. Henryk claimed that he had been held captive at the particular house, and pointed to an unlucky young short man who happened to be standing near the house, claiming that it was the man who held him captive.

At the police station, Henryk's story was considered factual. Around 30 policemen were sent to the house. The man was arrested and a search was made for the cellar. With that many policemen and other people in the area, neighbourhood residents inquired about ongoings. The police said that Jews were holding a Polish boy, and about searching for murdered Polish children in a Jewish home. Worse yet, it was in the centre of Kielce, where rumours could spread like a wildfire. The crowd grew rapidly near the Jewish house. Jews living in the area became alarmed. Severyn Kahane, the Chairman of the Jewish Committee in Kielce, and a of the house, resident of the house went to the police station to get a better understanding of what was going on. The police promised to release Singer Klamman, the Jew who was falsely arrested; the police either changed their mind or were lying at the outset. It was probably the latter.

Initially, the crowd's status was only that of observers. Soon, the old 'blood libel' myth of Jews kidnapping Christian children for ritual sacrifice filled the air. It wasn't the mob that initiated the violence, rather, it was the police and military. The very same people who were supposed to protect the citizens and nation.

The police fired their weapons, and dragged Jews into the courtyard, allowing the mob to brutally beat their victims. The attacks spread to Jews who did not reside in the house, it became widespread and merciless. Target were stoned, mugged, beaten, stabbed with bayonets, and flung into a nearby river. The violence went on for several hours.

"After the police took away the weapons, the crowd broke into the Kib{b}utz (on the second floor) and policemen started shooting at the Jews first. They killed one and wounded several others," said Ava Szuchman, resident of the house. (By Bozena Szaynok, July 4, 1946; Jews in Nazi-Occupied Poland: The Kielce Pogrom; Jewishvirtuallibrary.org).

"Uniformed soldiers and a number of civilians forced their way into the building. I had already been wounded. They told us to get out and form a line. Civilians, including women, were on the stairs. The soldiers hit us with their rifle butts. Civilians, men and women, also hit us," said Baruch Dorfman, resident of the house. (idib).

The Kishinev Pogrom of 1903 was an anti-Jewish riot that took place in Kishinev (presently Chisinau, Moldova), at the time the capital of the Bessarabia Governorate. Another riot in Kishinev occurred in October 1905. As per the 1903 riot, the most

widely-read Russian language newspaper (Bessarabetz means Bessarabian), a newspaper that regularly spouted out anti-Semitic content (Death to the Jews!; Crusade Against the Hated Race!), spouted out a story that would be the main catalyst for the 1903 riot.

A Christian Ukrainian boy named Mikhail Rybachenko was discovered murdered in Dubossary, a town on the Dniester River, just over 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Kishinev, and a girl who committed suicide by poisoning was declared dead in a Jewish hospital. The Bessarabia Newspaper implied that both children were murdered by the Jewish community in order to use their blood for the preparation of Matzo for Passover. Naturally, there was no proof whatsoever for this implication. Worse yet, another newspaper (Svet, defined as Light) made similar implications.

The pogrom began on April 6 (April 19, Gregorian Calendar), following church congregations on Easter Sunday. In just 2 days, nearly 50 Jews were killed, over 90 severely wounded, 500 sustained light injuries, hundreds of homes were destroyed, and hundreds of stores were plundered. For the first 2 days of the pogrom the police made no attempt to stop the rampage. The New York Times described the riot in gruesome detail. Below is an excerpt:

"The mob was led by priests, and the general cry, "Kill the Jews," was taken-up all over the city. The Jews were taken wholly unaware and were slaughtered like sheep. The dead number 120 and the injured about 500. The scenes of horror attending this massacre are beyond description. Babies were literally torn to pieces by the frenzied and bloodthirsty mob. The local police made no attempt to check the reign of terror. At sunset the streets were piled with corpses and wounded. Those who could make their escape fled in terror, and the city is now practically deserted of Jews." ("Jewish Massacre Denounced". The New York Times. April 28, 1903. p. 6).

The Kishinev Pogrom of 1905 occurred on October 19-20. At the outset the problem was a political protest against Tsar Nicholas II, but morphed into an attack against any Jews who were seen. When all was done, 19 Jews were killed and 56 wounded. As a result, Jewish defence brigades which had been formed in 1903 following that pogrom were able to prevent some of the violence, but were overwhelmed anyway. This pogrom was a drop in the bucket of the whole picture; there were hundreds of pogroms within the Russian Empire following the October Manifesto of 1905. The manifesto was a document issued by Tsar Nicholas II, that 'on paper' was the termination of unlimited autocracy in Russia, hence, ushering in a period of constitutional monarchy.

The 1905 pogrom resulted in an international outcry, defiling Kishinev's name. But this did not bring about real justice for the victims. Two men were sentenced to 5 and 7 years, 22 others were given light sentences. Many Jews in the Russian Empire emigrated to the west or Palestine, strengthening the need to escape persecution.

Some hardline enemies of the Jews justified the pogrom, citing the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a book that has been proven to be baseless and unproven.

"From its start their attack on Jews was justified as self-defence, a reasonable response to a pariah people, capable of any and all transgressions," wrote Zipperstein, a professor of Jewish history and culture at Stanford University in California. (How a Small Pogrom in Russia Changed the Course of History; The Times of Israel).

After visiting pogrom sites in 1919, Emma Goldman (June 27, O.S., June 15, 1869 – May 14, 1940), renowned Jewish anarchist, political activist, and writer wrote a terrifying, far-sighted warning, "It is almost certain that the entire Jewish race will be wiped out should many more changes take place." (ibid).

The Kaunas pogrom was a large-scale massacre of Jews living in Kaunas, Lithuania, that occurred on June 25-29, 1941, during the initial stages of Operation Barbarosa, and Nazi occupation of Lithuania. Troops of SS, along with Lithuanian auxiliaries were the culprits. A villainous unit of insurgents commanded by Algirdas Klimaitis and motivated by Germans from the Sicherheitspolizei (Secret Police) and Sicherheitsdienst (Security Service of the Reichsführer-SS) started slaughtering Jews in Kaunas. More than one thousand Jews were killed in a few days, this being the first pogrom during the Nazi occupation of Lithuania.

The most notorious of the massacres took place in the Lietukis garage, later known as the Lietukis Garage Massacre. Dozens of Jewish men were tortured and executed in full view (in public) on June 27, most of them were killed by a club-wielding maniac known as the 'Death Dealer'. He was so ruthless, that a German regular army officer described the incident as the most frightening event he'd witnessed in either of the two world wars.

"On the concrete forecourt of the petrol station a blond man of medium height, aged about twenty-five, stood leaning on a wooden club, resting. The club was as thick as his arm and came up to his chest. At his feet lay about fifteen to twenty dead or dying people. Water flowed continuously from a hose washing blood away into the drainage gully. Just a few steps behind this man some twenty men, guarded by armed civilians, stood waiting for their cruel execution in silent submission. In response to a cursory wave the next man stepped forward silently and was beaten to death with the wooden club in the most bestial manner, each blow accompanied by enthusiastic shouts from the audience". (August 5, 2016; The Kovno Garage Massacre - Lithuanian nationalists clubbing Jewish Lithuanians to death, 1941; rarehistoricalphotos.com).

With an estimated 200 communities, the Jewish population before the war was between 210,000 to 240,000, with a 90+ percent drop by the end of the war, this makes the percentage of Jews killed in Lithuania by the Nazis equal to or higher than Poland.

Operation Reinhard in Krakow, commonly referred to by its original codename Aktion Krakau, was a major 1942 German Nazi operation against the Jews of Krakow, Poland, headed by SS and Police leader Julian Scherner of the Waffen SS. The operation en-

tailed the large-scale massacre of Polish Jews within the area of the General Government (a German zone of Occupation established following the Nazi German occupation of Poland, Slovakia, and the Soviet Union in 1939, in the beginning of the Second World War).

Beginning in 1941, the Jewish residents of Krakow were forced to move into the recently established Krakow Ghetto located in the Podgorze district, on the southern bank of the Vistula River. A German Labour office was set up for persons working outside the ghetto.

In early 1942, the entire Jewish population of Krakow, including nearly 30 neighbouring villages, was forced to move into a single ghetto. Each person was allotted a measly 4 cubic meters (141 cubic feet) of personal space.

On June 1, 1942, the Krakow Ghetto was surrounded by German police and SS. To hide the real purpose of Action Krakow and to calm the Jewish population, they were told of a resettlement program. Jews who worked in factories were allowed to stay. The first transport of 7,000 Jews was gathered in Zgody Square then taken to the railway station in Prokocim. On June 5, 1942, 4,000 more Jews were deported to Belzec extermination camp in the same manner.

The final liquidation of the Krakow Ghetto took place on March 13 and 14, 1943. The operation was headed by SS-Hauptsturmführer Amon Goth. Individuals who were able to work (forced labour) were sent to the Plaszow Concentration Camp. 3,000 more victims were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau, 550 of whom, including men and women were assigned to forced labour. An estimated 2,000 Jews who were unable to leave or attempted to flee were killed on the spot.

"Members of the Grenzpolizei-kommissariat were, with a few exceptions, quite happy to take part in shootings of Jews. They had a ball! Obviously they can't say that today! Nobody failed to turn up... I want to repeat that people today give a false impression when they say that the actions against the Jews were carried out unwillingly. There was great hatred against the Jews; it was revenge, and they wanted money and gold. Don't let {us} kid ourselves, there was always something up for grabs during the Jewish actions. Everywhere you went there was always something for the taking. The poor Jews were brought in, the rich Jews were fetched and their homes were scoured." (— a Kripo official from the Kraków district, "The Good Old Days": The Holocaust as Seen by Its Perpetrators).

It is believed that 68,000-80,000 Jews were living in Krakow before the German invasion in September 1939. The Holocaust and the arrival of the Soviet Army plummeted the obliterated the population to only 2,000, including those who arrived from nearby towns and villages.

By May 1945, Krakow had a Jewish population of over 6,600, and would have in all likelihood rose, but the fact is, hardcore

anti-Semitism within the population was a serious threat. Furthermore, many European refugee returnees found massive destruction and new facts on the ground; things had changed since before the war. The safety of the Jewish community wasn't very assuring.

As was the case in the past, it only took a baseless accusation to re-ignite mob violence or another pogrom. On June 27, 1945 a Jewish woman was taken to a Milicja Police station accused of trying to abduct a child. In spite of the fact that the investigation proved that the mother of the child had willingly left the care of her child to the so-called suspect, word got around that a Jewish woman had abducted a child in order to kill it.

Soon, a crowd of hoodlums at Kelparski square shouted anti-Jewish slogans. Blood libel talk, spread. An outrageous statement claiming that 13 dead children had been discovered speared. By August the number of supposed victims had risen to 80. Even without using hindsight bias, it was apparent that a pogrom of sorts was in the making.

On August 11, 1945, an attempt was made to stop and hold a 13 year-old boy who was hurling stones at the Kupa Synagogue. The boy was able to escape, running into the market yelling, 'help me, the Jews have tried to kill me!' This was the last nail in the coffin.

In response, a mob broke into the Kupa Synagogue and proceeded to physically assault Jews who were praying; note that it was Saturday morning. Torah scrolls were burned. Attacks were also made on the Jewish hostel. Men, women, and children were physically assaulted on the streets. Homes were pillaged. A number of Jews had to be hospitalized, and were later assaulted therein. During the frenzy, Gentiles who happened to look Jewish were also assaulted (sharks and lions during an eating frenzy will lash out at anything). Shamefully, police and soldiers joined in the attacks.

"I was carried to the second precinct of the militia where they called for an ambulance. There were five more people over there, including {a} badly wounded Polish woman. In the ambulance I heard the comments of the escorting soldier and the nurse who spoke about us as Jewish crust whom they have to save, and that they shouldn't be doing this because we murdered children, that all of us should be shot. We were taken to the hospital of St. Lazarus at Kopernika Street. I was first taken to the operating room. After the operation a soldier appeared who said that he will take everybody to jail after the operation. He beat up one of the wounded Jews waiting for an operation. He held us under cocked gun and did not allow us to take a drink of water. A moment later two railroadmen appeared and one said, 'It's a scandal that a Pole does not have the civil courage to hit a defenceless person', and he hit a wounded Jew. One of the hospital inmates hit me with a crutch. Women, including {a} nurses, stood behind the doors threatening us that they were only waiting for the operation to be over in order to rip us apart." (István Deák; Jan Tomasz Gross; Tony Judt (2000). The politics of retribution in

Europe: World War II and its aftermath. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press. p. 111).

Another pogrom occurred in Soviet-occupied Krakow, Poland on August 11, 1945. Roza Berger was killed while standing behind closed doors, and 5 others were wounded, at the hands of security forces. Post-war Poland wasn't a safe place for Jews. Thankfully, this predicament was short-lived, things changed for the better soon afterward.

On November 9-10, 1938, Kristallnacht (also known as the night of broken glass), literally shattered not only glass but any illusion, however small, that the anti-Semitism of Nazism was not brutally violent against Jews and their properties. The pogroms of the past can be considered precursors to, or warnings of impending calamities, however, Kristallnacht was certainly a milestone; using hindsight bias, this was the beginning of a new phase in the Jewish Holocaust; the Holocaust began before the Second World War, thereafter it intensified exponentially.

The baseless excuse for the violence was the assassination of Ernst vom Rath (June 3, 1909 - November 9, 1938), a Nazi German diplomat, at the German Embassy in Paris. On November 7, 1938, vom Rath was seriously wounded by 2 gunshot wounds fired by a 17 year-old Polish Jew named Herschel Grunspan.

Grunspan's parents and sister were deportees within the mass deportation (thousands) of Polish Jews from Germany in late October. The deportees were forced to wait on the border for tortuous weeks-on-end. Neither Poland or Germany wanted the new refugees. Grunspan was promptly arrested by French authorities and handed over to Germany. The final fate of Grunspan is hotly debated.

Vom Rath died on November 9, 1938, just 2 days after being shot. The onslaught was going to happen sooner or later, all that was needed was an excuse; as was the case in the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria (December 18, 1863 - June 28, 1914), heir to the throne of Austria Hungary. His assassination by Gavrilo Princep was the final excuse to start another war, things got out of hand, resulting into the First World War. I will get back to Kristallnacht later. I will briefly elaborate on the political and social situation first.

Adolph Hitler (April 20, 1889 - April 30, 1945) born in Austria, leader of the Nazi Party, Chancellor of Germany, and then Fuhrer (1933 - 1945), dictator, tyrant; war and hate-monger, was the chief catalyst for the Jewish Holocaust. In all likelihood, nothing of this magnitude (up to 6 million Jews, and tens of millions of other victims) would have ensued had it not been for the rise in power of, and implementation of Hitler's policies.

Laws and policies that were anti-Semitic and supported the supremacy of 'Arians' were implemented in Germany. Jews were persecuted, isolated, dehumanized, and had their citizenship re-

voked. Jewish-owned businesses were labelled, boycotted, destroyed, and/or confiscated. Jews were dismissed from civil service positions, and could not be employed in numerous other professions. In May 1933, the works of Jewish or anti-German authors were burned in a mass ceremony at Berlin's Opera House. By 1935, German businesses were openly declaring that they had stopped servicing Jews.

On April 21, 1933, Nazi Germany passed a law that, in effect, prohibited kosher slaughter in Germany. Though this law did not stipulate 'Jew' or Shechita (Kosher slaughter), all animals destined to be slaughtered had to be stunned or euthanised first. In effect, every pre-slaughtered food animal had to be unconscious before being put to death. At the time, this law had little to no effect on the German Gentile population, and there were hardly any Muslims in Germany; only observant Jews would be affected. Kosher slaughter became illegal overnight. Although Nazi Germany had strong animal welfare laws and some prominent Nazi officials were vegetarians and loved animals, the law was part of a series of actions designed to strip Jews of their religious, political, social, and human rights; one step at a time until the victims have absolutely no recourse; there was hardly anyone there to stop them.

"The official positions of the national Catholic churches throughout the Continent and those of the Vatican were not essentially different regarding the increasingly harsh anti-Jewish measures. In France, as we saw, in August 1940 the assembly of cardinals and bishops welcomed the limitations imposed on the country's Jews, and no members of the Catholic hierarchy expressed any protest regarding the statutes of October 1940 and June 1941. In" (Saul Friedländer, *The Years of Extermination*).

Kristallnacht's wave of violence spread throughout Germany, newly annexed Austria (March 12-13, 1938), and in parts of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia. The death of Vom Rath occurred on the anniversary of the 1923 Beer Hall Putsch, which was a failed attempt by Adolph Hitler and the Nazi Party to overthrow the German Government.

Contrary to Nazi propaganda, who claimed that the mob violence was a spontaneous, legitimate response by the German people to the assassination of a German diplomatic official, it was orchestrated by the Nazi hierarchy. They congregated in Munich to commemorate the anniversary of the Beer Hall Putsch, but used the occasion to advance their true aims. Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels (October 29, 1897 - May 1, 1945) the prime mover of the Kristallnacht pogrom, claimed that 'World Jewry' had schemed to commit the assassination. At the meeting it became clear that the authorities would not intervene if there were 'demonstrations'; tacit approval under the guise of non-interference.

Hoodlums destroyed Jewish homes, hospitals, schools, more than 7,500 businesses were damaged or obliterated, there was

large-scale uninhibited looting, nearly 270 synagogues in Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland were smashed into ruins. Sledgehammers were a common tool used for destroying property. An unbelievable quantity of broken glass littered the streets.

Kristallnacht was particularly violent in Berlin and Vienna, having the 2 largest populations of Jews in the German Reich. Hordes of SA members strolled the streets violently assaulting Jews in public or in their homes. They forced Jews to perform humiliating acts in public. The death toll of those who died during the pogrom and thereafter was in the hundreds. The official German estimate of just over 90 deaths is certainly an understatement. No one knows how many Jewish women were raped. There were a number of Jewish suicides after Kristallnacht.

