



EHRI Document Blog as a laboratory of Holocaust Research

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CONNECTING COLLECTIONS



EHRI: A blueprint for transnational archival research

EHRI-1

- October 2010 - March 2015 (54 months)
- ~ EUR 7 mio funding through EU 7th Framework Programme
- 20 partners (research institutions, libraries, archives, and museums)

EHRI-2

- May 2015 – April 2019 (48 months)
- ~ EUR 8 mio funding through EU Horizon 2020 Programme
- 23 partners (research institutions, libraries, archives, and museums)

Coordinator: Conny Kristel, NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam



EHRI Aims

The main objective of EHRI is to support the Holocaust research community by

1. **Integrating** key archival **collections** and **institutions**
2. **Encouraging** collaborative Holocaust **research** and investigating new methodologies

www.ehri-project.eu





Welcome to the EHRI Portal

[Advanced query tips](#)

The EHRI portal offers access to information on Holocaust-related archival material held in institutions across Europe and beyond. For more information on the EHRI project visit <http://ehri-project.eu>.

Countries

EHRI national reports provide an overview of the Second World War and Holocaust history as well as of the archival situation in the covered countries.

Browse [57 country reports](#).

Archival Institutions

An inventory of archival institutions that hold Holocaust-related material.

Browse [1,942 archival institutions](#) in 51 countries.

Archival Descriptions

Electronic descriptions and finding aids of Holocaust-related archival material.

Browse [232,629 archival descriptions](#) in 498 institutions.

Czech Republic

History

The Czech lands (Bohemia, Moravia and Czech Silesia) were part of the Habsburg monarchy until the First World War, and of the Czechoslovak Republic between 1918 and 1938. Following the Munich Agreement in September 1938, the territories along the German and Austrian frontier were annexed by Germany (and a small part of Silesia by Poland). Most of these areas were reorganised as the Reichsgau Sudetenland, while areas in the West and South were attached to neighbouring German Gaue. After these territorial losses, Czechoslovakia became a federal state (Czechoslovakia). In March 1939 Germany occupied the rest of the Czech lands, creating the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, with its own government and administration under close German supervision. The German-occupied protectorate functioned up to the end of the war in May 1945.

In 1939, the Czech lands had a total population of about 11 million inhabitants (10,674,386 according to the 1930 census). After the Munich Agreement, most of the approx. 25,000 Jews from Sudetenland escaped or were expelled into the interior of the country. In the Protectorate, the occupiers regarded some 118,000 inhabitants as Jews. This Jewish community had modernised and had largely assimilated with German and Czech society in the Czech Lands. In the context of rising nationalism and antisemitism, first exclusive measures were taken already during the Second Republic (1938-39). After the occupation, the Germans as well as the semi-autonomous authorities of the Protectorate imposed laws and various ordinances to discriminate against Jews and confiscate their property. In autumn 1939, some 5,000 Jews were deported from Vienna and Ostrava to Nisko. Before further emigration was banned in 1941, 26,000 Jews emigrated legally and several more illegally from the Protectorate. In 1941-1942 several thousand Jews were sent to the ghettos of Łódź, Riga and Minsk, where they shared the fate of the local Jewish population. In November 1941 the Theresienstadt (Terezín) ghetto was created; over 80,000 Jews from the Czech lands, but also more than 60,000 from Germany, Austria, and other countries were deported there between 1942 and 1945. Theresienstadt became a transit ghetto, because most of the prisoners were deported to Auschwitz and other death camps. About 33,000 Theresienstadt (mostly elderly) inmates perished in the ghetto due to the harsh conditions. In 1943-44, approximately 17,500 prisoners were deported to the Theresienstadt Family Camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau which was probably created for propaganda purposes. Most of the prisoners were killed in two large actions. At the end of the war there were 2,800 Jews in the Czech lands (most of them from "mixed" families), but the number of survivors was bigger (about 14,000, together with the surviving deportees). Altogether, about 80,000 Czech Jews perished in the Holocaust.