Mob law ruled in Berlin throughout the afternoon and evening and hordes of hooligans indulged in an orgy of destruction. I have seen several anti-Jewish outbreaks in Germany during the last five years, but never anything as nauseating as this. Racial hatred and hysteria seemed to have taken complete hold of otherwise decent people. I saw fashionably dressed women clapping their hands and screaming with glee, while respectable middle-class mothers held up their babies to see the "fun." (Carleton Greene, Hugh. *Daily Telegraph*, 11 November 1938 cited in "The Road to World War II" Archived 30 September 2007 at the Wayback Machine, Western New England College).

Following Heydrich's orders, gangs of SS and Gestapo arrested roughly 30,000 Jewish males. They were initially sent to local prisons. Later, they were sent to Dachau, Buchenwald, and Sachsenhausen concentration camps. At the time, the camps were designed to hold Jews, political prisoners, and other people viewed as enemies of the Nazi regime. Hundreds of Jews died in the camps resulting from savage treatment. Most of the surviving prisoners were released on condition they begin the process of leaving Germany. To add insult to injury, the German authorities blamed the riots on the Jews. Jews were ordered to pay one billion Reichsmark, at 1938 rates, it was an incredible amount.

On November 15, 1938, American President Franklin D. Roosevelt (January 30, 1882 - April 12, 1945) harshly condemned Nazi violence and anti-Semitism in Germany. He recalled the American Ambassador in Germany, the only country to do so.

The Ponary (now called Poneriai) pogrom was the large-scale massacre of up to 100,000 people the majority of which were Jews, Poles, and Russians. The operation was conducted by German units and their Lithuanian quislings consisting of killing bands. The killings occurred between July 8, 1941 and August 1944.

On July 8, 1941, 100 Jews were brought in succession from Vilna, Lithuania to the killing site in Ponary, where the victims had to wait in fear. In earlier days, this site had been a fun holiday resort for Vilna Jews. They were forced to undress and to hand over their money and valuables. Then they were forced to march in the nude, in single file, in groups of 10 to 20 at a

time, holding hands to the border of pits that had previously been dug by the Soviet Army to store fuel. They were then executed by rifle fire; the victims fell into the pits. Anyone in the pit who moved was immediately shot. The corpses were covered with a light layer of sand. Later, another group of hapless victims was marched to the site, where they underwent the same procedure. An estimated 70,000 Jews were killed in Ponary, along with thousands of Poles, and Russian POWs.

In September, 1941, the Vilna Ghetto was established. In this month 9,700 Jews were killed at the Ponary site, followed by subsequent killings. By the end of 1941, the Jewish death toll reached to about 60,000. By the end of 1944, the death toll was over 70,000.

11th July. Lovely weather. It's hot out; there are white clouds and a gentle breeze. Shooting can be heard from the forest. Presumably from training. The shooting started at 4pm. Then I was informed that many Jews were transported to the forest via the road to Grodno and were then shot. This was the first day of executions. A depressing feeling. The shooting stopped at about eight in the evening. For the Germans 300 Jews are 300 enemies of humanity. For the Lithuanians 300 Jews are 300 pairs of shoes, trousers and clothes." (V. Sakovich, Vilna - Ponar: A Land Without God p. 11, 13).

The Radzilow pogrom was a massacre that occurred from July 7-10, 1941, in the town of Radzilow, in German-occupied Poland. Residents sent most of the town's Jews into a barn and then set it ablaze. Jews were also murdered in nearby villages. The number of dead ranges between several hundred to two thousand. A measly 30 Jews remained in Radzilow, thanks to a helping hand given by some local Poles.

The primary precursor to the horror of Radzilow was the 1928 Polish elections. Nearly every Jewish resident of Radzilow voted for a Jewish party. Over 40 percent of Poles voted for National Democracy, an ultra-nationalist party. On March 23, 1933, after the arrest of a number of National Democracy members, adherents within its hardline faction, the Camp for Greater Poland, initiated a pogrom which they considered a 'revolution'.

Jews were assaulted, their properties pillaged, windows and market stalls were destroyed, a Jewish woman was killed. The Police killed 4 of the attackers. The violence and mayhem led to the banning of the Camp for Greater Poland.

The Germans entered Radzilow on September 7, 1939, but handed control of the town to the Soviets as per the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. The handover ended on June 23, 1941, following the German re-occupation of the town. Initially, the Germans were greeted as liberators. Poles who had been imprisoned by the Soviets built a ceremonial gate for the occasion, bearing a photo of Hitler, and commending the Germans. The slogan on the ceremonial gate read, 'Long live the German army that has freed us from the accursed Jewish-commune'.

At the end of June, 1941, the Germans assigned Polish hardliners to head the local collaborationist administration, and established a supplementary Polish police force. Several members of the police force had been imprisoned by the NKVD and let-loose by the Germans. The Germans gave weapons to Poles whom they deemed reliable, resulting in acts of brutality against local Jews, perpetrated by German troops and Poles. Jews were assaulted and mugged, religious texts were violated. The aura of an impending pogrom had engulfed the town of Radzilow.

On July 7, 1941 the Gestapo and reliable Poles were summoned to begin their assault. The marketplace contained an estimated 1,700 Jewish men, women, children, and elderly. The hoodlums and Gestapo surrounded the market, ensuring that no one would escape the onslaught. They beat Jews to a pulp. Among the victims was an elderly shoemaker named Artel Lipinski, drenched in blood and unconscious. They hung a hefty stone around the neck of T. Shtshani, a former policeman. As he lost his balance from the weight of the stone the hoodlums beat him viciously.

Gestapo made it clear that the hoodlums could have their way with the Jews of Radzilow for 3 days. Then, the Gestapo handed out weapons to the hoodlums and left the scene. The armed hoodlums corralled the congregated victims into Mitkowski's barn, located near the village of Radivyesh. They wedged the doors shut, poured a liberal quantity of kerosene on the barn and then set it ablaze. Those who refused to enter the barn were bayoneted, then tossed into the blaze. A few persons were able to escape the blaze, but were shot dead. The hoodlums' slogan made clear that every single targeted Jew was to be killed. Craving for more blood, they began to search a larger area for more people to kill. When ammunition ran low, the hoodlums started beating the heads of children until they were killed. They tore off the limbs of a number of living persons. After the flames died down, hoodlums entered the barn and yanked out gold teeth from corpses. The quote below by Szymon Datner is another shameful tragedy in the pogrom story:

"The scent of massacre is in the air... The situation would not be so desperate, were it not for the outspoken and hostile behaviour of the local Poles... Finally people try one more thing: the local Catholic priest, Aleksander Dagalevski, is the greatest authority among the Radzilow Poles and Mrs. Finkelstein is a close acquaintance of his. She goes to him in order to persuade him to exert influence on his parishioners, and get them to cease perpetrating their outrages. Mrs. Finkelstein goes on her holy errand and receives the answer that all Jews, great and small, are communists, and that he has no interest in protecting them. To the question how small children could be guilty of anything, he answer{s} that they aren't really guilty, but that he can't put in any good word for the Jews, because his own sheep would toss him in the mud. The holy man's answer shook the shtetl's Jews, and revealed to them the hopelessness of the situation." (Inti-

mate Violence: Anti-Jewish Pogroms on the Eve of the Holocaust, By Jeffrey S. Kopstein & Jason Wittenberg, pages 78-79).

The Rumbula pogrom (also called the 'Big Action') refers to massacres occurring on November 30 and December 8, 1941, where an estimated 25,000 Jews (24,000 Latvian, 1,000 Germans) were sent to Latvia. The victims were killed in or while being taken to Rumbula Forest near Riga, Latvia.

Riga, Latvia was occupied by the Soviet Union in June 1940, later by Nazi Germany during Operation Barbarosa. Initially, many Latvians except for the Jews, welcomed the Germans with open arms, thinking that they were liberators. Latvians suffered immensely under Soviet occupation. Many Latvians had been sent to Siberian labour camps; many were supposedly wealthy peasants. Latvian owned-land was confiscated by the state and then given to Russians.

It didn't take long for the German occupiers to show their true face. Germans along with Latvian collaborators forced the 30,000 Jews of Riga into a ghetto, the order came from Hinrich Lohse (September 2, 1896 - February 25, 1963), a Nazi German politician and a convicted war criminal. Many victims died during the treacherous march. Any act perceived as recalcitrant was met by a bullet; a German guard who did not shoot a recalcitrant marcher, could himself be shot.

"The columns of people were moving on and on, sometimes at a half run, marching, trotting, without end. There one, there another, would fall and they would walk right over them, constantly being urged on by the policemen, 'Faster, faster', with their whips and rifle butts. [It was] about midday when the horror of the march ended Now the street was quiet, nothing moved.

Corpses were scattered all over, rivulets of blood still oozing from the lifeless bodies. They were mostly old people, pregnant women, children, handicapped – all those who could not keep up with the inhuman tempo of the march," wrote Frida Michelson, a survivor of the march.'" (By Peter Curry, October 30, 2018, The Horror of the Rumbula Massacre; Historyhit.com).

The SS in Riga was headed by Friedrich Jekeln; he was ordered to eradicate the Jews. In 1941 the massive death camps had not yet been operational. At the time, the eradication method was more hands on, force the victims to dig their own pits, shoot them, and then cover the bodies and repeat the process. We can say that Jekeln was a talented mass killer. He devised a more sinister and effective method of killing innocent people. He discovered a site that would be easier for transport and burial. It was a hill just beyond the outskirts of Rumbula. The site was at a higher plain than the nearby marsh, removing the problem of digging into water. Furthermore, the site was sandy, ideal for digging pits, and a short distance from the rail line.

Jekeln made Soviet POWs dig a number of mass graves, the

shape of which were designed specifically for large-scale killings. Soviet machine guns were used for the killings because the magazines could hold 50 rounds and fire 1 bullet at a time, to the back of the head. During the shootings, not everyone was killed. Eyewitnesses and the few survivors of the ordeal claim that the earth was twitching from the desperate motions of the wounded. The Rumbula massacre site was later converted into a beautiful holocaust memorial.

The Szczuczyn pogrom (Shushtin) was a massacre of an estimated 300 Jews in the town of Szczuczyn, Poland in June 1941 after the town was bypassed by invading German soldiers. The perpetrators of the killings were local Poles. The massacre would've led to more deaths had the Germans not stopped it.

In July, 1941, a massacre of Jews by Poles resulted in 100 Jewish deaths. Following the German occupation of Szczuczyn in August 1941 an estimated 600 Jews were killed by the Germans. The survivors were sent to a ghetto, later, they were sent to Treblinka extermination camp.

Before the war Szczuczyn had a population of 4,500, around 55 percent (2,475) were Jews. At the beginning of the war the Szczuczyn was occupied by German troops for a short period of time. In the initial stage of the war Szczuczyn was briefly under the control of the Germans; they sent 350 men, predominately Jewish, to forced labour. Only 30 survived, returning after 5 months.

As part of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, the Germans handed over control of Szczuczyn to the Soviets, who promptly arrested all the known wealthy residents, including many Jews.

On the night of June 5, 1941, Polish residents of Szczuczyn conducted a series of pogroms. On June 28, hatchet-wielding gangs savagely killed an estimated 300 Jews, individuals, entire families, in particular wealthy families, tossing a number of bodies into ditches near the town. Jewish women tried to persuade local priests and intellectuals to stop the pogrom, to no avail. It wasn't until the women bribed a passing German patrol that the pogrom ended. In July 1941, about 100 Jews were executed by Soviet-positioned policemen.

The Topolcany pogrom was an anti-Jewish riot in Topolcany, Slovakia, on September 24, 1945; it was the most renowned act of post-war violence against Jews in Slovakia. The catalyst was the demand by returning Jews for property stolen during the Holocaust. A rumour spread that a Catholic school was going to be nationalized and the nuns who taught there substituted by Jewish teachers.

On the morning of the riot, women demonstrated against the alleged nationalization of the school, assigning guilt onto the Jews. To make matters worse, on the same day, a Jewish physician

who was vaccinating children at a school was accused of poisoning Gentile children, igniting a riot.

Rioters chanted, "Away with Jews, Jews are guilty of everything, expel Jewish children from our schools, and prohibit Jewish doctors, the Bergers, from vaccinating our children!" (Cichopek, Anna (2014). *Beyond Violence: Jewish Survivors in Poland and Slovakia, 1944-48*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

According to a police report regarding the riot, There are very few people in Topolčany who would not approve of the events of 24 September 1945. Today in a conversation with a worker, a farmer, or a member of the intelligentsia you will find that people hate Jews outright." (ibid; p. 137).

Local police were either unable or unwilling to stop the riot. Local military units were called in to help stop the riot, instead they joined the rioters. About 47 Jews sustained injuries, 15 of which needed hospitalization. Worldwide knowledge of the riot was bad publicity for the Czechoslovakian authorities. The Czechoslovak Communist Party needed a scapegoat, so they blamed the democratic authorities for the failure. In 2004, a documentary about the Topolcany riot, entitled 'Love thy Neighbour', resulted in serious discussions about the riot. Acting quickly, in 2005, the mayor of Topolcany issued an official apology. In 1947 there were an estimated 320 Jewish Holocaust survivors living in Topolcany. A memorial to the victims was erected in the local Jewish Cemetery.

The Wasosz pogrom was a massacre of Jews in Wasosz, German-occupied Poland, on July 5, 1941. The town of Wasosz was initially occupied by the Germans, but was soon handed over to the Soviets as per the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. The Soviet Union had invaded Poland from the East; Poland was literally under double occupation, both occupiers were extremely ruthless, as history clearly shows. German forces re-occupied Wasosz on June 22, 1941.

On the nights of July 4 and 5, 1941, a brutal massacre occurred. The culprits were a small group of men wielding axes and iron clubs, killing (estimates vary; 250 to over 1,000) Jews without regard to age or gender. The bodies were transported by horse-drawn carts and tossed into a large pit on the outskirts of town.

In 2014, Polish government investigators sought permission to exhume the bodies in Wasosz, believed to be one of 30 comparable attacks in the region. Culpability for the Wasosz massacre is a contentious issue; was it the Germans, local Poles, or a combination of both? Soviet interpretation plays down Jewish suffering, to support its own version of history. Note that German killing squads that followed the regular army used guns, not axes and iron clubs. Krzysztof Persak, a historian for the Institute of Remembrances said:

"The Nazis encouraged the Poles to cleanse their areas of Jews." (NBC New, Alex-

ander Smith Contributed to the Report, October 5, 2014; Wasosz Pogrom Mass Murder Investigation Sharply Divides Jewish Leaders; nbcnews.com).

One particular version of events was written down by Menachim Finkelsztejn, 22 years-old at the time, and who lived in the area:

"The local hooligans went from door to door, murdering people inside and outside, raping women, cutting breasts, smashing newborns against walls," (ibid).

In 2014, Poland's chief Rabbi said that exhuming the bodies of the victims would be a violation of Jewish law, and he said that most Rabbis agree with his opinion.

"We have to examine all the evidence about the murders before anyone can even think of exhumation ... And the gathering of that information is still going on." (ibid).

Piotr Kadıcik, President of the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland believes that the remains can be exhumed and buried in a Jewish cemetery with a traditional religious ceremony.

CHAPTER TWO

Consequent to the invasion of Poland during the Second World War the Nazi authorities established ghettos throughout occupied Europe for the purpose of segregating and confining Jews, Romani, and Sinti, (into small sections of cities and towns (the latter 2 were mostly segregated into camps, a smaller number into ghettos), in order to facilitate their exploitation. German authorities referred to these places as the Jewish Quarter. There were 3 main types of ghettos:

1. Closed Ghettos were sealed off by walls, or fences with barbed wire.
2. Open Ghettos contained no walls or fences, but there were limitations regarding entry and exit.
3. Destruction Ghettos were sealed off and had a lifespan of 2 to 6 weeks. The Germans and/or their collaborators sent off or shot the people therein.

The emergence of Nazism was catastrophic to Jews in much of Europe. Within weeks after the German invasion of Poland in 1939, the Nazis began to select sections of sizeable Polish cities and towns as explicitly Jewish. Thereafter, the Germans began a massive plan of action to expel Jews from their homes and businesses

through compulsory removal. Whole Jewish communities were deported into sealed off zones by train. The enforcers were members of the Order Police Battalions (militarized units of the Order Police-uniformed police). Ghettos were used to isolate and control.

The first ghetto was established on October 8, 1939 at Piotrkow Trybunalski. By January 1940, the entire Jewish population of the city had been sent to the ghetto. The 3 most renowned ghettos were at Lodz, Warsaw, and Krakow. Lodz was established in April 1940, Warsaw, in October 1940, and Krakow in March 1941. Most Jewish ghettos were established in 1940 and 1941; when they set their mind on it the Nazis worked very hard and fast to attain their final solution. The typical Jewish ghettos were sealed off from Gentiles and at times, other Jews. During the Second World War, the Nazis established more than 400 Jewish ghettos, none of them for the benefit of the Jews.

The word 'ghetto' traces its origin to the name of the Jewish section of Venice, Italy (Borghetto). In 1516, Venetian authorities forced the city's Jews to live in a specific section of the city. Soon, other European authorities established their own Jewish ghettos; the Austrian Emperor did so in Frankfurt, Prague, Rome, and other cities. Ghetto-ization usually lasted a short period of time, some for only a few days, but others remained for months or years.

In late 1941, as part of the Final Solution (the Nazi plan to eradicate European Jewry), the elimination of the Jewish inhabitants of the ghettos began through large-scale executions (mass graves); or were deported to killing centres, labour camps, or concentration camps. Regarding the sending of Jews to the camps, the Nazis usually lied, claiming that they were sending the hapless victims east, to labour, a better life. The truth is, many were sent to forced labour camps, many of those who were deemed unable to work were sent to the gas chambers or killed by bullet. Not all victims were fooled, as stories of atrocities sometimes reached the ghettos. Overwhelmingly, there wasn't much the victims could do, at its peak the German Military was by far the most powerful military in Europe, and was extremely ruthless. Many victims were killed in the manner you or I would kill a cockroach, without shedding a single tear. No, maybe worse, we'd kill a roach without sadistic pleasure.

Throughout the process Jews could be killed individually, for insubordination, attempted escape, smuggling, as part of collective punishment, or just for the fun of it. If a person couldn't work for the betterment of the Nazis and their collaborators, his or her life was worth nothing. In August 1944, the Germans finished destroying the last major ghetto, located in Lodz. Lodz Ghetto contained approximately 155,000 people, nearly one-third of the city's population. The Warsaw Ghetto was the

largest in Poland, it contained a whopping 450,000 people packed into an area of 1.3 square miles. Hundreds of people living in a small building, several families living in one apartment, unreliable or no plumbing; it was a common occurrence for people to toss human waste into the streets. Naturally, the stress level could reach incredible levels; many suicides occurred. Children became orphans, many had to take care of younger siblings. Street peddlers, adults and children alike, sold armband patches, bed-sheets, newspapers, candy, hot drinks, and more.

The Nazis believed that the 'Aryan Peoples or Race' was superior to all others. The Jews were considered inferior, sub-humans. Irrespective of the Nuremberg Racial Laws absolutely prohibiting relations between the superior Aryans and non-Aryans, inter-racial relations did occur; most of those between Aryans and 'sub-humans' fall under the category of rape. There was a period of time when it was dangerous for a Jewish woman to be on the streets of Warsaw and elsewhere in Poland.

"One incident, details of which have been checked, occurred in Warsaw. German Army officers took over an apartment at 8 Piusa Street which had belonged to M. Szereszewski, prominent Warsaw Jew who is now a refugee outside Poland. Officers and soldiers then carried out a raid, in broad daylight, on Jewish houses in a nearby street and seized about 40 girls, most of them between the ages of eighteen and twenty, and transported them to this apartment. The girls were then stripped and were ordered to perform nude dances. Afterwards all of them were violated and they were held in the apartment until the early hours of the morning." (January 15, 1940; Nazi Troops Rape 40 Jewish Girls in Warsaw; Jewish Telegraph Agency).

High-ranking Nazi officials were believed that Jews would succumb to the horrible living conditions in the ghettos, including deficiency of food, water, living space, and human rights. Commonly, ghettos were very overcrowded, unsanitary, with widespread hunger and starvation, fuel shortages, extreme winters without the proper clothing, diseases and epidemics, in particular typhus and cholera. People on the outside were usually reluctant to help.

"Jews are forbidden to leave the ghetto. on penalty of being shot on sight, while Poles are prohibited from sheltering, feeding or otherwise helping Jews fleeing the ghetto. Non-Jews must immediately report all such refugees to the Nazi authorities or suffer a fine up to 10,000 zlotys." (July 30, 1941, 200 Jews Dying Reported Dying Monthly in Warsaw Ghetto from Epidemics; Jewish Telegraph Agency). Note: The title of the article indicates 200 dying monthly, however, the article indicates 2000.

Most of the apartments in the Warsaw Ghetto had no heating, thereby draining residents of physical and mental energy. To make matters worse, Nazi officials decided, in their warped mindset, that the residents of the Warsaw Ghetto could live on a food allotment of 300 calories per day; Poles received about 635 calories, Germans 2,310. Note that starvation drastically reduces the

body's immune response, thereby opening the door to serious diseases and other medical complications. Naturally, there were many incidents of food theft; violence and killing for food (even for a minute quantity), and taking food from a deceased person. Emaciated, starving beggars were a common sight, and so were dead bodies on the streets, creating a rancid scent.

Lack of actual water, or clean water was another problem. The cramped living conditions increased likelihood of contracting a contagious disease or something simple like the common cold; rats, mites, lice, bedbugs, and roaches were an ever-present problem. Eva Galler, a Polish Jew and survivor of the Lubaczow Ghetto and Belzec Concentration Camps, described the starvation and disease that was a normal occurrence in the ghettos:

"It was cold. In one corner there was a little iron stove but no fuel. We were not given enough to eat. The children looked through the garbage for food. There was not enough water to drink. There was one well in the backyard, but it would not produce enough water for everybody. To be sure to get water you had to get up in the middle of the night. Once I had a little water to wash myself, and my sister later washed herself in the same water. Some people started to eat grass. They would swell up and die. Because of the unsanitary conditions people got lice and typhus. My brother Pinchas got night blindness from lack of vitamins. Every day a lot of people died. It was a terrible situation. People were depressed. There was nothing to do. They waited and hoped and prayed." (The Holocaust: The Ghettos; mattsholocaustproject.webs.com).

Jews were forced to wear identifying badges or armbands with yellow stars of David on them. The Judenrat (Jewish Council) and Ghetto Police maintained order in the ghettos and had the unenviable task of easing deportations to the extermination camps.

'Illegal activities' were still performed. Food smuggling was common. A special opening/s in the ghetto wall, food hidden within larger cargo, bribing a guard, or in some cases, food tossed into the ghetto by non-ghetto residents. Youth movements, cultural activities including plays, concerts, etc. These activities occurred with or without permission from the Jewish Council. The outside world had its share of anti-Semitism. The Nazis weren't always the worst haters of Jews.

"Until this morning, what I still had was confidence in the Poles; now I don't even have that. I have been to Krzemionki today, where I was passing by bricklayers, and they took some lime and sprayed me with it ... I had plenty of lime in my hair, on my dress, all over my head, arms and legs, and that lime burnt my skin. And those bricklayers laughed. It's really bad to be a Jew," Renia Knoll, aged 14. (Stories from Inside the Krakow Ghetto; charterforcompassion.org).

Ghetto uprisings were an array of revolts that occurred between 1941 - 1943, against the Nazis and their collaborator. The ghetto combatants took up arms during the most murderous period of the Jewish Holocaust, Operation Reinhard (the extermination plan). Jewish armed resistance occurred in dozens of locations on

both sides of the Polish-Soviet border. Nazi reprisals were brutal.

The Bedzin Ghetto (also spelled Bendzin Ghetto) was a Nazi ghetto established during the Second World War for Polish Jews in Bendzin, Poland. The Jewish Quarter was established in July 1940, the population of which was 30,000; 20,000 were from Bedzin, 10,000 were expellees from nearby communities. Many of the physically abled poor had to work in German military factories before being shipped aboard trains to nearby concentration camps at Auschwitz where they were put to death en masse.

The Jewish presence in Bedzin traces its origin to the Middle Ages. A high point in Bedzin Jewish life and activities was in the late 19th Century, nearly 80 percent of the town's inhabitants were Jews. During the German-Soviet invasion of Poland, the German military occupied the region in early September 1939. A few days later, the first severe economic sanctions were forced onto Bedzin. On September 9th, the Bedzin Synagogue (some sources claim September 8) was burned during prayer services. On the same day, the first large-scale murder of Bedzin Jews occurred, taking the lives of 40 prominent Jews.

A month later, Hitler announced that Bedzin would be incorporated into the German annexed territories. Order Police Battalions began to expel Jewish families from all communities in the surrounding areas, increasing the population of Bedzin Jews to 30,000. All Jews were forced to live in 2 poverty-stricken areas, Kamionka and Mala Srodula beside the Sosnowiec Ghetto. The ghettos were guarded by Jewish Police and had no physical barriers to the outside world.

From the occupation of Bedzin until May 1942, around 4,000 Jews were sent to slave labour camps. Most Bedzin Jews were killed during Operation Reinhard, they were sent to Nazi death camps, in particular to the nearby Auschwitz-Birkenau gas chambers. August 12, 1942 was the largest deportation day, all the Jews were concentrated at Bedzin's 2 football fields (soccer fields). Following a selection process that took several hours, 5,000 people were sent to their deaths. Rutka Lasier, who was chosen for deportation to a labour camp, miraculously escaped by leaping out of the first floor barrack she was in. As written in Rutka's diary:

„I have surely seen enough misery that even a pen cannot describe. Young children lying on the grass wet from the rain. Storm raged over us. The police beat so badly and shot. ... I saw myself when a soldier snatched a several-month-old baby from its mother's hands and with all his strength, hit its head against a lamppost. The brain splattered on the tree, the mother got an attack, I am writing about it as if nothing had happened, as if I were some experienced military person accustomed to atrocity, and I'm still young, I'm fourteen years old, and I haven't seen much in life, and I'm already so indifferent. ... Ha, ha, you can go crazy if you remember it all". (By Cyryl Skibinski,

August 23, 2013; THE BEDZIN GHETTO. WE REMEMBER; JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE).

In early August 1943, the Germans initiated the final extermination phase of the Bedzin Ghetto residents; it took longer than expected. The Jewish Combat Organization (ZOB)- Bedzin chapter, initiated an uprising, like that in Sosnowiec, against the German occupiers. The ZOB was established in mid-1942 (other sources claim 1941) in Poland, influenced by Mordechai Anielewicz. The objectives of the ZOB was Jewish self-defence and armed resistance against the Germans.

Weapons for the Bedzin uprising were acquired from the Jewish underground in Warsaw. Pistols, hand-grenades, and any other weapons were smuggled in dangerous train rides. Edzia Pejsachson was caught smuggling weapons, she was tortured to death. Molotov cocktails and other bombs were manufactured in Bedzin. The weapons were hidden until the right moment.

A number of partisans stood their ground in a bunker at Podsiadly Street. All of the partisans were killed when they ran out of ammunition. The fighting began on August 3, 1943, lasting for a number of days. Soon thereafter, the ghetto was liquidated.

Frumka Plotnicka, previously a partisan in the Warsaw Ghetto, who was transferred to the Bedzin Ghetto, was the leader and initiator of the uprising. She died on August 2, 1943, at 29 while fighting the Nazis. Plotnicka was a Socialist Zionist youth leader who took part in the resistance using aliases to travel throughout Nazi-occupied Poland as a courier and carrier of weapons. She also taught other resistance fighters how to manufacture additional weapons. She witnessed many trains carrying people to their deaths, and reported on many ghetto liquidations. She was a hero to many.

"Jews would flock around her {Frumka Plotnicka} from all sides. One would ask her if he should return home or continue his way eastward to the Soviet-dominated provinces. Another would come in search of a hot meal or a loaf of bread for his wife and children. . . . she was a devoted mother to them all. She had an extremely positive influence on the larger Jewish community in Warsaw. The fact that many of its former leaders had deserted the city, and she had chosen to return, greatly impressed the Jewish community workers."-Zivia Lubetkin (By Lawrence Bush, August 2, 2016; August 3: Frumka Plotnicka and the Bedzin Ghetto Uprising; Jewishcurrents.org).

The Bialystok Ghetto uprising was an armed rebellion against the Nazi occupation during the Second World War. The uprising began on August 16, 1943. It was massive and intense, only exceeded in Nazi-occupied Poland, by the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. The Bialystok Ghetto was established by the Germans in August 1941, following the German invasion of the Soviet Union. Nearly 50,000 Jews from the city and surrounding areas were crammed into a small area of Bialystok. The ghetto had 2 sections, divided by

the Biala River. Most of the Jews in the Bialystok ghetto worked in forced-labour assignments, in particular, large textile factories. A number of Jews were assigned to labour outside of the ghetto.

Nazi brutality was apparent from the start. Upon entering Bialystok on June 27, 1941, troops (Order Police Battalion 309) corralled hundreds of Jews into a Synagogue and then set it on fire, a day known as 'Red Friday' by the Jewish community. Miraculously, there were a few survivors. The following week, more than 5,000 Jews were shot in the streets.

In February 1943, nearly 10,000 Bialystok Jews were sent to the Treblinka killing centre; they were placed in a central transit camp before deportation. Many individuals were too weak, or for some reason or another could not travel; they were shot. The able-bodied were sent to the Majdanek camp. At the camp, another examination of work ability was conducted; a number of people were sent to other camps. More than 1,000 children were sent to Theresienstadt Ghetto, a German-occupied area (Bohemia) in what was then Czechoslovakia. Later, they were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau, they were killed.

On the night of August 16, 1943, when there was little hope of survival or escape, hundreds of Polish Jews began an armed uprising targetting the troops, including SS, aided by Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Latvian auxiliaries involved in the destruction of the ghetto. The resistance fighters were lightly armed; a machine gun, rifles, dozens of pistols, Molotov cocktails, and a number of bottles containing acid.

"The Germans, having the experience gained in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, were well prepared for the elimination of the Białystok Jewish communities. 'The fight is uneven. About 300 poorly armed Jews fighting against the SS troops consisting of over three thousand soldiers armed only with machine guns,' wrote [Szymon] Dąbner. 'To the fight against the Jewish fighters they added also armoured cars, light tanks and... aircraft.'" — Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute. (By Lawrence Bush, August 15, 2014; August 16: The Bialystok Ghetto Uprising; Jewishcurrents.org).

The fighting went on for several days, in an attempt to break out of the ghetto and combine forces with partisans in the surrounding forests, several dozen were able to escape. Hundreds of resistance fighters were killed in the fighting, and more than 70 captured fighters were killed by the Germans. The Bialystok resistance movement was formed by Mordechai Tenenboim-Tamarof, establishing the Anti-Fascist Fighting Bloc. Irrespective of the heroic actions of the resistance fighters, the deportations continued. The Red Army liberated Bialystok in August 1944.

The Czestochowa Ghetto uprising in Poland was a revolt targetting the German Military occupiers. The uprising occurred in late June 1943, resulted in the killing of about 2,000 Jews. The ghetto was set up following a day called Bloody Monday; 300 of

Czestochowa's Jews were killed by the Nazis. The population of the city at the time was 130,000 - 140,000, of which around 30,000 were Jews. The ghetto was operational from September 3, 1939 until its liberation by the Soviet Army in January of 1945.

The prisoners of the ghetto had to work in slave labour factories, for the benefit of their German occupiers. The HASAG pelcery was the largest forced labour camp in Czestochowa, containing about 5,000 local and Lodz Jews. In total an estimated 40,000 Polish Jews from the area were sent to Treblinka extermination camp.

The Czestochowa Judenrat was set up on September 16, 1939. It was headed by Leon Kopinski. In early October 1942 every member of the Judenrat was sent to Treblinka, except Kopinski and B. Kurland. Kopinski was shot and killed after the deportation. Kurland became head of the Judenrat until July 22, 1943, following baseless accusations by the Nazi occupiers, culminating in his execution at the cemetery. The Nazi occupiers were covering their tracks.

The first occurrence of an uprising was on January 3, 1943 at the so-called Large Ghetto. Shots were fired at the Warsaw Square (presently Ghetto Heroes Square), during the selection of about 500 Jews to be sent to the Radomsko Ghetto. Two Jews were killed in the shoot-out. The Nazis retaliated by executing 50 young Jews. The concluding liquidation of the so-called Small Ghetto (work camp for munitions factory) began in June 1943, following several months of large-scale executions at the cemetery, and deportation of Jews to slave labour camps.

A full-scale uprising occurred between June 23 - 26, 1943, coordinated by the Organization of Jewish Fighters. Although they were lightly armed, they fortified themselves in bunkers along Nadrzezna Street. The fighting, and later massacres cost the lives of 1,500 Jews. In 1943, commander of the uprising, Mordechaj Zylberberg, took his own life just before the Germans entered his bunker. The uprising ended on June 30, later 500 Jews lost their lives; some were burned alive others buried beneath the rubble. Many of the surviving Jews were imprisoned or sent away to a camp.

The Krakow Ghetto was one of five significant Jewish ghettos set up by Nazi Germany in the General Government territory. At the start of the Second World War the population of Jews in Krakow, Poland was about 60,000, nearly one-fourth of the city's population. Krakow came under German occupation in early September 1939, and in the following month became the capital of the Generalgouvernement (the name given by the Germany occupiers to the puppet state that was formed from Central Poland during the Second World War).

The Krakow Ghetto was set up to take advantage of, frighten,

and persecute local Polish Jews. It was also used as an assembly area for separating the able-bodied worker from those believed to be worthless, in material use and in value of life.

Rules and restrictions against Jews came into effect soon afterward. Jews were required to report for manual labour beginning in October 1939. In November they were required to set up a Judenrat; in December they were required to wear a Star of David to indicate their Jewish status and identity. Property had to be registered. The official sealing of the Krakow Ghetto occurred in March, 1941. This ghetto was somewhat unique in that unlike most Nazi-instituted ghettos that brought Jews into the enclosure, an estimated 40,000 were expelled in order to cleanse the seat of the Generalgouvernement of Jews. An estimated 20,000 Jews were left in the city.

The Krakow Ghetto was very cramped and was decreased in size on a regular basis. Expulsions from the Krakow Ghetto began in June 1942, an estimated 7,000 deportees were murdered, 6,000 in the Belzec death camp, and 1,000 in the Plaszow labour camp.

The Krakow Jewish underground resistance (predominately a youth movement - The Fighting Organization of the Jewish Youth or Fighting Pioneers) was in operation from 1942 to late 1943. Akiva was a very important group that helped form the resistance, it unified with other groups including Dror-Freiheit, Hashomer HaTzair, and Hashomer HaDati. It took hard work and dedication to maintain any kind of a resistance against an extremely powerful and ruthless occupying force. Youth movements were either Communist, Socialist, or Zionist. They knew very well that they couldn't defeat the Germans; they wanted justice for the countless murdered and harmed Jews. Non-violent acts of resistance included religion, done so secretly. Jozef Wulf, a member of Akiba wrote:

"None of us had received any schooling in arms or in organizing; nor did any of us have military experience. We did not have much confidence in our own strength, and at first we did not even consider it possible to link up with any of the Polish fighting organizations already in existence." (Gusta Davidson Draenger, Justyna's Narrative, p. 24).

"It is not easy to describe all the obstacles that had to be overcome in order to organize a Jewish resistance under Nazi occupation. Our work was a hundred times more difficult than the work of any other resistance group, because we had to conceal not only our underground activity but also, and even more urgently, our Jewish identities. Hence it may be said that the first thing the leaders had to do was to deny even to themselves the impossibility of the task before them, and to act in spite of the overwhelmingly unfavourable odds." (ibid).

The Krakow Jewish resistance attacked the German occupiers at the Optima Factory, the Cosmo Club, the latter taking the lives of several Nazi notables. In addition, separate attacks

were planned for December 24, 1942 at the Cyganeria Cafe', Esplanada Cafe', and Sztuka Theatre, and an officer's club.