Archival Situation

The state archival system in the Czech Republic consists of the National Archives in Prague, regional and local archives. The National Archives and the 7 regional archives are subordinate to the National Archival Administration (Odbor archivní správy a spisové služby) at the Ministry of Interior. The 70 district archives are subordinated to the regional archives. Furthermore, there are five municipal

Countries

A general introduction to the EHRI country reports can be found on the [EHRI project website](#).

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Národní archiv

The National Archives | 1954-10-01/2004-12-31 Státní ústřední archiv | NA

Czech Republic Archivní 4/2257, Praha 4 - Chodovec, Praha Updated 3 years ago

40 archival descriptions available

Policejní ředitelství Praha II

1420 English 1914-1953 The fonds consists out of 4809,2... Updated 2 years ago

3 child items

Ministerstvo veřejných prací, Praha

1004 English 1918-1942 The fonds consists out of 490 line... Updated 2 years ago

Úřad říšského protektora v Čechách a na Moravě, Praha

1005 English 1939-1945 255, 12 linear metres of documen... Updated 2 years ago

Předsednictvo ministerské rady - Londýn

1006 English 1940-1945 14,5 linear metres from which 14,... Updated 3 years ago

Ministerstvo sociální péče - Londýn

1007 English 1940-1945 15,8 linear metres of documents f... Updated 3 years ago

Generální velitel četnictva, Praha

1009 English 1918-1942 The collection consists out of 25 li... Updated 2 years ago

Zvláštní dopisovatel Československé tiskové kanceláře, Norimberk

1023 English 1945-1949 6,2 linear metres of documents fr... Updated 3 years ago

Ministerstvo sociální péče, Praha

1028 English 1918-1951 631,5 linear meters from which 5... Updated 2 years ago

Svaz protifašistických bojovníků - ústřední výbor, Praha

1063 English 1951-1969 27 linear metres of documents ar... Updated 3 years ago

Ministerstvo vnitra I., Praha

1075 English 1918-1948 The fonds consists out of 2147 lin... Updated 2 years ago

Okupační vězeňské spisy

1077 English 1938-1948 160,8 linear metres from which 1... Updated 3 years ago

Československá vládní komise pro stíhání nacistických válečných zločinců

1145 English 1959-1990 49 linear metres of documents w... Updated 3 years ago

Ministerstvo práce a sociální péče - repatriace, Praha

1146 English 1938-1951 441,62 linear metres from which ... Updated 2 years ago

Drážďanská banka

1335 English 1871-1944 1.32 linear meters of documents ... Updated 3 years ago

Norimberský soud, Norimberk

1463 English 1946-1948 71 linear metres of documents, al... Updated 3 years ago

Německé státní ministerstvo pro Čechy a Moravu, Praha

1464 English 1939-1945 13.6 linear meters of documents, ... Updated 1 year ago

Sbírka Československé školy ve Velké Británii

1578 English 1941-1945 1,3 linear metres of which 1,3 line... Updated 3 years ago

Matriky židovských náboženských obcí v českých krajích

167 English 1784-1949 The collection consists of 93,8 lin... Updated 3 years ago

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Online History

Terezín/*Theresienstadt*

Židovské muzeum v Praze COLLECTION... Czech, German, English Updated 3 years ago

The archive records from the Terezín ghetto (24 November 1941 – 8 May 1945, and from the period after the liberation) are preserved only in fragments. Only a portion of the documents in the collection are connected with the official activities of the Terezín Council of Elders and with the various departments and sections of its self-government. The first group of documents comprise a relatively diverse range of maps, plans and drawings of the ghetto, the surrounding area, the housing blocks and buildings, various sketches of the facilities and equipment, as well as notices. The collection a...