The Cyganeria Cafe' attack was the most notable. Just before Christmas German officers in Krakow shopped for Christmas presents to send back to their loved ones. The officers enjoyed themselves in cafe's, theatres, and other venues of celebration. The Cyganeria Cafe' attack took the lives of up to a dozen Germans. The Jewish attackers dressed up as Poles, making it look like the perpetrators were members of the Polish underground. Although the attacks were a success, the Germans retaliated by arresting most members of the underground. Furthermore, what was left of the Krakow Ghetto was liquidated in March 1943, many Jews were sent to Auschwitz.

The Lachwa (or Lakhwa) Ghetto was set up in early April 1942 by the Nazis, in Lachwa, Belarus. Between 1939-1941 the area was annexed by the Soviet Union. The Lachwa Ghetto uprising was the first major Jewish Ghetto uprising during the Second World War.

In the late 1930s Lachwa had an estimated population of 3,800, at the beginning of the war there were about 2,800 Jews in the town. In September 1939, 350 Jews who were able to escape Nazi-occupied Poland found refuge in Lachwa (they had no idea of what was soon to come).

German troops began their occupation of Lachwa on July 7, 1941. A Judenrat was set up, headed by former Zionist leader Dov Lopatin. Rabbi Hayyim Zalman Osherowitz was arrested by the Nazis, and was only released following a significant payoff (bribe).

In early April 1942, Lachwa's Jewish inhabitants were sent to a new ghetto that was very small and cramped; it was sealed off by a barbed wire fence, and was guarded by the police force consisting of Belarusian and Ukrainian residents. Jews had to wear an armband bearing a Star of David, and were conscripted for forced labour. Worse yet, the daily starvation ration amounted to 200 grams (7 oz.) of bread per day. Naturally, many residents sought any way possible to obtain additional food, including leaving the ghetto without permission; this was a crime punishable by death.

In August and September 1941, word of massacres perpetrated throughout the region by the Germans reached Lachwa. At the time of this terrifying news a number of local farmers had hitherto dug large pits near Lachwa on the banks of the Smierc River. Although the pits were dug at night, the targeted victims knew very well that a mass grave had been reserved for them.

In January 1942, Jewish youth established underground units of 5 persons each, the first of which was headed by Isaac Roszczyzn; he was also the head of the Revisionist Betar youth group. The Betar Movement is a Revisionist Zionist youth movement estab-

lished in 1923, in Riga, Latvia, by Vladimir Ze'ev Jabotinsky, a very hardline Zionist.

On September 3, 1942, the Germans told Dov Lopatyn that the ghetto was going to be liquidated. The Germans ordered the ghetto inhabitants to assemble for 'resettlement'. To ensure the cooperation of the prominent members of the ghetto, the Germans 'gave their word' that members of the Judenrat, the ghetto physician, and 30 able-bodied workers (chosen by Lopatin) would not be harmed. Lopatin reportedly rejected the offer, making it clear that they all live, or all die.

Also on September 3, 1942, when the Germans Sicherheitspolizei (English: Security Police; abbreviated as Sipo), entered the ghetto, they faced armed resistance. Lopatin set fire to the Judenrat headquarters; this was the cue to begin the uprising. Other buildings were set on fire. The fighters attacked the Germans using axes, sticks, Molotov cocktails, and their fists.

The Germans parked trucks on the street dividing the ghetto. The smaller part of the ghetto was to be liquidated first. The Sipo forces responded to the attacks with machine gun and rifle fire, in an attempt to corral the assembled Jews onto the trucks.

Roszczyzn used an axe to kill a Gestapo officer, and then jumped into the Pripjet River, but was then shot in the head. Lopatin, who became a member of the resistance, sustained a hand injury; he escaped into the forest. Chajm Chajfec was able to get hold of a weapon from a dead soldier. He used the weapon to kill 6 German and 8 Belarusian policemen and injure a number of others.

About 1,000 Jews escaped the hell-hole but hundreds were gunned down by machine gun fire. An estimated 600 persons were able to reach the Pripjet River. Many died in the fires that engulfed the Lachwa Ghetto. The death toll of Jews in the fighting and fires was about 650, and about 500 were executed at the pits.

Kopel Kolpanitsky recollects his escape from the Lachwa Ghetto:

"The machine guns on the other side of the river opened fire along the length of Rinkowa Street, wounding fleeing Jews and killing them. . . . I also ran quickly, as the people who ran in front of me were shot and killed, their bodies falling next to me and their blood sprayed on my body." (LACHWA; encyclopedia.ushmm.org).

The Mizoch Ghetto was established during the Second World War, in Mizoch, Ukraine, by the German occupiers. Jews trace their origin in Mizoch to the 18th Century. By the late 1890s Mizoch had an estimated population of 2,650, of which about 1,175 were Jews. Mizoch was a multi-cultural town inhabited by Poles, Ukrainians, and Jews. During the Second World War, Mizoch was invaded twice, in 1939 by the Soviets, and was later occupied by the Germans in 1941 as part of Operation Barbarossa. 300 Jews were able to escape with the retreating Soviet Army.

On October 2, 1942, the sealed Mizoch Ghetto, with its estimated 1,700 Jews was surrounded by Ukrainian Auxiliary Police and German policemen in preparation of the liquidation measures. An uprising ensued, lasting 2 days. During the chaos about half the ghetto residents were able to escape or hide before the uprising was crushed. Thereafter, the captured survivors were promptly sent in lorries to an isolated ravine and executed. The executions were photographed, and in 1945 were used as incriminating evidence against the Nazi regime.

"In 1942 at Mizocz, in the region of Rovno in Ukraine, approximately 1,700 Jews were executed. The photographs show large numbers of people being herded into a ravine, women and children undressing, a line of naked women and children in a queue and finally their executed bodies. Two particular harrowing photographs show German police standing among heaps of naked corpses of women strewn on either side of the ravine." (Struk, Janina (2004). *Photographing the Holocaust*. I.B. Taurus. pp.72-73).

The Warsaw Ghetto uprising was by far the most violent, remarkable, and renowned Jewish act of resistance in a ghetto against the Nazi occupiers. This uprising was a in inspiration for other ghetto Jews. When the Germans invaded Poland in 1939 there were more than 400,000 Jews in Warsaw, Poland. They were squeezed into an area just over 1 square mile. In November 1940, the ghetto was sealed off by brick walls, barbed wire, and trigger-happy guards. The punishment for an attempted escape was one or more bullets, whatever it took to kill the escapee.

"People {in the Warsaw Ghetto} were starving and it was winter and people were dying. Every morning that you were able to go out, you saw corpses ... Not even covered with newspapers, because there wasn't enough time to do it, this is how many people were gone. How can one forget this?" (By Lily Rothman, May 16, 2017; 'Either We Go or Burn Right Here': A Survivor Remembers the Warsaw Ghetto).

The purpose of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising was to violently reject Nazi Germany's extermination of the rest of the Warsaw Ghetto Jews. The Nazi authorities deported or killed roughly 300,000 Warsaw Ghetto Jews; 265,000 Jews were deported to the Treblinka extermination camp, up to 20,000 to labour camps, and the Germans and their collaborators killed more than 10,000 Jews. The Germans controlled the measly quantity of food that entered the ghetto. Mass starvation and disease killed of thousands of residents each month. The Nazi authorities allowed 35,000 Jews to remain in the ghetto, an additional 20,000 Jews were able to hide in the ghetto.

In late July, 1942, several Jewish underground organizations formed a self-defence force called the Jewish Combat Organization (Polish Acronym, ZOB). Initially there was an estimated 200 members. The other major force was the Jewish Military Union (Polish Acronym, ZZW). The Warsaw headquarters consisted of a bunker at Ulica Mila 18. Initial attempts at contacting the Home Army (Pol-

ish military underground movement) in the summer of 1942 were unsuccessful, a later attempt made in October of the same year was successful. A small number of pistols and explosives were acquired from the Home Army.

By order of Heinrich Himmler, liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto was to begin on April 19, 1943, the Eve of Passover. The uprising began following the entry of German SS forces and their collaborators into the Warsaw Ghetto. Several hundred resistance fighters, led by ZOB commander Mordecai Anielewicz, armed with a small stash of weapons, were able to fight off the occupying forces, for as long as they could. Sporadic resistance went on for a month. But the end result was imminent, the Germans methodically destroyed ghetto buildings and the bunkers therein, block by block. When all was done, nearly 7,000 residents were killed or captured, and nearly 50,000 were shipped to extermination or a labour camp. In a final act of brutality and humiliation, the Germans destroyed Warsaw's Great Synagogue on Tlomacki Street. The Warsaw Ghetto was in ruins.

A young woman resident of the Warsaw Ghetto destruction wrote, "The Germans usually attacked us at night. Now they are expanding their attacks to the daytime as well. We must maintain absolute silence on our bunks so that the enemy will not discover us ... I am going out into the street. The streets - Mila, Zamenhof, Kurza, Nalewki, Lubecki - all are on fire. Workshops, apartments, stores, entire houses are burning. The ghetto is nothing more than a sea of flames. A very strong wind is blowing, which fans the fire and carries the sparks from the burning houses to those that have not yet caught fire. (October 24, 2013; Tales of Inhumanity: 7th May 1943. 'The End of the World' Approaches in the Warsaw Ghetto; trenzpruca.wordpress.com).

As written in SS General Jurgen Stroop's daily report for Friedrich-Wilhelm Kruger, "180 Jews, bandits and sub-humans, were destroyed. The former Jewish quarter of Warsaw is no longer in existence. The large-scale action was terminated at 20:15 hours by blowing up the Warsaw Synagogue. ... Total number of Jews dealt with 56,065, including both Jews caught and Jews whose extermination can be proved. ... Apart from 8 buildings (police barracks, hospital, and accommodations for housing working-parties) the former Ghetto is completely destroyed. Only the dividing walls are left standing where no explosions were carried out." ("The Warsaw Ghetto: The Stroop Report - 'The Warsaw Ghetto Is No More', May 1943; Jewish Virtual Library).

CHAPTER THREE

The Nazis set up concentration camps (Konzentrationslager; abbreviated as KL or KZ) and extermination camps across Europe before and in the course of the Second World War. The camps played a big part in the Jewish Holocaust, however, many Jews were brutalized, murdered, and otherwise harmed outside of the camps, 40 percent by some estimates. How many camps did the Nazis set up? Sources vary from over 1,000 to 15,000, the latter being the estimate of the Jewish Virtual Library. Whatever the actual number is, one thing is absolutely certain, there were too many of them, and they were hell-holes where no sane person would willingly want to live in. Overwhelmingly, victims were snatched from their homes and familiar surroundings, then shipped off in freight cars, cattle cars, or passenger trains to a horrible place/s where they had to work for their occupiers (often times slave-labour). The passengers were crammed into the carts like sardines in a can, it was common for passengers not to have enough space to lie down or sit. A small hole in each cart was usually the only light and ventilation therein. One bucket for urinating and defecating was 'the toilet'. The stench of excrement, sweat and body odour, illness and death were unbearable. The dead were be tossed out of the train. Food and water was ei-

ther absolute minimum or non-existent. The journey could last hours to days. Upon arrival to a camp, selection and brutality occurred with little or no delay. Passengers were greeted by armed, shouting German soldiers, collaborators, and Kapos. A Kapo was a Nazi concentration camp inmate who helped the occupiers do their dirty work. They received extra privileges in return. Some were extraordinarily brutal. Jews or non-Jews could be Kapos; most were Jews. Some Kapos chose the job for the extra privileges, others enjoyed the power rush.

Inmates were stripped of their belongings, given an identification number, many were tattooed (Auschwitz) on their forearms. They were deprived of their former identities, their inherent GOD-given right to be treated as full-fledged human beings; they were now sub-human inmates and were treated as such. The workday usually began at the crack of dawn, daily roll call could last for hours, irrespective of weather conditions. Anyone who was late would receive a brutal punishment. Captured escapees were either shot or punished severely. Successful escapes called for collective punishment which could include one or more killings. Meals, if that's what we want to call them consisted of a very measly quantity of bread, watered down soup; regardless of what was served, it was a starvation ration. Many inmates ate grass, beets, stole food, and took food from individuals who had just died, even relatives.

Even tiny bread crumbs were snatched from the floor or ground. A quote by Holocaust survivor Jack Oran explains much:

"Everyone worked so hard, got beaten up ... and came back to the camp - the exhaustion alone pushed him to the bunk to lie down and sleep throughout the night and get enough strength so that he or she might be able to do that again tomorrow. In the morning, sixty percent of the six people in the bunk did not wake up. The other forty percent went over the pockets of the dead people to find a piece of bread. The hygienic condition was very, very poor in that period. I remember that I searched a dead body in the bunk, and I found a piece of bread. That piece of bread was crawling with lice and you shook them off the bread and put it in your mouth and ate it. We all were crawling with lice. Taking a shower was not an option. To get out in the morning, to walk toward the barrack where there is water, running water & endash; you didn't want to walk through mud. If you walked through the mud you probably lost a shoe and then you had to go barefoot. So, it would be damned if I do and damned if I don't. Those were the conditions." (The Humiliating and Inhumane Conditions in Nazi Concentration Camps; historplex.com).

Many prisoners were worked to death, working in a munitions factory was very insulting, many families were literally torn apart, constant hunger or starvation, diseases (the most common of which were typhus and dysentery; scurvy occurs from a lack of Vitamin C), death by execution (gunshot, gas chamber), loss of property, beatings, humiliation, and the 3 things that could

drive anyone insane (lice, fleas, rats). Rats, some were human-gous, helped themselves to the inmates who were too weak to move or defend themselves; rats being carnivores knew which targets to choose. Sleeping quarters were bunkers with straw beds. Even without the gas chambers, all the other suffering would still add up to a Holocaust.

Before the Second World War, prisoners in Nazi camps were considered social or political deviants, including German communists, union organizers, and socialists, Roma or Sinti (considered inherently deviant; using hindsight bias this was racially-based hatred. Unlike the other groups, overall the Roma and Sinti were racially distinct). Also targetted were members of the clergy, religious outcasts (primarily the Jehovah's Witnesses), homosexuals (initially, the Nazis had a more relaxed attitude towards lesbians and lesbianism), Soviet POWs, Poles and other Slavs, 'subversives', and any person/s whose behaviour (public behaviour and writings) went against the Aryan German identity. Note that the Nazi regime was always a police state with little or no due process of law, torture was commonly used as punishment and to extract confessions.

Adolph Hitler did not wait long to start building concentration camps. On January 30, 1933, President Paul von Hindenburg (1847-1934) named Adolph Hitler chancellor of Germany, and the Nazi Party was granted additional powers. In March, 1933, Nazi camps were built, the first of which was Dachau concentration camp (Northwest of Munich), officially opened by Heinrich Himmler. Soon, other camps were built in Oranienburg, Esterwegen, and Lichtenburg. Columbia Haus complex in Berlin was in operation until 1936. Initially, there was an estimated 45,000 inmates in the camps but the number grew, later additional camps were established throughout Nazi-occupied Europe.

The SS obtained its independence from the SA following the Rohm purge (The Night of the Long Knives, the murder of the leadership of the SA, June 30 - July 2, 1934). Hitler then commissioned SS leader Heinrich Himmler to centralize the concentration camp authority and command in order to formalize the system. Himmler assigned SS Lieutenant General Theodor Eicke for this assignment. The command system for the round-up, deportation and shipping, labour, and extermination of large numbers of people was to be organized; orders could be given from afar.

Before proceeding any further, a description of the basic characteristics of concentration camps is needed. They are internment centres usually holding a large number of people for a multitude of reasons including political, national, religious, ethnic, linguistic, racial, security, exploitation, during times of war, civil war, or internal strife. These camps have inadequate facilities, due process of law and international laws and

treaties pertaining to human rights are not abided by. Concentration camps are not prisons housing criminals lawfully convicted of crimes, or POW camps abiding by international laws. They are not refugee camps even though some or many of the interned persons may be refugees. Mass starvation, slave labour, torture, and individual, group, or large-scale executions may occur. Camp brutality and suffering may vary significantly; the internment of over 100,000 Japanese Americans in internment camps, the Nazi camps, the GULAGS, the Serbian Concentration Camps, British camps during the South African War (1899-1902), Chinese Re-Education Camps for Uighyr Muslims, the Reconcentrados established by the Spanish military in Cuba during the Ten Years' War (1868-78), British camps in Kenya during the Mau Mau Uprising (1952-60), and Native American reservations, especially those of the past.

Historians place the Nazi camps into categories based on aim, administrative framework, and types of inmates (Note that many inmates spend time in more than one camp; in addition, none of the camp-types were totally independent):

1. Early camps, commonly without an organized infrastructure, surfaced in numerous locations following Hitler's becoming Chancellor of Germany. These camps were also referred to as 'Wild Camps' because a number of which were established with little supervision from higher authorities, were monitored and managed by Nazi paramilitaries, and by segments of law enforcement.
2. State camps (e.g. Dachau), guarded by the Sturmabteilung or Storm Detachment (SA), was the Nazi Party's first paramilitary wing. These camps were the prototype for the soon to be SS concentration camps.
3. Hostage camps, also referred to as police prison camps incarcerated hostages that were used for retaliatory killings.
4. Labour camps, prisoners were forced to perform stressful physical labour under extraordinarily brutal conditions and savage treatment.
5. POW camps, where prisoners of war were detained after capture. Many POWs were forced to work in nearby labour camps. There were special camps for POW officers, and for each branch of the military.
6. Rehabilitation and re-education of Poles camps. Polish intellectuals and academics were held therein. The purpose was to remould the prisoners' mentality for the benefit of Nazi values.

7. Assembly and transit camps. Inmates were assembled or held for a short period of time and then sent to the main camps.

8. Extermination camps, where large-scale murders occurred.

Auschwitz-Birkenau (Auschwitz I,II,III) was built in southern Poland, Auschwitz was the largest of the Nazi concentration camps and extermination centres More than 1.1 million men, women, and children perished therein, 90 percent were Jews; total deportations to Auschwitz are estimated at 1.3 million. Non-Jewish victims included Poles, Roma, Soviet POWs, and other nationalities. The frequent transport of Europe's Jews into Auschwitz occurred from early 1942 to early November 1944.

Auschwitz opened its hell-gates in 1940. This camp was essential for implementing the Nazi plan for the 'Final Solution'. Auschwitz was unique among the killing centres because it contained a concentration camp, labour camp, and sizeable gas chambers and crematoria at Birkenau designed for the murder of European Jews. Auschwitz was notorious for tattooing inmates' forearms with identification numbers. Inmates assigned to work were tattooed, those who were deemed unfit and useless did not get a tattoo nor were they registered; the only thing they got was a one-way trip to the gas chamber. The personal possessions of newly arrived deportees were seized and sorted in the 'Kanada' (Canada) storehouse to be sent back to Germany. Canada was the epitome of wealth to the prisoners.

The men, women, and children targetted for the gas chambers were escorted by SS personnel. Anyone unable to walk was transported by truck. The victims were in the nude when gassed. Sonderkommando prisoners pulled the corpses out of the gas chambers. Gold teeth were extracted and had to be given to the camp authorities, however, theft (pocketing of gold teeth) by Sonderkommandos occurred. Bones that did not burn completely were ground to a powder. A very large quantity of powdered bones and ashes were dumped into the river; it was a good way of disposing bodies and destroying evidence of wrongdoing.

Auschwitz I, the principal camp, was the first camp established near Oswiecim, Poland. It was built in a deserted Polish army barracks on the outskirts of the city. The SS relentlessly and unceasingly used forced labour to enlarge the camp.

Prisoners started arriving in May 1940. The first batch consisted of 30 prisoners designated as 'professional criminals'. In mid-June another transport of Polish prisoners were deported from a prison in Tarnow to Auschwitz. There were countless more batches of prisoners sent to the camp.

Auschwitz I had a gas chamber and crematorium. To begin with, SS engineers built an impromptu gas chamber located in the

basement of the soon to be notorious Block 11. Later, a larger gas chamber was built as part of the first crematorium in another building outside the prisoner complex.

At Auschwitz I and elsewhere, Nazi physicians performed cruel and sadistic experiments on helpless victims; I must stress that every single unwilling patient was INNOCENT, and did not deserve to be experimented on. Physicians must take a Hippocratic oath, in this case it meant nothing. Thousands of prisoners were experimented on, many were maimed for life, others died.

The construction of Auschwitz II (Auschwitz-Birkenau) began at Brzezinka in October 1941; in the final tally, it had more inmates than the other Auschwitz camps. It was partitioned by electrified barbed wire fences, into 10 sections. Like Auschwitz I it was guarded by SS guards, later special guard dogs were added.

There were sections for women, men, Roma and Sinti families (Gypsies is an insulting term) who had been deported from elsewhere. Auschwitz-Birkenau was also a killing station. In early September the SS at Auschwitz II began to use Zyklon B as a large-scale killing agent. The first victims were Soviet POWs and weakened Polish POWs.

Because the Zyklon B experiments worked well a special chamber was built in the crematorium of Auschwitz I, subsequent gas chambers used Zyklon B to murder victims. The first shipment of Jewish men, women, and children to Auschwitz as part of the Final Solution were murdered in this gas chamber (crematorium I) in February and March 1942. During this period the Auschwitz SS moved the gassing operations to Auschwitz-Birkenau by converting 2 farmhouses just beyond the perimeter of the fence into gas chambers. By mid-summer both bunkers were fully operational; bunker II being the larger of the two. Note that prior to the large-scale use of gassing people to death prisoners who were to feeble, ill, the invalids, or deemed unable to work were murdered at euthanasia T4 centres (1941-1944) in a covert program known as Action 14f13 (Sonderbehandlung or Special Treatment) selection process was normally performed by camp physicians.

Although many people could be killed these 2 bunkers, the Nazi authorities wanted to kill an extraordinarily larger number of people, at a hectic pace. From March 1943 to June 1943 four large crematoria were constructed in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Each crematoria contained a gas chamber, undressing area, and specially designed crematory ovens. Gassing operations ended in Bunkers I and II when Crematoria II to V began to be used. Bunker II was later re-used during the deportation of Hungary's Jews in 1944 (another nationality of Jews would perish in large numbers). Between late April to early July 1944 nearly 440,000 Jews were deported from Hungary. Of the estimated 425,000 Hungarian Jews sent to Auschwitz nearly 320,000 ended up in the Auschwitz-Birkenau

gas chambers. Many Hungarian Jews were assigned to forced labour in Auschwitz and to other concentration camps in Germany and Austria.

Gassing of fresh new arrivals stopped in early November 1944, on orders from Himmler. The war was nearing its end and even the most hardline Nazis knew they were finished. If the war had continued for a longer period of time, many more people would've been victimized, and the additional property damage would have been insurmountable. Additional orders were given to destroy incriminating evidence as the Soviet Army's arrival to the camp was imminent and soon.

19 year-old Ester Wajcblum and her 14 year-old sister Hana became inmates at Auschwitz in the spring of 1943. They were assigned to work at the munitions factory. Here they befriended Regina Safirsztain and Ala Gartner, women involved in resistance activities. Along with Roza Robota, who worked in the clothes storehouse, they started smuggling gunpowder to the men in the adjacent camp.

Sometimes gunpowder was ingeniously placed on the bodies that were sent to the Sonderkommandos for disposal. Sonderkommandos were groups of Nazi death camp prisoners, predominately Jews, who were forced, or threatened with death, to help in the disposal of victims. Sonderkommandos were usually granted a several month reprieve, after which their fate was like that of the bodies they disposed of. Thereafter, a new batch of Sonderkommandos were put to work, the process was repeated as many times as necessary.

Knowing that the time of their execution was near, several hundred assigned to Crematoriums I through IV staged an uprising. The prisoners managed to kill 3 guards, blew up the crematorium and adjoining gas chamber. One cruel Nazi guard in Crematorium I was overpowered and then shoved into an oven where he was burned alive (poetic justice?). The prisoners had access to explosives and light arms. Their doom came when the Germans brought in heavy machine guns. The escapees were captured and returned to the camp. Nearly 200 Sonderkommandos were made to lie face down outside the crematoria. They were executed. Many prisoners, both men and women, were tortured in an attempt to extract information. The women held out significantly better than the men. On January 5, 1945, four of the leading females involved in the uprising were hanged in front of the assembled women's camp. Just before Roza Robota's trapdoor dropped she shouted 'Be strong and be brave'. On January 17, 1945, the camp workers sent 56,000 prisoners on a long, body-tormenting death march into what was left of the rapidly dwindling Third Reich. 7,500 prisoners that were still in the camp were liberated by the approaching Soviet Armies on January 27.

Auschwitz III also known as Buna or Monowitz, was set up in October 1942. The prisoners therein were forced to work in the Buna synthetic rubber worker plant located on the outskirts of the village of Monowitz. In the spring of 1941, the German corporation I.G. Farben opened a factory to acquire free labour from concentration camp prisoners in the manufacture of synthetic rubber and fuels.

I.G. Farben, confident of its money-making scheme, invested a whopping 700 million Reichsmarks into Auschwitz III. From May 1941 to July 1942, the SS sent prisoners from Auschwitz I to Buna. Initially, the transport was done by foot, later by railway. There was a brief cessation of transports from July to October 1942 caused by the typhus epidemic and quarantine.

Prisoners at the construction factory were later forced to build their own barracks. The guards at Auschwitz III Monowitz were extremely brutal. Specially selected guards along with SS personnel forced workers to work well beyond their normal capacity; in addition to this, the hapless prisoners were starving. Many thousands of workers died, many more were sent to the gas chambers. The dreaded Zyklon-B was manufactured by I.G. Farben's subsidiary company Degesch. I.G. Farben was the only German company that operated its own concentration camp.

"There was no retirement plan for the prisoners at IG Auschwitz. Those who were too weak or too sick were selected at the main gate of the IG Auschwitz factory and sent to the gas chambers. Even the chemical gas Zyklon-B used for the annihilation of millions of people was derived from the drawing boards and factories of IG Farben." (By Vera Sharav, Global Research, January 26, 2020; Auschwitz: The Role of IG Farben-Bayer; globalresearch.ca), (Alliance for Human Research Protection, October 26, 2006; Auschwitz: 60 Year Anniversary - The Role of IG Farben-Bayer; ahrp.org).

IBM was another corporate giant that exploited many people during the Second World War:

"Central to the Nazi effort was a massive 500-man Hollerith Gruppe, installed in a looming brown building at 24 Murnerstrasse in Krakow. The Hollerith Gruppe of the Nazi Statistical Office crunched all the numbers of plunder and genocide that allowed the Nazis to systematically starve the Jews, meter them out of the ghettos and then transport them to either work camps or death camps.

The trains running to Auschwitz were tracked by a special guarded IBM customer site facility at 22 Pawia in Krakow. The millions of punch cards the Nazis in Poland required were obtained exclusively from IBM, including one company print shop at 6 Rymarska Street across the street from the Warsaw Ghetto. The entire Polish subsidiary was overseen by an IBM administrative facility at 24 Kreuz in Warsaw." (By Edwin Black, October 8, 2002; The IBM Link to Auschwitz; villagevoice.com).

After being sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp Stanislava Leszczynska (May 8, 1896 - March 11, 1974; died of intestinal cancer) continued her occupation as a midwife. In a camp swarming with diseases, bug-infested barracks, the survival rate

was expected to be low. If you were born in Auschwitz-Birkenau your life expectancy was at or near zero. Many newborns were drowned in a bucket, died of starvation, or disease.

But Stanislava, a true dedicated heroine, decided to deliver as many babies as she could, nearly 3,000. By her account, 30 babies survived the ordeal until liberation of the death camp on January 27, 1945, by Soviet troops. Other inmates claim that 60 babies survived the ordeal. One baby that survived was Zofia Warluk, born on January 13, 1945. In a recent magazine interview she said:

“Mama was already pregnant when she was taken to the camp. My cousin, who is no longer alive, remembered that when I was born my mother called to him and said, ‘Come and see my daughter’. After I was born I only weighed one and a half kilos, its very little for a newborn baby. I was delivered by a midwife Stanislava Leszczynska. It was said that I was wrinkled like an old woman ... I have never met her personally but my mum said she was a hero.” (By Stuart Dowell and Dagmara Leszkowicz, June 17, 2019; The Midwife of Auschwitz: Extraordinary life of heroine who delivered 3,000 babies in horror death camp to be told in new documentary; thefirstnews.com).

When the war started the Leszczynska family became passionately involved in underground activities in Lodz. Stanislava's husband was a printer, making his job as a maker of forged documents for Jews living in the ghetto, easier. She distributed food for them. Her occupation as a midwife allowed her better access to the ghetto.

Someone tipped off the Nazi authorities, so in February 1943 the Gestapo converged on the Leszczynska family apartment. Stanislava and her daughter were sent to Auschwitz, her 2 sons to Mathausen-Gusen concentration camp complex, located on a hill above Mathausen, Austria. Her husband was able to escape. He later died while fighting the Germans during the Warsaw Uprising.

Upon Stanislava's arrival to Auschwitz in April 1943, an SS guard tossed her midwife papers onto the ground and told her that she wouldn't need them any more. As soon as the guard turned away she grabbed her papers and hid them in her uniform.

Later, she presented herself to a camp physician, a brazen act, considering that addressing a German in the camp without permission was an act punishable, possibly by death. She was assigned duties in the so-called maternity ward. As Stanislava soon discovered, most pregnant women were sent to the gas chambers, others were promptly executed.

A minority of which were sent to hospital barracks, a true nightmarish place. Therein, a German orderly named Sister Klara would declare every newborn 'stillborn' and without severing the umbilical cord, held down the baby into a bucket of water, the baby tried to kick and thrash, to no avail. Frequently, the murderous act was done in front of the baby's mother. The dead babies were tossed out of the barracks, where giant rats feasted on

its flesh.

Later, the extremely rigid rules were loosened a bit. Jewish babies were not spared, however, non-Jewish mothers, predominately Poles and Soviets, were permitted to have their babies at their side. But it certainly wasn't easy; the surviving babies, if that's what we can call them, died a slow, agonizing death caused by starvation. Their mothers were too malnourished to produce mammary milk. Dysentery, a type of gastroenteritis that results in diarrhoea in the blood, was common among women. Their loose stools dribbled to the lower bunks. Some mothers gave up their meagre bread ration for bed linen to use as bandages and covering.

Stanislava refused to be part of the death march that cost the lives of up to 15,000 prisoners in frigid temperatures, -20 Centigrade (-4 Fahrenheit). She wanted to treat her patients. Years after liberation, Dr. Maria Oyrzynska, a former inmate stated in an official testimony:

"The midwife Stanisława Leszczyńska from Łódź was ordered not to cut the cord from the babies and just to literally bin them with placenta. She said she was a Catholic woman and that she wouldn't murder any children. She said she would do what she was supposed to do as a human being." (ibid).

Dr. Irena Konieczna, said, "Leszczyńska was short and petite, very humble, almost in love with her profession, extremely religious. Every newborn had to be baptised immediately. She would help any mother she could. Leszczyńska would deliver babies on her own, usually on the chimney canal running through all of the barrack. Hundreds of prisoners would be watching that." (ibid).

The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, created by the Government of Poland in 1947, is a public museum located in the Polish town of Oswiecim, sanctified for the memory of the victims of the Nazi concentration camp, forced labour, and extermination camp. The museum occupies 191 hectares (472 acres) and was granted the status of a Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 1979. Many people from around the world visit the site annually; in 2016, 2 million people did so.

"When we think of the crimes of Nazi doctors, what comes to mind are their cruel and sometimes fatal experiments... Yet when we turn to the Nazi doctors' role in Auschwitz, it was not the experiments that were most significant. Rather, it was his participation in the killing process—indeed his supervision of Auschwitz mass murder from beginning to end." (Lifton, Robert Jay, 1986; *The Nazi Doctors: Medical Killing and the Psychology of Genocide*).

The Nazis made use of physicians, medical geneticists, psychiatrists, and anthropologists. The Nazi experiments can be classified into 3 categories:

1. Experiments pertaining to the survival of military personnel.
2. Experiments to test drugs and treatments.

3. Experiments to foster Nazi racial and ideological goals.

Below is a listing and brief description of some of the Nazi experiments:

1. Freezing/Hypothermia experiments were conducted on men to duplicate the conditions the German soldiers endured on the Eastern Front. The experiments were conducted under the direction of Dr. Sigmund Rascher at Auschwitz, Birkenau, and Dachau.

2. Sun Lamp experiments, victims were placed under a very hot sun lamp that would burn the skin. One young homosexual was cooled down until he lost consciousness over and over again then 'resuscitated' with lamps until he was drenched with sweat; he eventually died.

3. Internal Irrigation experiments, the freezing victim had very hot water vigorously inundated into the stomach, bladder, and intestines. Every victim in this experiment is believed to have died.

4. Hot bath experiments, the victim was placed in warm water and the temperature was slowly increased. Many victims died of shock if the temperature was increased too fast.

5. This appears to be a sexually perverted experiment. Not surprisingly, the idea came from none other than Heinrich Himmler. He who asked Dr. Rascher to try to warm up frozen men by having them copulate with women. Dr. Rascher was sterile, and because he and his wife violated one of the complex rules of marriage, they were executed.

6. Sterilization experiments were performed to discover medicines or rays that can destroy the reproductive organs with the least effort. Many victims underwent these experiments. The history of these Nazi experiments begins on July 14, 1933, the National Socialists (Nazis) put forth the Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring. Categories of peoples to be experimented on included the mentally and physically challenged, some hardcore recalcitrant criminals, and then the list broadened to include Jews, Slaves, Roma and Sinti, and other so-called inferiors and undesirables. The onset of Social Darwinism, nationalism, and the German Volk (the oneness of the German people and German Race in genetic-biological, social, and political terms) was an additional incentive for the Nazi philosophy of sterilization. The sterilization procedure was terrifying, it was a permanent maiming and deprivation procedure (no offspring). Auschwitz

and Ravensbruck (a women's concentration camp in Northern Germany, was in operation from 1939 - 1945; it is estimated that more than 130,000 women were in the camp during the Second World War).

7. Progression of Disease experiments included diseases that were intentionally inflicted upon victims. The effects of the disease were then documented.

8. Organ and limb transplant surgery, sometimes a patient was fully awake and no pain killers were used; the Japanese Imperial Army scientists also performed these experiments, and more (Unit 731).

9. Responses to torture experiments.

Klara Nowak, a German nurse and activist who was head of the League of Victims of Compulsory Sterilization and Euthanasia describes her lifelong suffering as a result of being forcefully sterilized by the Nazis, in 1941. Below is an excerpt from a 1991 interview :

"Well, I still have many complaints as a result of it. There were complications with every operation I have had since. I had to take early retirement at the age of fifty-two—and the psychological pressure has always remained. When nowadays my neighbors, older ladies, tell me about their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, this hurts bitterly, because I do not have any children or grandchildren, because I am on my own, and I have to cope without anyone's help." (By Jennifer Rosenberg, Updated March 25, 2020; Sterilization in Nazi Germany; www.thoughtco.com).

Dr. Josef Mengele (March 16, 1911 - February 7, 1979) was born in Gunzberg, Germany. He is known as the 'Angel of Death', and likely the most notorious Nazi physician; he was also an SS officer. In 1935 he earned a PhD in physical anthropology from the University of Munich. He also earned a PhD in genetic medicine (he had a high GPA). Dr. Mengele was the epitome of the cruel experimenter who symbolized the Nazi mentality in the medical-scientific context. Following the war, the University of Munich and the University of Frankfurt revoked his degrees.

His most notorious work was done in Auschwitz concentration camp, performing deadly experiments on prisoners, and cruel experiments on twins. His interest in twins began in Frankfurt while working under Dr. Otmar Friehe von Verschuer, a German geneticist.