5 child items

Ink and pencil drawing of a church in *Theresienstadt* ghetto/labor camp by an inmate

Fritz and Ilse Silten collection

View of a Church Tower in Theresienstadt

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum im519059 English overall : 16.500 x 11.500 in. (41.9... Updated 3 years ago

Drawing of a church in Terezín created on October 22, 1943, by Frantizek Zelenka, an inmate at *Theresienstadt* concentration camp. He gave the drawing to a fellow inmate, Fritz Silten. Frantizek was a scene painter for the camp's theater and was forced to create art for the Germans at the camp. Works such as this drawing often were done by the artists in secret. Frantizek was an established theater designer when he was deported to Theresienstadt from Prague, Czechoslovakia. He eventually was sent to Auschwitz and died in the gas chamber on October 19, 1944.

Leo Haas drawing

Leo Haas collection

Blind men and women walking with canes The Blind of Theresienstadt

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum im521653 English overall : 19.000 x 22.250 in. (48.2... Updated 3 years ago

Theresienstadt I

Nachlässe / Spies, Gerty

Institut für Zeitgeschichte–Archiv ED 102 / 1 German 1944-1946 Updated 3 years ago

Gedichte, handschr. Aufzeichnungen, Zeichnungen Gerty Spies aus dem Konzentrationslager *Theresienstadt* und Anschlusszeit, 1944-1946. - Benutzungsbeschränkung aus konservatorischen Gründen! Genehmigungspflichtig.

Sendung für *Theresienstadt*; Inventar nach *Theresienstadt*

Documentary Material

Památník Terezín A 1719 – 1,2,3,4 Multiple 1943 Updated 3 years ago

Official letters from the Jewish Council of Elders in Brno for the Jewish Council of Elders in Prague, March – May 1943

History of Terezín and the Terezín ghetto

Terezín/Theresienstadt / Documents / Documents from the period after the liberation

/ The Jiří Vogel Papers (documents from the period after the evacuation of Terezín)

Židovské muzeum v Praze COLLECTION... Czech, German, English Updated 3 years ago

1 child item

Holding Institution

- Beit Theresienstadt (8064)
- Židovské muzeum v Praze (3170)
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (1037)
- ארכיון יד ושם / Yad Vashem Archives (752)
- ITS (283)
- Památník Terezín (222)
- Institut für Zeitgeschichte–Archiv (60)
- The Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust & Genocide (59)
- NIOD Instituut voor Oorlogs-, Holocaust- en Genocidestudies (49)
- Data Archiving and Networked Services (20)
- Archive of the Jewish Community of Vienna (19)
- Nationaal archief (5)
- Národní archiv (5)
- American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (3)
- Archives nationales de Luxembourg / Luxemburger Nationalarchiv (2)
- Rigsarkivet (2)
- Archives générales du Royaume et Archives de l'État dans les Provinces / Algemeen Rijksarchief en Rijksarchief in de Provinciën (1)
- Bundesarchiv, Berlin-Lichterfelde (1)
- Bundesarchiv, Freiburg (Abteilung Militärarchiv) (1)
- Centre de Documentation et de Recherche sur la Résistance (1)
- Haags Gemeentearchief (1)
- Hoover Institution on War, Revolution And Peace (1)
- Kazerne Dossin: Mémorial, Musée et Centre de Documentation sur l'Holocauste et les Droits de l'Homme / Kazerne Dossin: Memoriaal, Museum en Documentatiecentrum over Holocaust en Mensenrechten (1)
- Magyar Zsidó Levéltár (1)
- Senter for studier av Holocaust og livssynsminoriteter (1)

Terezín
prisonersGeography of
the ghettoJewish
self-administrationThematic
Guide

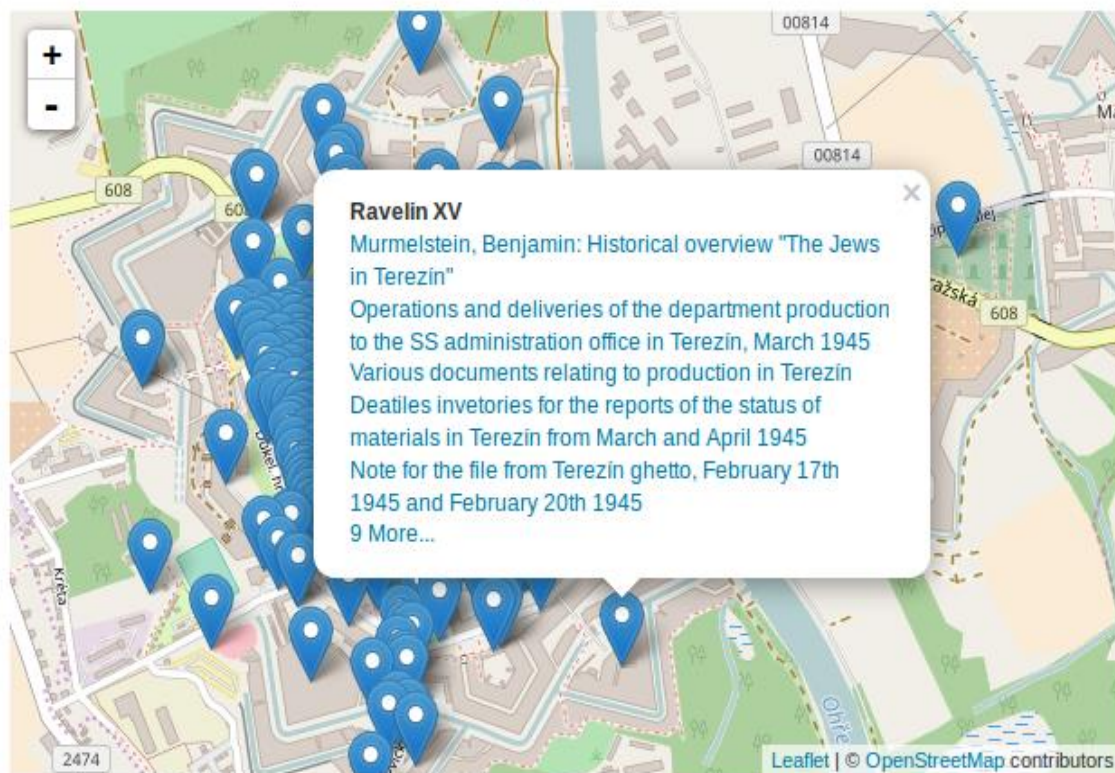
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TEREZÍN RESEARCH GUIDE

Geography of the ghetto

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The aim of the EHRI Terezín Research Guide is to create a comprehensive, innovative and easy to use guide through the dispersed and fragmented Terezín (Theresienstadt) archival material and to empower further research on the history of the ghetto.


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Jakub Leipzig Interview: Jewish Displacement in Italy through ITS Documents



Introduction The following report is one of approximately 30 million documents held in the Archives of the International Tracing Service (ITS) – an extensive and unique collection that provides information about the fates of millions of refugees uprooted during World...

[Continue reading →](#)

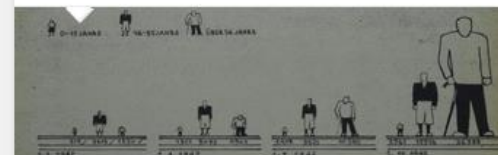
🕒 2017/01/23 💬 0

Photographing refugee deportation: On visual representation of refugees



(Please follow this link for metadata and scan of the document.) The photograph discussed in this blog post captures a dramatic moment during an attempted deportation of a group of Jews who escaped after the occupation of the Protectorate Bohemia...

Elderly people in the Terezín Ghetto



Distribution of infirm people in the Terezín Ghetto This document from the Jewish Museum in Prague from September 5th 1942 details statistics about the "Distribution of infirm people in the ghetto". Statistics on the elderly and so-called "infirm" people are quite common...