Dr. Mengele joined the Nazi Party in 1937, in the same year he married Irene Schonbein. In 1938 he joined the SS. In 1941, while working as a medical officer in the Ukraine, he was wounded in the line of duty. He was awarded the Iron Cross First Class for saving 2 German soldiers from a burning tank. He also received the Wound Badge in Black and was shipped back home because

of his serious injuries.

Unable to be on the front-line and persuaded by Dr. von Verschuer, in early 1943, Dr. Mengele applied for a transfer to Auschwitz; his application was approved. Soon after, he started emptying the hospital barracks by sending sickly inmates to the gas chambers. His sadistic personality had already been moulded; he needed some kind of an outlet, in this case it was Auschwitz. He was promoted to First Physician of the Birkenau sub-camp because he ended a typhus epidemic among female prisoners by sending 600 women to the gas chambers.

Dr. Mengele was cruel and heartless, sometimes showing contradictory emotions to some of his research subjects. A former Auschwitz inmate and physician said of Dr. Mengele:

"He was capable of being so kind to the children, to have them become fond of him, to bring them sugar, to think of small details in their daily lives, and to do things we would genuinely admire... And then, next to that, ... the crematoria smoke, and these children, tomorrow or in a half-hour, he is going to send them there. Well, that is where the anomaly lay." (Lifton, Robert Jay, July 21, 1985. "What Made this Man? Mengele." *The New York Times*).

He sent many thousands of victims to the gas chambers, and performed horrible experiments on many others including amputations without anaesthesia, forced sterilizations, injections of chemical substances, killings were done in order to perform autopsies. He also experimented on twins, people with heterochromia iridium (eye colour peculiarities), dwarfs, and any persons deemed physically abnormal or unusual. On January 17, 1945, when the end of the war seemed imminent, Dr. Mengele and several other Auschwitz physicians transferred to Gross-Rosen concentration camp. He carried 2 boxes of specimens and documents relating to his Auschwitz experiments. Nearly all the medical experiments records at Auschwitz were destroyed by the SS.

After the war, Dr. Mengele was interned by the Americans. He was able to play the role of John Doe POW quite well; alias Fritz Ullman, and lucky for him, he never got an SS tattoo. He spent several years living in Europe, then in May 1949, using the name Helmut Gregor, moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina. He divorced his first wife, married a second one, then lived as a business and family man. In 1959 the West German government issued an arrest warrant against Dr. Mengele. Dr. Mengele's crimes were documented in detail before the International Military Tribunal (IMT); he knew that a guilty verdict following a trial was certain. Terrified because of Adolph Eichmann's recent arrest in Buenos Aires, Dr. Mengele fled to Paraguay and then to Brazil. He spent the remainder of his life in poor health, in Sao Paulo, and died on February 7, 1979. He suffered a stroke while swimming at a vacation resort near Bertioga Brazil. Later, Brazilian forensic experts positively identified the exhumed body as that of Dr. Men-

gele. In 1992, DNA evidence removed any doubt concerning the identity of the exhumed body.

Gas vans or gas wagons, the precursors to the gas chambers, were specially designed trucks used as mobile, miniature gas chambers. The Nazis developed these killing machines (Russians called them Soul Killers). Initially used on asylum inmates and other German undesirables, then on Poles, Romani and Sinti, Jews, and other imagined enemies.

Carbon monoxide was the weapon of choice for killing the naked victims in the trucks. Their belongings were confiscated before entering the trucks. This method of killing along with mass shootings wasn't fast enough for the Nazis.

Shlomo Winer (Jacob Grojanowski), Polish Jew and former Sonderkommando at the Chelmno death camp was able to escape the hell-hole in 1942, ending up in the Warsaw Ghetto. Winer later escaped the Warsaw Ghetto taking residence in the Zamosc Ghetto. It is believed that he was later deported to Belzec camp where he was murdered. On January 7, 1942, at the Warsaw Ghetto, he gave Hersh Washer and the Oneg Shabbat group an intimate, detailed description of the gas vans of Chelmno death camp:

"We didn't have to wait long before the next lorry arrived with fresh victims. It was specially constructed. It looked like a normal large lorry, in grey paint, with two hermetically closed rear doors. The inner walls were of steel metal. There weren't any seats. The floor was covered by a wooden grating, as in public baths, with straw mats on top. Between the driver's cab and the rear part were two peepholes. With a flashlight one could observe through these peepholes if the victims were already dead. Under the wooden grating were two tubes about 15 centimetres (5.9 in) thick which came out of the cab. The tubes had small openings from which gas poured out. The gas generator was in the cab, where the same driver sat all the time. He wore a uniform of the SS death's head units and was about forty years old. There were two such vans. {Death's head is 'Totenkopf' in German. It is a skull and crossbones image used by many SS}.

When the lorries approached we had to stand at a distance of 5 m from the ditch. The leader of the guard detail was a high-ranking SS man, an absolute sadist and murderer. He ordered that eight men were to open the doors of the lorry. The smell of gas that met us was overpowering. (Szlamek, Bajler, 2014; DeathCamps.org).

A gas chamber is a device for killing humans or animals, using gas through a sealed chamber where a poisonous or asphyxiant gas is used. Toxic agents include hydrogen cyanide, carbon dioxide, and carbon monoxide. Gas chambers have been used in the United States to enforce the death penalty, in the Soviet Union during the Great Purge, in Lithuania, and of course by the Nazi authorities. During the peak operation (1943-44) an estimated 6,000 Jews were gassed daily at Auschwitz.

To give the reader a general idea of how tormenting death in a gas chamber is (in addition, try to imagine that you are in a Nazi concentration camp with all of its other horrors), I have

inserted a quote and added a few of my own words in special brackets {}, from a description of animal gas cannisters.

"If animals are placed in the chamber together, they may begin fighting out of fear and desperation. For several minutes, they may be in the box, terrified, clawing and calling for a way out. They may struggle for air or begin convulsing before finally losing consciousness.

Under the best circumstances, it takes minutes before an animal loses consciousness inside a gas chamber. But if the chamber is old or not well-calibrated—a frequent issue for under-resourced shelters—or if the animal is very young, very old, ill, injured or stressed, it can take much longer. In the worst cases, the animal is still conscious while its vital organs begin to shut down. {The animals that are awaiting this fate can hear the screams and shrieks of the gassed victims}." (Bringing an End to Inhumane Euthanasia; Humansociety.org).

The survival rate in the gas chambers was nearly zero, almost impossible. However, even the hell-hole gas chambers, every so often, someone did cheat death; a divine miracle. One such person was Gena Turgel (birth name Gena Goldfinger). Gina was born in Krakow, Poland in 1923. She survived the Holocaust, 3 concentration camps, and a trip to the gas chamber.

Gena was the youngest of 9 children. Her parents owned a modest textile business which her mother continued to run after the death of her father. Gena was unable to move to Chicago before German forces sealed off Poland. At age 16, Gena began to experience the nightmare of war, and later the Holocaust. Krakow was bombed, 2 of her brothers died while fighting the Germans. Her sister was killed for smuggling food. Gena lost 7 siblings and her father during the Second World War.

The nightmare began in 1939, when the Germans pounded on her family's door, demanding the keys to the Turgel family business. In 1941, Gena's family was forced to move into a filthy ghetto. Later, they were sent to Plaszov camp near Krakow. In 1944, surviving family members were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. They were forced to walk in deep snow and frigid temperatures.

Upon her arrival at Auschwitz Gena narrowly escaped death. She was in a group of about 100 persons. They were forced to disrobe and enter what looked like a shower room. They were packed therein. The room was spooky, windowless, stone-walled, and had vents in the ceiling. The naked, terrified assembly stood in silence for over an hour. Upon being released from the room they were embraced by a group of women who shouted for joy.

As told to NBC News, "When I {Gena Turgel} think back, I have to pinch myself sometimes to see if I'm really alive, I completely lost my voice ... I just never realized I was in the gas chamber ... it must not have worked." (By Kelli Bender, January 27, 2015; On Anniversary of Auschwitz's Liberation, 90-Year-Old Survivor Remembers Living Through the Gas Chamber; people.com).

Gena returned to Auschwitz twice, accompanied by her grandsons wanting to prevent a repeat performance of the horrors of the Second World War.

"Those people were real. They were mothers and fathers, uncles and aunts, doctors and teachers, poets, wonderful people. Composers. And now they scream in silence ... My story is only one story, but it is the story six million others cannot tell. I was, and always shall be, the witness to ... mass murder." (ibid).

As Allied troops began to sweep across Europe in a series of successful military operations against Nazi Germany, they came across tens of thousands of concentration camp prisoners. Many of these prisoners looked like the living dead, in a literal sense; skin and bones, gaunt, diseased, dying, lice infested, raggedy, dirty, desperate, many looked like they'd given up on life.

Thankfully, many prisoners miraculously survived the 1944-1945 impromptu forced marches from the concentration camps into Germany. In July 1944, as Soviet forces advanced towards Lublin, Poland, the skeletal camp staff quickly deserted Majdanek leaving much of the incriminating evidence behind. Soviet forces entered Majdanek on the night of July 22, occupying Lublin on July 24. Majdanek was the first concentration camp to be liberated. Soon thereafter, Soviet forces liberated Belzec, Sobibor, and Treblinka killing facilities. Soviet officials allowed journalists to examine the camp and evidence of the horrible crimes that had occurred there.

In 1945, Soviet forces liberated Auschwitz, the most notorious concentration camp and killing facility. Most of the Auschwitz prisoners had been forced on death marches. Soviet forces found more than 6,000 gaunt, wasted prisoners in the camp. Although the Germans were able to destroy much incriminating evidence, there was still a lot remaining; hundreds of thousands of men's wardrobes and more than 800,000 women's, more than 14,000 lbs. of human hair. Soviet forces continued liberating concentration camps.

U.S. forces liberated more than 20,000 Buchenwald concentration camp prisoners near Weimar, Germany, on April 11, 1945. Upon liberation, an underground resistance group took control of the camp to prevent additional crimes from being committed by fleeing camp guards. U.S. forces liberated Dachau on April 29, 1945, Dora-Mittelbau (Nordhausen) April 1945, Flossenburg on April 23, 1945, Ohrdruf on April 4, 1945. The British liberated Bergen-Belsen on April 15, 1945. This is a shortened list of all the liberations of concentration camps, towns, villages, and cities.

General George Smith Patton (November 11, 1885 - December 21, 1945; U.S. Military), wrote in his diary about the trip to Ohrdruf concentration camp (a slave labour camp and concentration camp located near Ohrdruf, in Thuringia, Germany) that it was the most appalling site that he'd ever seen. Remember, this is a de-

scription from a tough, hardened military man.

"In a shed ... was a pile of about 40 completely naked human bodies in the last stages of emaciation. These bodies were lightly sprinkled with lime, not for the purposes of destroying them, but for the purpose of removing the stench.

When the shed was full—I presume its capacity to be about 200, the bodies were taken to a pit a mile from the camp where they were buried. The inmates claimed that 3,000 men, who had been either shot in the head or who had died of starvation, had been so buried since the 1st of January.

When we began to approach with our troops, the Germans thought it expedient to remove the evidence of their crime. Therefore, they had some of the slaves exhume the bodies and place them on a mammoth griddle composed of 60-centimeter railway tracks laid on brick foundations. They poured pitch on the bodies and then built a fire of pinewood and coal under them. They were not very successful in their operations because there was a pile of human bones, skulls, charred torsos on or under the griddle which must have accounted for many hundreds." (OHRDRUF; United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: Holocaust Encyclopedia).

The Nuremberg Trials, held in Nuremberg, Germany, were a sequence of military tribunals (International Military Tribunal, IMT) that took place following the Second World War, directed by the Allied Powers, including the United States, Soviet Union, Great Britain, and France as per their version of International Law and the laws of war (Note: Every single one of these Allied Nations had its own history of committing crimes against humanity, some of them were doing so during the trials; quite hypocritical).

Top surviving German leaders (political, military, legal, economic, physicians, and others) were put on trial, resulting from Nazi Germany's countless crimes against humanity. Adolph Hitler was missing, he apparently 'chickened out', fearing for his own life and well-being, committing suicide near the end of the European sphere of the war. Ironical, because on numerous occasions he ordered his forces, and later Berlin's citizens, to fight to the very end, whatever the odds. Paul Joseph Goebbels (October 29, 1897 - May 1, 1945), one of the most evil propaganda ministers in human history, committed suicide, along with his wife. Worse yet, they fatally poisoned their 6 children. Herman Wilhelm Goering (January 1893 - October 15, 1945), a very powerful German political leader, was captured by the Allies, tried and convicted, and was sentenced to be hanged. On the night before he was scheduled to be hanged, Goering was able to fatally poison himself by swallowing a potassium cyanide capsule, while in a well-guarded cell. Goering's trial judgement read as follows:

"There is nothing to be said in mitigation. For Göring was often, indeed almost always, the moving force, second only to his leader {Adolph Hitler}. He was the leading war aggressor, both as political and as military leader; he was the director of the slave labour programme and the creator of the oppressive programme against the Jews and

other races, at home and abroad. All of these crimes he has frankly admitted. On some specific cases there may be conflict of testimony, but in terms of the broad outline, his own admissions are more than sufficiently wide to be conclusive of his guilt. His guilt is unique in its enormity. The record discloses no excuses for this man." ("Judgement of Military Tribunal on Herman Goering". The Avalon Project. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale Law School, Lillian Goldman Law Library. September 30, 1946).

Goebbels chose the easy way out but he wanted the citizens of Berlin to hold out until the very end. He made this final announcement to the highly beleaguered citizens of Berlin:

I call on you to fight for your city. Fight with everything you have got, for the sake of your wives and your children, your mothers and your parents. Your arms are defending everything we have ever held dear, and all the generations that will come after us. Be proud and courageous! Be inventive and cunning! Your Gauleiter is amongst you. He and his colleagues will remain in your midst. His wife and children are here as well. He, who once captured the city with 200 men, will now use every means to galvanize the defence of the capital. The battle for Berlin must become the signal for the whole nation to rise up in battle ..." (Dollinger, Hans (1965). *The Decline and Fall of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan*. New York: Bonanza).

Below is are Holocaust Remembrance and Educational Organizations:

1. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)
2. Holocaust Sites, Museums and Memorials: Trip Historic
3. Association of Holocaust Organizations (AHO)
4. The Holocaust Explained: Designed for Schools
5. Overview of Holocaust-Related Organizations: IHRA
6. Yad Vashem. The World Holocaust Remembrance Centre
7. Protecting Memory: Preserving and Memorializing the Holocaust
8. USC Shoah Foundation

The most famed Jewish victim of Nazi barbarity during the Second world War is Anne Frank. I could not write this book without writing something about her. In many North American and western-style schools children hear about her in social studies, english, and/or history classes. No doubt, there were other Anne Franks in the Holocaust, male and female, and in past and contemporary conflicts. Sometimes, Anne Frank is the introduction children have to Jewish Holocaust studies.

She was born Annelies Marie Frank (nickname: Anne; June 12, 1929 - February or March 1945), in Frankfurt, Germany. Her parents were Otto and Edith Frank. She was a Jewish, German-Dutch diarist, writer, and chronicler; she had the potential of becoming a prolific writer. Anne acquired her fame and popularity posthumously, with the publication of *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, later numerous biographies of her were published in multiple languages, and still are. In addition, plays and films

have based their themes on Anne's life.

Her diary, in good memoir form, is a well-written chronicle of her family's life in hiding from 1942 to 1944. Her family was in the Netherlands at the time, hiding from the German occupiers; as Jews, the Frank family had only one viable option, to hide. Note: During the First World War, Otto Frank served in the German Imperial Army, artillery unit on the western front. Having risked life and limb for his country did not help him evade the Nazi persecution, not an iota. The same can be said about many, but not all other European Jews who served in the First World War on the side of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Germany.

For the first 5 year of her life Anne, her parents, and older sister Margot lived in an apartment in the suburbs of Frankfurt. Following the rise of and acquisition of unchallenged power by the Nazis, Otto Frank fled to Amsterdam, in the Netherlands. Soon afterward, the rest of the family joined Otto. Having briefly lived with her grandparents, Anne arrived in Amsterdam in February, 1934, the last family member to do so. Anne would spend most of her life in Amsterdam. She attended a Montessori school, where by all accounts she was a very good student, had a friendly demeanour, and many friends.

The Franks' problems increased exponentially with the German occupation of Amsterdam beginning in May, 1940. The German forces overwhelmed the Dutch, defeating their military in only 5 days. They had to cave in. In addition to other atrocities, the massive bombing of Rotterdam (the Rotterdam Blitz), in the Netherlands was catastrophic. The Frank family lost their German citizenship in 1941, thereby becoming stateless.

On Anne's 13th birthday she received a diary from her parents; she called it Kitty. This diary would be put to good use for historical purposes. On June 20, 1942, two and a half weeks before the Franks went into hiding, Anne makes it quite clear that the situation is getting worse for Amsterdam's Jews:

"Anti-Jewish decrees followed each other in quick succession. Jews must wear a yellow star, Jews must hand in their bicycles, Jews are banned from trams and forbidden to drive. Jews must be indoors by eight o'clock and cannot even sit in their own gardens after that hour. Jews may not take part in public sports. Jews may not visit Christians. Our freedom was strictly limited. Yet things were bearable." (Anne Frank: Victim of the Holocaust; oocities.org).

Otto Frank was far-sighted, seeing the potential danger to his family by the new occupiers, he made the annex (extension) of his company into a hiding place. On July 6, 1942, the Frank family went into hiding. It appeared to be a foolproof location; hidden rooms behind a bookcase. It was a three-story space accessed from a landing above the offices of some of his most trusted friends and workers, above a canal, located at 263 Prinsengracht Street. In her diary Anne referred to this place as the Achter-

huis ('Secret Annex'). There was to be no using of any device that spurted out water during working hours. The sound of water would reveal the presence of one or more persons in the Secret Annex. Activity during working hours had to be in silent mode.