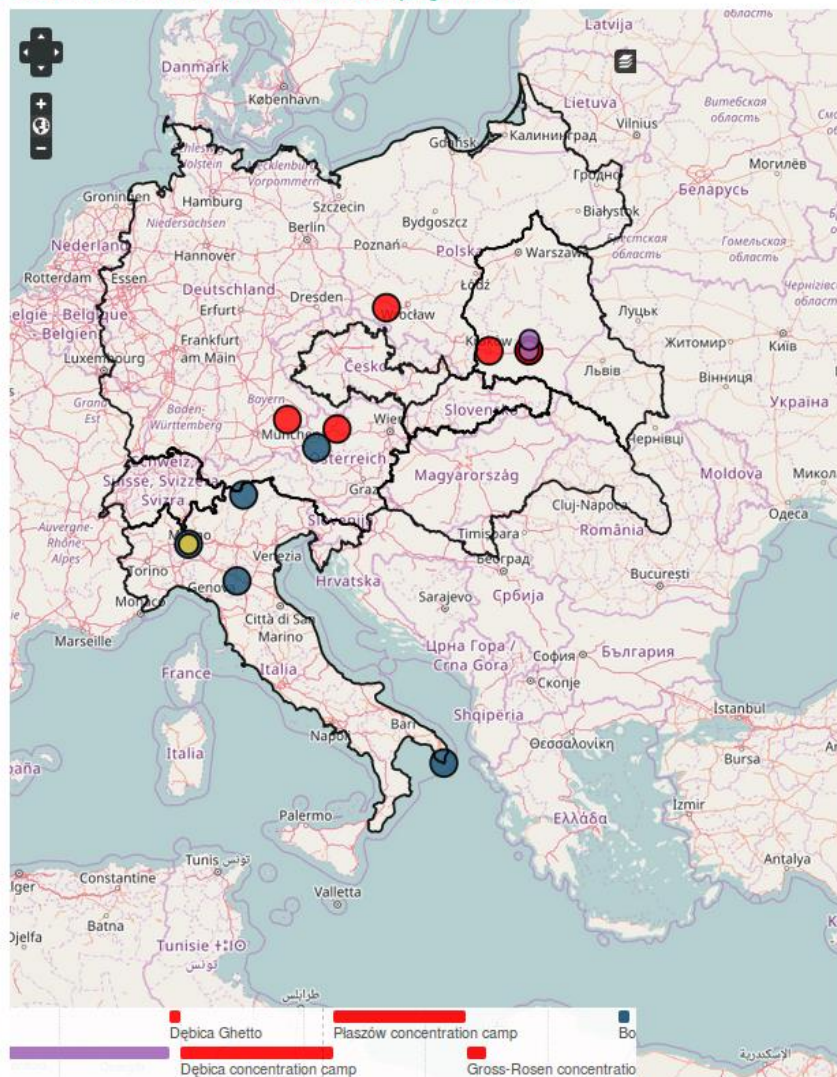
[Continue reading →](#)

🕒 2016/09/13 💬 0

timeline. Click on one of the highlighted place name in the text to see where Jakub was at a specific time in his life. Places on the map are approximate; when unable to find the exact coordinates of a camp, the town in which it was located has been pinned instead.

European borders from December 1941 have been added to give historical context. Several key terms are also highlighted, such as DP and AC – click on these terms to read a short definition. The interview text below has been transcribed directly from the original document, retaining all spelling and grammatical errors.

See fullscreen visualisation of Jakub Leipzig Interview



[Transcript of IRO interview in ITS Personal File of Jakub Leipzig - [view scan of document and metadata](#)]

LEIPZIG JAKUB

The subject was born at **MIELEC (POLAND)**. Both his parents were Polish Jews. Finished elementary school and 2 classes of secondary school at his native town, studying Polish language.

From 1938 – 1939 the subject was a secondary school student and lived at **MIELEC (POLAND)** together with his parents, who supported him.

In September 1939 as during the [...] was their house was demolished by the German bombers, the subject went to a nearby village **DEBICA**, where a sister of his was married and living (**MANJA BORNSTEIN**). The subject remained living in the house of his sister – helping in housework – till December 1941.

In December 1941 the subject together with his relatives was sent by Germans to a GHETTO at **DEBICA (POLAND)**. In that Ghetto the subject remained interned till 1942, and was sent often from there as forced labourer to the different works.

In 1942 the mentioned Ghetto became a concentration camp and the subject lived there deported as a forced labourer till April 1943.

In April 1943 was transferred to another concentration camp at **PLASHOW** (near **KRAKOW**) and there stayed deported till 3rd of May 1944.

On 3rd of May 1944 was transferred to **GROSSROSEN** (a concentration camp near **BRESLAU**, Germany), where remained for three months.

At the end of July 1944 the subject was again transferred to **FALKENBERG** (also a German concentration camp) and there stayed till the 5th of

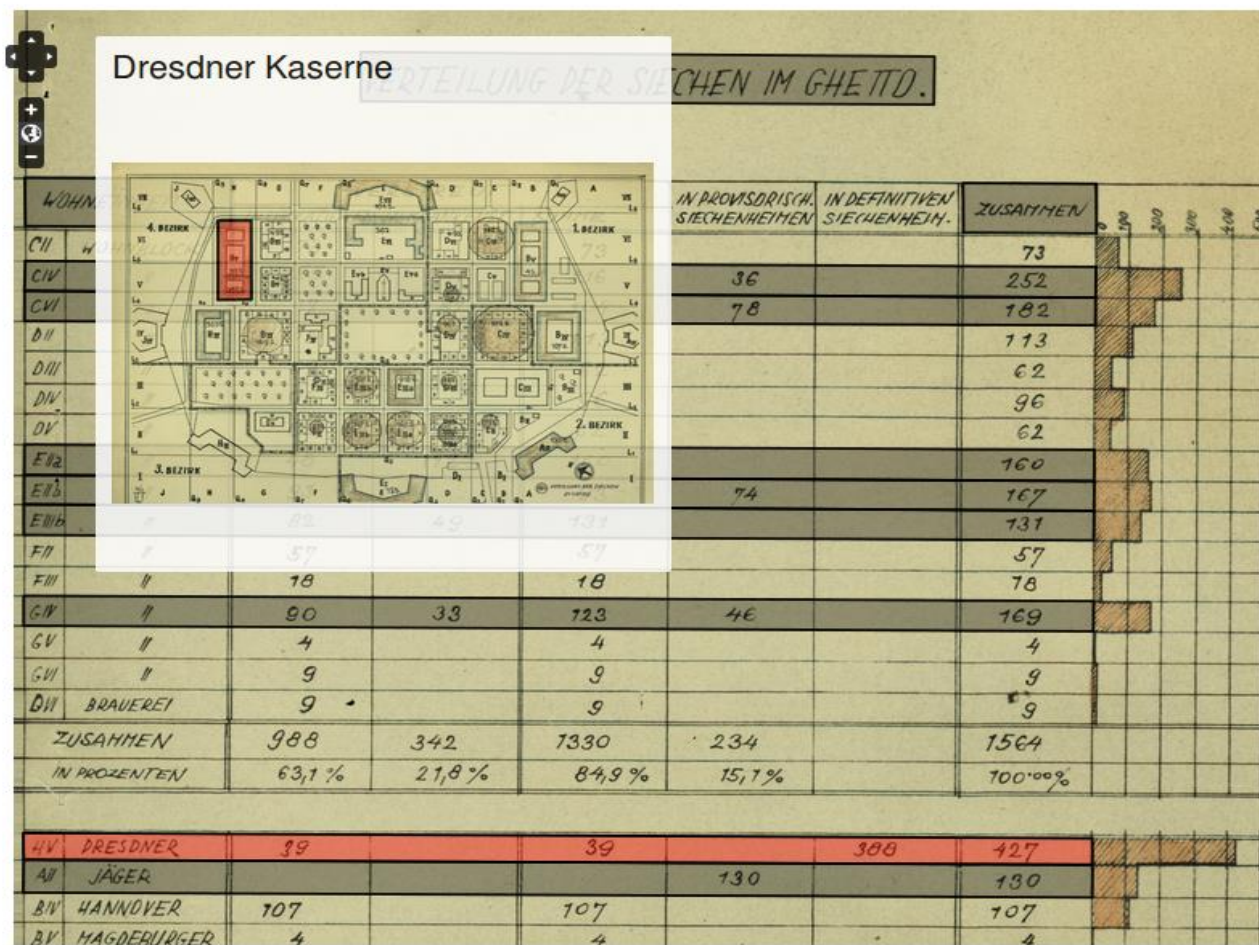
Photographing refugee deportation: On visual representation of refugees