The Frank family, along with other Jews in hiding had to worry about Germans, Dutch collaborators, anti-Semites, and any person who wanted a payoff by helping the German authorities discover the whereabouts of a Jew/s in hiding. In July 1942, German authorities and their Dutch collaborators began sending Jews to Westerbork, a transit camp located in northeastern Netherlands, in Drenthe Province. Westerbork was initially established in October 1939 by the Dutch authorities to incarcerate Jews who entered the country illegally. The Nazis established many thousands of such camps, whose purpose was to help facilitate forced labour, ghetto-ization, incarceration of enemies of the state, and large-scale murder. Many Jews sent to Westerbork ended up in Auschwitz-Birkenau and Sobibor extermination centres. Going into hiding was tough, but at least you were alive and had a fighting chance to weather the storm.

On January 13, 1943, Anne wrote, "And as for us, we are fortunate. It is quiet and safe here, and we are, so to speak, living on capital. We are even so selfish to talk about 'after the war', brighten up at the thought of having new clothes and new shoes, whereas we really ought to save every penny to help other people, and save what is left from the wreckage after the war." (ibid).

Later, the secret annex would be used to shelter four more Dutch Jews; Hermann, Auguste, and Peter van Pels, and Fritz Pfeffer. Otto Frank had friends and colleagues that were willing to risk their own safety to help him. Johannes Kleiman, Victor Kugler, Jan Gies, and Miep Gies helped set up the hiding place and sent food and clothing to the Franks.

August 4, 1944, was perhaps the worst day in the lives of the Frank family. The Gestapo discovered the Secret Annex. For many years it was believed that the authorities were tipped off about the Frank family. Later, it was believed by some historians that the discovery was incidental, related to reports that unlawful work and illegal coupon rationing were occurring at the residence. There's no sure way to know; I believe the authorities were likely tipped off.

The Franks were promptly arrested by SS Sargent Karl Silberbauer and 2 Dutch Policemen. The Franks were sent to Westerbork transit camp on August 8. On September 4, the Franks, along with the 4 persons who were hiding in the Secret Annex were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Upon arrival, men and women were separated. Anne and her sister Margot were assigned to labour duty in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany in late October. Anne, Margot, and their mother Edith were tattooed with numbers.

Anne and Margot died of typhus in February or March 1945,

just missing the British liberation of Bergen-Belsen that occurred on April 15, 1945. Anne's mother died of starvation in Auschwitz. Mr. van Pels died in the gas chambers shortly after his arrival at Auschwitz. Peter van Pels died shortly before liberation. Mr. Pfeffer and Mrs. van Pels also died in a concentration camp. Mr. Frank was the sole survivor of his family, eventually returning to Amsterdam. Therein, his close friend Meip handed Anne's diary to him. Apparently, Anne's diary wasn't discovered by the authorities before they left the Secret Annex, or they saw it but assumed that it was worth nothing; they were dead wrong. Anne's Montessori school was later named Anne Frank School.

For 1,000 years Yiddish was the foremost, and at times the sole language that Ashkenazim Jews (People originating from Central and Eastern Europe; Medieval Germany; northern France, most American Jews are of Ashkenazim descent). The word Yiddish likely originated from Yiddish-Taitsh (Jewish-German). Yiddish is a high German language, with some Hebrew, Aramaic, Slavic, and Romance languages mixed in. During its heyday, Yiddish was spoken by Jews of different nationalities throughout the world, an estimated 11 - 13 million out of 17 million Jews worldwide. An estimated 85 percent of the 6 million Jews who died during the Holocaust were Yiddish speakers. In the study of the Holocaust, emphasis on the study of Yiddish culture and language that was decimated, is often times non-existent or a footnote at best. Countless Yiddish speakers and many of their respective communities were wiped out during the Holocaust. Many victim testimonies were given in non-Yiddish or were translated into another language. We are taught that the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War targeted Jews, Judaism, and their respective communities; in this context, Yiddish identity and language has historically not been mentioned (German Jews, Polish Jews, Ukrainian Jews, etc.). Today, some groups of ultra-Orthodox Jews use Yiddish as their first language.

After the Second World War, the Yiddish language looked like it had taken a nearly fatal blow. Many Holocaust survivors felt that learning English, Hebrew, or another language that would help them survive in a post-war world. There were no job or career prospects in Yiddish for the multitudes of Jewish Holocaust survivors. Yiddish became the language of old, literally of old people (parents, grandparents, Jews of the olden days).

But somehow, Yiddish began to make a comeback. Klezmer music, a musical practice of the Ashkenazi Jews of Eastern Europe is listened to by young people in some clubs in North America, Israel, and elsewhere; the music can manifest a happy and/or a comical, theme.

In Israel, Hebrew was the language of the modern state; Yiddish was the language of Europe's decimated Jews. It was the lan-

guage of the Ghettos and Shtetls. The old secular Zionism wanted to create a nation, and a new Jew; some of them had no empathy for the Yiddish lingo. Yiddish was considered a barrier between Jews and the non-Jewish world.

David Friedlander (December 1750 - December 25, 1834), born in Königsberg, was a German Jewish communal leader, writer, and banker, friend, and later successor to Moses Mendelssohn, had feelings of contempt for Yiddish. He made his view quite clear in his 1788 Epistle to the German Jews:

"It must be eradicated completely, and the holy language and the German tongue must be taught systematically from early youth onward. Only then will it be possible to lay the foundations for a useful and rational education for our youth. Once the child is stuck into the so-called Judeo-German language, he cannot have any correct conception of a single thing in the world. How can he be expected to act later in accordance with any proper principles of behaviour?" (Posted by David, December 13, 2012; Yiddish in Israel, The Strange Side of Jewish History; strangeside.com), (Yated Neeman's Jewish History).

Professor Yechiel Szeintuch of Hebrew University said, People would throw bricks at gatherings of Yiddish speakers. " (By Asya Pereltsvaig, June 2, 2010; Yiddish Revival; LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD).

In the 1920s and 1930s, some Zionists used physical violence as a means of repulsing Yiddish out of public life in Palestine, hoodlums would disperse a Yiddish congregation. There is one particular case of extreme involving the firebombing a printing shop that had the audacity to reproduce Yiddish literature. The situation has significantly improved:

"In the Jewish 'mainstream', interest in Yiddish may be growing ... It will probably not again be the vernacular or cultural language of the Jewish 'masses' the way it was before the Holocaust. Most 'mainstream' Jews will not be fluent or literate in Yiddish ... What is significant is that a growing number of young Jews are reconsidering-or considering for the first time-the meaning of the Ashkenazic Jewish heritage as an important part of contemporary Jewish identity, alongside Jewish religion, ancient Jewish history, modern Israeli history, and so on," said Neil Zagorin, bibliographer at The National Yiddish Book Centre in Amherst, Mass. (By Aviya Kushner; Yiddish Revival; My Jewish Learning).

Liliana Segre, an 89 year-old Holocaust survivor and lifetime Senator (appointed in January, 2018, by Italian President Sergio Mattarella) was given paramilitary police protection following a barrage of anti-Semitic threats.

Liliana Segre, born in 1930, fled Nazi persecution in Italy along with her father when she was only 13 years-old. They were unable to obtain refuge in Switzerland, and were later sent to the notorious Auschwitz death camp, a place where her father and grandparents were killed.

What was Senator Liliana's crime? She called for the Italian Parliament to put in place a committee to combat hatred and the

incitement of hatred, racism, anti-Semitism, and violence based on religious and ethnic grounds. Liliana says that she receives up to 200 social media attacks a day. No wonder, the Milan public prosecutor's office is conducting an investigation into the hate messages targetting Senator Segre and asked for assistance from Italy's anti-terror police.

Liliana said she feels 'like a Martian in the Senate'. Members of the nationalist League Party, headed by Matteo Salvini, the centre-right Forza Italia, and the far-right Brothers of Italy all abstained from the vote, taken on October 31, 2019.

"I appealed to the conscience of everyone and thought that a commission against hatred as a principle would be accepted by all," she said at the time," Italy's La Repubblica reported (in Italian). (November 7, 2019, Italy Holocaust Survivor Liliana Segre Under Guard Amid Death Threats).

As conveyed to CNN by Stefano Gatti from the Foundation Jewish Contemporary Documentation Centre, "Every time prominent Jews are at the centre of media attention in Italy, they get subjected to online anti-Semitic abuse ... The anti-Semitic insults come from far-right circles that have a past, and sometimes present, of violence. It's part of their radical right-wing code, this pugnacious attitude." (By Lee Brown, November 7, 2019; Holocaust Survivor Gets Police Guard After "Aggressive" Death Threats).

Liliana's messages of support outweigh those of hate: "Forgive us Liliana. The politics of hate will not stop your commitment, nor ours," said Agriculture Minister Teresa Bellanova on Twitter. (ibid).

"It must be said that Liliana receives vastly more messages of support and solidarity than she does hate messages," said Paola Gargiulo, Segre's chief of staff. (ibid).

On April 13, 2020, a Synagogue in northern Russia was severely damaged in a fire caused by an arsonist. The fire consumed the entrance hall of the Northern Star Jewish community centre, in Archangel, located 750 miles (1,207 km) north of Moscow, at a latitude of more than 3 degrees north of Alaska.

"At about 3.40 a.m. a perpetrator threw tires over the fence, then climbed over, quickly moved the tires closer to the building, doused them with a flammable liquid and set them on fire. Firefighters arrived 15 minutes later, when the facade was already blazing," said the report, which was based on security camera footage. (By Cnaan Lipshitz, April 13, 2020; Synagogue Torched in Northern Russia; Cleveland Jewish News).

Anatoly Burmeister, head of the Russian Jewish Congress' northern region, said that this was the third assault on communal property since 2015.

In April 2015, unidentified persons fired an air rifle at the building while it was under construction. Anti-Semitic graffiti was sprayed on the property. In 2016, a firebomb was thrown at the construction site; the first 2 assaults caused little property damage. The assaulted building was inaugurated in 2018, taking 4 years to build and costing nearly \$3 million raised from private donors. It includes a Synagogue seating 500, and 3 stor-

ies.

On Saturday October 27, 2018, Robert D. Bowers, 46, armed with an AR-15 style assault rifle, and at least 3 handguns, entered the Tree of Life Synagogue then proceeded to indiscriminately fire at congregants. He was shouting anti-Semitic slurs during his rampage. In all, 11 congregants were killed, 4 police officers were wounded. The ordeal lasted 20 minutes.

The Synagogue is located in the Squirrel Hill residential neighbourhood in the East End of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Worshipers had congregated in separate rooms, practising their faith. Before the rampage it had been a quiet, peaceful morning. Among the ceremonies in the Synagogue was a bris, a religious ceremony performed on the eighth day of life for male Jewish infants. There were no children among the casualties.

Mr. Bowers fired his weapon for several minutes, then decided to leave the Synagogue. That's when police, dressed in tactical gear, and armed with rifles, confronted him at the door (hats off to the police for their quick response). Mr. Bowers fired at the police, then re-entered the Synagogue, injured from the encounter. He barricaded himself in a room on the third floor, but later surrendered. It was clear to Mr. Bowers that escape was impossible; surrender or be shot to death. He was arrested and then taken to the Allegheny General Hospital. He was later charged with 29 federal counts, including hate crimes and weapons offences, and state charges including 11 counts of criminal homicide, 6 counts of aggravated assault and 13 counts of ethnic intimidation.

"Please know that justice in this case will be swift and it will be severe ... terrible and unspeakable act of hate," said Scott Brady, the chief federal prosecutor in western Pennsylvania. (By Mark Scolforo and Mark Gillispie, October 27, 2018; Pittsburgh Synagogue Massacre Leaves 11 Dead, 6 Wounded; apnews.com).

Mr. Bowers had no apparent criminal record, but had expressed venomous anti-Semitic opinions on a social media site called Gab. The cover photo for his account shows a neo-Nazi symbol. Another photo shows a fiery oven like the ones used by the Nazis used during the Second World War. Another post indicated that the Jewish Holocaust was a hoax; there was a Jewish 'infestation'.

The Synagogue attack came only a few days after George Soros (who is Jewish and a survivor of Nazi occupation in Hungary), the billionaire philanthropist and a known donor to democratic candidates, was sent a pipe bomb in the mail.

"We simply cannot accept this violence as a normal part of American life ... These senseless acts of violence are not who we are as Pennsylvanians and are not who we are as Americans," said Governor Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania at a news conference. (By Campbell Robertson, Christopher Mele, and Sabrina Tavernise, October 27, 2018; 11 Killed in Synagogue Massacre; Suspect Charged With 29 Counts; nytimes.com).

The Righteous Among the Nations is an honourable title used by the State of Israel to describe Gentiles (non-Jews) who exposed themselves to potentially deadly danger to rescue Jews from extermination, for selfless-humanitarian reasons. The phrase originated from the concept 'Righteous Gentiles', used in Rabbinic Judaism to refer to non-Jews (ger toshav) who observe the Seven Laws of Noah.

When Yad Vashem (the World Holocaust Remembrance Centre), the Shoah's Martyrs (the Holocaust's Martyrs), and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, was initiated in 1953 by the Knesset (the parliament, est. 1949) of modern Israel (est. 1948), 120 members elected for a 4-year term), one of its duties was to commemorate the 'Righteous Among Nations'. Since 1963, a commission lead by a Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel has been authorized to award the honourable title 'Righteous Among Nations'. The wealth and social standing of a potential awardee is irrelevant in the decision-making process; at least 130 recipients have settled in Israel.

Naturally, stringent criteria are used in awarding this honourable title. The commission thoroughly studies all relevant information pertaining to evidence by survivors and additional eyewitnesses, assesses the historical circumstances and the level of risk to the rescuer, then determines if the case meets the standard of judgement, including: (Gunnar S. Paulsson, "The Rescue of Jews by Non-Jews in Nazi-Occupied Poland", *The Journal of Holocaust Education*, Volume 7, nos 1 & 2 {summer/autumn 1998}: pp. 19-44. Reprinted in "Collective Rescue Efforts of the Poles", p. 256.).

1. Only a Jewish party can put a nomination forward
2. Helping a family member, or helping a Jew who converted to Christianity is not a criterion for recognition;
3. Assistance has to be repeated or substantial
4. Assistance has to be given without any financial gain expected in return (although covering expenses such as food is acceptable).

Persons who have been deemed 'Righteous Among the Nations' are granted a specially minted medal bearing their name and the Jewish saying 'Whoever Saves a Single Life, Saves an Entire Universe' (Mishnah, Sanhedrin 4:5), a certificate of honour, and the entitlement of having their names placed on the Wall of Honour in the Garden of the Righteous at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

Perhaps the most celebrated, or one of the most celebrated of the 'Righteous Among the Nations' is Oskar Schindler.

"I hated the brutality, the sadism and the insanity of Nazism. I just couldn't

stand by and see people destroyed. I did what I could, what I had to do, what my conscience told me I must do. That's all there is to it. Really. Nothing more." (January 20, 1972, JEWISH TELEGRAPH AGENCY; Special JTA Interview Oskar Schindler: A Man for All Reasons).

Oskar Schindler (April 28, 1908 - October 9, 1974) was born in Zwittau-Moravia (present day Czech Republic or Czechia). He was a German industrialist and a member of the Nazi Party. His middle-class family were Sudetenland Germans. He is best known for having helped save 1,200 from almost certain death during the Second World War, by recruiting and employing them in his enamel-ware and munitions factories in occupied Poland and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

Schindler's most successful weapon was the essential and elite status that his factory held, 'an enterprise essential to the Nazi war effort'. He was able to hire more Jews, create new jobs that weren't needed or didn't exist, and forge identities. Schindler bribed Nazi officials as part of his benevolent scheme. When his Jewish workers were facing deportation to Auschwitz by the SS, he could claim exclusion for them, saying that their deportation would gravely hinder his ability to maintain effective production for the war effort. The Gestapo arrested Schindler several times, accusing him of irregularities and preferring Jews; he did not relent.

Following the war, Schindler fled from the Soviets, living in Germany. Being a former member of the Nazi Party, and seeing and hearing about the arrests and prosecutions of high-level Nazis, he feared that he too would be tried as a war criminal. His worries were short-lived; Jewish survivors-witnesses cleared his name, by confirming his role in helping Jews.

In 1949 Schindler moved to Argentina, where he owned a farm and raised animals. He moved back to Germany in 1958 where he engaged in several business ventures that were failures. He'd spent much of his wealth doing benevolent work to save Jews during the war. He was supported by Holocaust survivors.

Schindler visited Israel 17 times, the first was in 1961. During his first visit to Israel he was received by 220 jubilant Holocaust survivors. In 1967, he received the Martin Buber Peace Prize and had been esteemed by the German Government, Pope Paul VI, the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, and in the Hollywood Movie, Schindler's List (1993) directed by the renowned Steven Spielberg (December 18, 1946). It's a good movie, running time is 3 hours 15 min.

Holocaust denial is the act of denial of the European Jewish Holocaust, the genocide against the Jews, and the plethora of other atrocities and problems within this sphere. The perpetrators of these crimes were overwhelmingly directed and instigated by the Nazis and their collaborators. Holocaust denial is often

times, blatant anti-Semitism Holocaust denial absolves the guilty parties from much of, or all of their wrongdoing. Another method of negating the Holocaust is to say 'they deserved it', 'they control the world', or 'they are troublemakers'.

In the Auschwitz facilities alone, tens of thousands of witnesses who pulled through, by Divine miracle, were witnesses to the atrocities that occurred therein. Many testimonial stories were complete and quite detailed. Stories from survivors in a multitude of camps, ghettos, and in other places describe countless, similar stories of brutal crimes committed against individuals, small groups, and very large numbers of people. Countless depositions, biographies and memoirs, personal accounts, photographs, and historical documentation and history books attest to this.

Holocaust deniers may try to reduce the scope of the crimes by claiming that the Final Solution was not an act of extermination, but only mass deportation. There were no extermination camps, gas chambers or gas trucks, or large-scale massacres, and that the actual number of victims was only a tiny fraction of the official count.

Addressing high ranking officers in Poznań on October 4, 1943, Himmler, the head of the German police and the SS, said that, "Most of you here know what it means when 100 corpses lie next to each other, when 500 lie there. ... This is an honour roll in our history which has never been and never will be put in writing" (IMT translation). (Holocaust Denial; auschwitz.org).