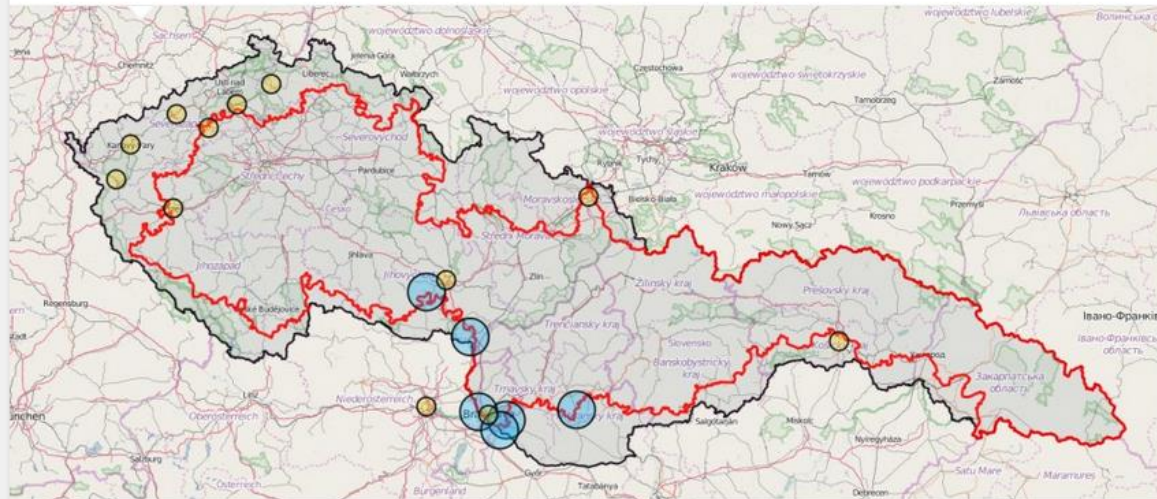
A refugee from German-occupied Czechoslovakia, being forcibly deported from Croydon airport, Wiener Library, WL25

increasingly characterised by death and disease and the harsh living conditions faced by elderly people in the ghetto.

A map of the Terezín ghetto was originally attached to the statistics seen in the document shown here. In this interactive visualisation below information about the geography of the ghetto and the buildings is also included.