Two of the most notorious Holocaust deniers are Ernst Zundel (April 24, 1939 - August 5, 2017), born in Calmbach, Wurttemberg, Germany, and David Irving (March 24, 1938 -), born in Hutton, Essex, England.

Zundel was a German publisher and writer widely known for furthering the Holocaust denial cause. In relation to his work, he was arrested several times in Canada for publishing writings that stir up hatred against an unidentified group, and of being a threat to national security. He lived in Canada from 1958 to 2000. In the United States he was charged with visa violations.

Zundel was arrested in the United States in February 5, 2003, and was later deported to Canada where he was jailed for 2 years on a security certificate charge. He was then deported to Germany, tried in a Mannheim court for incitement of Holocaust denial. In February 2010, he was convicted and sentenced to 5 years in prison. He was released in March, 2010. Although I strongly disagree with the works of the late Ernst Zundel, he was not accorded due process of law. In my opinion, every person is entitled to this inalienable right; we certainly don't want to be like those who have done serious wrong.

David Irving is an English writer, specializing in Second World War studies, in particular, about Nazi Germany. He is wide-

ly known as a Holocaust denier. In his works he made outrageous claims, including Hitler's obliviousness of the extermination of the Jews, and that if Hitler had known, he would have been against it; this would be believable if Adolph Hitler were literally blind and deaf. Irving also negated German atrocities during the Second World War.

His views were not taken seriously by mainstream Historians until 1988. He began to adopt a more aggressive Holocaust denial approach, in particular, the gassing of Jews at Auschwitz. His reputation as a historian plummeted when he filed a libel case against historian Deborah Lipstadt and Penguin Books. The English court judged that Irving was a Holocaust denier, anti-Semite, and racist.

We must not forget history, even when we do remember it, we still repeat the same horrible mistakes over and over again.

A study conducted by the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany interviewed 1,350 American adults in February 2018, discovered the following:

"Two-thirds of American Millennials surveyed in a recent poll cannot identify what Auschwitz is, according to a study released on Holocaust Remembrance Day that found that knowledge of the genocide that killed 6 million Jews during World War II is not robust among Americans.

Twenty-two percent of millennials in the poll said they haven't heard of the Holocaust or are not sure whether they've heard of it - twice the percentage of U.S. adults as a whole who said the same." (By Julie Zauzmer, April 12, 2018; Holocaust Study: Two-thirds of Millennials don't know what Auschwitz is; washingtonpost.com).

BELOW IS A LIST OF IMPORTANT WEBSITES AND YOUTUBE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS:

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE & RECOGNITION ORGANIZATIONS:

www.ushmm.org United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: USHMM

<https://www.triphistoric.com/explore/articles/holocaust-sites-museums-and-memorials>

Holocaust Sites, Museums and Memorials: Trip Historic

www.ahoinfo.org Association of Holocaust Organizations

<https://www.theholocaustexplained.org/> The Holocaust Explained: Designed for Schools

<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/overview-holocaust-related-organizations> Overview of Holocaust-Related Organizations: IHRA

<https://www.yadvashem.org/> Yad Vashem. The World Holocaust Remembrance Centre

<http://www.protecting-memory.org/en/> Protecting Memory: Preserving and Memorializing the Holocaust

<https://sfi.usc.edu/> USC Shoah Foundation

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<https://vintagenewsdaily.com/the-last-jew-of-vinnitsa-1942> The Last Jew of Vinnitsa, 1942: Vintage Daily
www.darkmoon.me/2014/timeline-of-jewish-persecutions TIMELINE OF JEWISH PERSECUTIONS AND POGROMS
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expulsions_of_Jews *Expulsions and Exoduses of Jews - Wikipedia*
www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odessa_pogroms *Odessa Pogroms - Wikipedia*
www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Holocaust_memorials_and_museums List of Holocaust Memorials and Museums - Wikipedia
www.encyclopedia.ushmm.org/.../article/concentration-camps-1933-39 Concentration Camps: The Holocaust Encyclopedia
<https://jewishpersecutionhistory.weebly.com/> Jewish Persecution: Home
 Inside Hitler's Killing Machine: Episode 1 - The Nazi Camps: An Architecture of Murder (youtube.com)
 Killing Machine: Episode 2 - The Nazi Camps: Hitler's Evil Scientists (youtube.com)
 Inside Hitler's Killing Machine: Episode 3 - The Banker of The Third Reich (youtube.com)
 Proving The Truth Behind The Holocaust (youtube.com)
 How Did Ordinary Citizens Become Murderers? (youtube.com)
 CARING CORRUPTED - The Killing Nurses of The Third Reich (youtube.com)
 Medieval Antisemitism (Essential Lectures in Jewish History) Dr. Henry Abramson (youtube.com)
 Intimate Violence: Anti-Jewish Pogroms on the Eve of the Holocaust (youtube.com)
 A Forgotten Genocide: The Pogroms in Ukraine, 1918-1919 (youtube.com)
 Two Barns - English Version (youtube.com)
 RUMBULA A JEWISH TRAGEDY IN LATVIA (youtube.com)
 Antisemitism and the Russian Revolution (youtube.com)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Last_Jew_in_Vinnitsa The Last Jew in Vinnitsa - Wikipedia
ilalinks.jewishgen.org/zvenyhorodka/final%20draft3-history.html Zvenyhorodka History: JewishGen
 How did the Hungarian Rabbinate Confront the Challenges Generated by the Holocaust? (youtube.com)
 The Power of One: The Holocaust in Bulgaria with Aaron Cohen (youtube.com)
 Auschwitz Secrets of the Dead - Full Documentary (youtube.com)
 Annihilation: The Destruction of European Jews - The End of Illusions (youtube.com)
 Annihilation : The Destruction of European Jews - The Trap (youtube.com)
 Inside Hitler's Killing Machine: Episode 1 - The Nazi Camps: An Architecture of Murder (youtube.com)
 Surviving the Holocaust: Full Show (youtube.com)
 The Path to Nazi Genocide (youtube.com)
 Ravensbrück Concentration Camp (youtube.com)
 To Live with Honor and Die with Honor: The Story of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising (youtube.com)
 Ochberg Orphans (Russian Pogrom Documentary) | Timeline (youtube.com)

The Pogroms of 1881-1884: This Week in Jewish History with Dr. Henry (youtube.com)
 The Lviv Pogrom (1941) - How Jews Were Massacred by Nazis and Ukrainians (youtube.com)
 Bergen Belsen Camp - The Suppressed Story (Dutch subtitles) (youtube.com)
 Buchenwald Concentration Camp (youtube.com)
 Ilse Koch: The Bitch of Buchenwald (youtube.com)
 Ravensbruck Concentration Camp (youtube.com)
<https://www.theholocaustexplained.org/survival-and-legacy/liberation-the-survivors/death-marches> What were the death marches? – The Holocaust Explained
www.encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/death-marches Death Marches - The Holocaust Encyclopedia
 1944 Standing Tall at Auschwitz (youtube.com)
 The Warsaw was the largest Jewish ghettos in Nazi-occupied Europe during World War II (youtube.com)
 Survivors Remember Kristallnacht: Susan (Hilsenrath) Warsinger (youtube.com)
 Holocaust Survivor Leon Kahn - the massacre of the Jews of Eiskes (youtube.com)
 “I wanted to leave a historical record...”: Henryk Ross and His Photographs of Lodz Ghetto (youtube.com)
<https://www.yadvashem.org/righteous/stories/buczacz.html> Buczacz: Yad Vashem
 Witold Pilecki: A Hero of the Holocaust that took a Stand Against the Nazi Regime (youtube.com)
 The Incredible Story of the Hero Who Volunteered for Auschwitz Will Amaze You (youtube.com)
<http://www.haaretz.com/misc/article-print-page/.premium-1933-nazis-outlaw-kosher-slaughter-1.5437764> 1933: Nazi Germany Outlaws Kosher Slaughter

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<https://www.hdot.org/debunking-denial> Holocaust Denial on Trial
www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holocaust_denial Holocaust Denial: Wikipedia
www.ushmm.org/antisemitism/holocaust-denial-and-distortion Holocaust Denial and Distortion: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
www.auschwitz.org/en/history/holocaust-denial Holocaust Denial: Auschwitz.org

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www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Nazi_ghettos List of Nazi Ghettos: Wikipedia
www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi_ghettos Nazi Ghettos: wikipedia
www.iwm.org.uk/history/ghettos-in-the-holocaust Ghettos in the Holocaust: Imperial War Museums
<http://adolfhitlersholocaust.weebly.com/jewish-ghettos.html> Adolph Hitler's Holocaust: Jewish Ghettos
www.myjewishlearning.com/article/ghettos-under-the-nazis Ghettos Under the Nazis: My Jewish Learning
www.aboutholocaust.org/facts/what-were-ghettos What Were Ghettos? About Holocaust
www.mattsholocaustproject.webs.com/theghettos.htm The Ghettos: The Holocaust:

Matts Holocaust Project

www.encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/life-in-the-ghettos Life in the Ghettos: The Holocaust Encyclopedia

<https://allthatsinteresting.com/jewish-ghettos-photos> Jewish Ghettos Of The Holocaust, In 55 Heartbreaking Photos

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_by_starvation Starvation: Wikipedia

<http://hendrixsholocaustproject.weebly.com/starvation.html> Starvation: Resistance and Repercussions: Holocaust

<https://www.jta.org/1941/07/30/archive/200-jews-reported-dying-monthly-in-warsaw-ghetto-from-epidemics> 2000 Jews Reported Dying Monthly in Warsaw Ghetto from Epidemics - Jewish Telegraph Agency

<https://charterforcompassion.org/poland/holocaust/stories-from-inside-the-krakow-ghetto> Stories from Inside the Krakow Ghetto: Charter for Compassion

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<http://www.jhi.pl/en/blog/2013-08-23-the-bedzin-ghetto-we-remember> The Bedzin Ghetto. We Remember - Jewish Historical Institute

<https://jewishcurrents.org/august-3-frumka-plotnicka-and-the-bedzin-ghetto-uprising/> August 3: Frumka Plotnicka and the Bedzin Ghetto Uprising

<https://www.zachorfoundation.org/timeline/jewish-fighting-organization-zob-founded-in-warsaw/> Jewish Fighting Organization (ZOB) Founded in Warsaw: Zachor Foundation

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Białystok_Ghetto_Uprising Bialystok Ghetto Uprising: Wikipedia

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/Bialystok> Bialystok: The Holocaust Encyclopedia

<https://jewishpartisans.blogspot.com/2014/07/the-bialystok-ghetto-uprising.html> Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation: The Bialystok Ghetto Uprising

<https://jewishcurrents.org/august-16-bialystok-ghetto-uprising/> August 16: The Bialystok Ghetto Uprising - Jewish Currents

<http://www.deathcamps.org/occupation/bialystok%20ghetto.html> Bialystok Ghetto: Death Camps

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Częstochowa_Ghetto_Uprising Czestochowa Ghetto Uprising: Wikipedia

www.holocaustresearchproject.org/ghettos/czest.html Czestochowa: Holocaust Research Project

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kraków_Ghetto Krakow Ghetto: Wikipedia

<https://www.yadvashem.org/articles/general/armed-resistance-in-krakow-and-bialystok.html> Armed Resistance in the Krakow and Bialystok Ghettos

<https://www.yadvashem.org/articles/general/armed-resistance-in-krakow-and-bialystok.html> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lachwa_Ghetto Lachwa Ghetto: Wikipedia

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/lachwa> Lachwa: The Holocaust Encyclopedia

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<https://time.com/4779148/warsaw-ghetto-survivor-account> 'Either We Go or We Burn Right Here': A Survivor Remembers the Warsaw Ghetto
<https://dirkdeklein.net/category/warsaw-ghetto> Warsaw Ghetto: History of Sorts

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<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/list-of-major-nazi-concentration-camps> List of Major Nazi Concentration Camps: Jewish Virtual Library
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<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/concentration-camps-1933-39> Concentration Camps, 1933–39: The Holocaust Encyclopedia
<https://www.theholocaustexplained.org/the-camps/types-of-camps/concentration-camps> Concentration Camps: The Holocaust Explained: Designed for Schools
<https://historyplex.com/conditions-in-concentration-camps> The Humiliating and Inhumane Conditions in Nazi Concentration Camps
<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/featured/ten-worst-nazi-concentration-camps.html> The Ten Worst Nazi Concentration Camps: War History Online
<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/auschwitz> Auschwitz: The Holocaust Encyclopedia
<http://auschwitz.org/en/> Auschwitz-Birkenau
<https://www.villagevoice.com/2002/10/08/the-ibm-link-to-auschwitz> The IBM Link to Auschwitz: The Village Voice
<https://historyplex.com/nazi-medical-experiments> Some of the Most Terrifyingly Cruel Nazi Medical Experiments
<https://www.thoughtco.com/sterilization-in-nazi-germany-1779677> Sterilization in Nazi Germany: ThoughtCo
https://www.escape2poland.co.uk/poland-guide/auschwitz_3
<https://remember.org/educate/medexp> Medical Experiments of the Holocaust and Nazi Medicine: The Holocaust History
<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/nazi-medical-experiments> Nazi Medical Experiments: My Jewish Learning
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_Mengele Josef Mengele: Wikipedia
<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/world-war-ii/josef-mengele-angel-of-death.html> Josef Mengele: The Angel of Death: WAR HISTORY ONLINE
<https://www.thoughtco.com/ten-facts-about-dr-josef-mengele-2136588> 11 Facts About Dr. Josef Mengele, The Auschwitz "Angel of Death" - ThoughtCo
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<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/gabrielsanchez/holocaust-remembrance-day-photos-auschwitz-birkenau> These Pictures Capture the Inhumanity of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp
www.auschwitz.net/auschwitz-today Auschwitz Today: Auschwitz

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<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/history-and-development-of-yiddish> History & Development of Yiddish: Jewish Virtual Library
www.ingeveb.org/articles/yiddish-and-the-holocaust Yiddish and the Holocaust: In Geveb
<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/yiddish-revival/> Yiddish Revival: My Jewish Learning
<https://strangeside.com/yiddish-in-israel/> Yiddish in Israel: The Strange Side of Jewish History
<https://www.languagesoftheworld.info/geolinguistics/endangered-languages/yiddish-revival.html> Yiddish Revival: Languages of the World
<https://derbay.org/> DerBay 2020: Yiddish: Imaginations
<https://yugntruf.org/> Yugntruf

GAS CHAMBERS | GAS VANS:

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gas_chamber Gas Chamber: Wikipedia
<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/gassing-operations> Gassing Operations: The Holocaust Encyclopedia
<http://auschwitz.org/en/history/auschwitz-and-shoah/the-extermination-procedure-in-the-gas-chambers> The Extermination Procedure in the Gas Chambers: Auschwitz and Shoah
<https://amandahalcomb.weebly.com/gas-vans.html> Gas Vans: PERSECUTION OF JEWS
<https://www.hdot.org/debunking-denial/gv4-witnesses/> Gas Vans: Witnesses to the Use of Gas Vans: Holocaust Denial on Trial
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grojanowski_Report#cite_note-dc-1 Grojanowski Report: Wikipedia
<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/world-war-ii/the-horrific-nazi-gas-vans-the-mobile-gas-chambers.html> WAR HISTORY ONLINE: The Horrific Nazi Gas Vans: The Mobile Gas Chambers
<https://people.com/celebrity/90-year-old-holocaust-survivor-gena-turgel-walked-out-of-auschwitz-gas-chamber> On Anniversary of Auschwitz's Liberation, 90-Year-Old Survivor Remembers Living Through the Gas Chamber: PEOPLE.com
<http://www.theheroinecollective.com/gena-turgel> Gena Turgel: Holocaust Survivor, Activist: The Heroine Collective
<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/bringing-end-inhumane-euthanasia> Bringing an End to Inhumane Euthanasia: The Humane Society of the United States

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<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/liberation-of-nazi-camps> Liberation of Nazi Camps: The Holocaust Encyclopedia
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/liberation_camps_01.shtml World Wars: Liberation of the Concentration Camps: BBC
<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/ohrdruf> Ohrdruf: The Holocaust Encyclopedia

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<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50329597> Italy Holocaust survivor Liliana Segre under guard amid death threats
<https://nypost.com/2019/11/07/holocaust-survivor-gets-police-guard-in-italy-after-aggressive-death-threats/> Holocaust Survivor Gets Police Guard in Italy After Threats
https://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/jta/synagogue-torched-in-northern-russia/article_52e99a8f-109e-594b-b56f-f8975eb77fae.html Synagogue Torched in Northern Russia
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/27/us/active-shooter-pittsburgh-synagogue-shooting.html> 11 Killed in Synagogue Massacre; Suspect Charged With 29 Counts
<https://apnews.com/23b04dc5e5af4129b544ab50cbbba3dd6> Pittsburgh synagogue massacre leaves 11 dead, 6 wounded

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www.yadvashem.org/righteous.html The Righteous Among the Nations: Yad Vashem
www.encyclopedia.org/.../article/righteous-among-the-nations Righteous Among the Nations: The Holocaust Encyclopedia
www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/famous-righteous-gentiles Famous Righteous Gentiles: Jewish Virtual Library
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oskar_Schindler Oskar Schindler: Wikipedia
<https://www.yadvashem.org/righteous/stories/schindler.html> Oskar and Emilie Schindler: Yad Vashem
<https://www.jta.org/1972/01/20/archive/special-jta-interview-oskar-schindler-a-man-for-all-reasons> Special JTA Interview Oskar Schindler: A Man for All Reasons - Jewish Telegraph Agency

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Frank Anne Frank: Wikipedia
<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/anne-frank-biography> Anne Frank: Biography: The Holocaust Encyclopedia
<http://www.oocities.org/baronvanshooter/Writings/AF.html> Anne Frank: Victim of the Holocaust

Babi Yar:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babi_Yar Babi Yar: Wikipedia

www.history.com/this-day-in-history/babi-yar-massacre-begins Babi Yar Massacre Begins: HISTORY
www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/babi-yar Babi Yar: Jewish Virtual Library
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www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strasbourg_massacre Strasbourg Massacre: Wikipedia
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