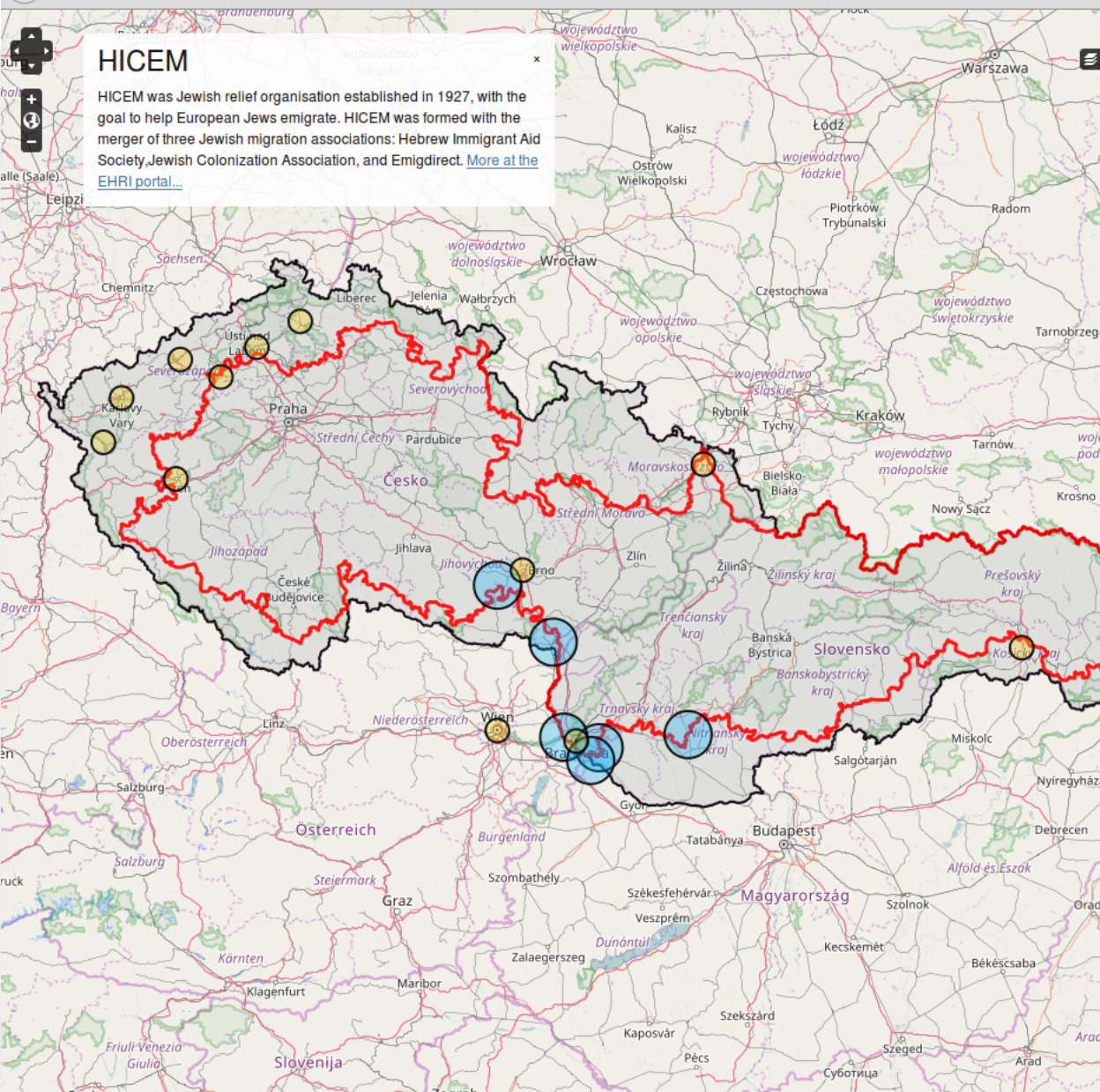
Reports from the No Man's Land



The documents presented here have a common topic: refugees stranded during 1938 in the No Man's Land on the borders of Czechoslovakia and its neighbours – a subject of my current research project focused on the interplay between large scale expulsions of Jews and citizenship

HICEM

HICEM was Jewish relief organisation established in 1927, with the goal to help European Jews emigrate. HICEM was formed with the merger of three Jewish migration associations: Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Jewish Colonization Association, and Emigdirect. [More at the EHRI portal...](#)



Report by Mrs. Marie Schmolka, manageress of "HICEM" Prague on her visit to the camp at Mischdorf near Bratislava on November 27th, 1938, and other reports from No-Man's Land.

Between October 30th and November 10th, the Jews of Bratislava and other places (estimated at about 2,000) Czech citizens who lived in these places for decades, whose native congregation (Heimatgemeinde) lay in Slovakian districts and now become Hungarian, Stateless people, one-time Poles, Russians, and German-Austrian refugees, were taken from their beds at night, scantily dressed, through the Hlinka Guard, and were brought in motor-buses to the district which went to Hungary.

At first, the refugees were received in Kaschau and in other villages, and the Jews resident there cared for them.

When the Hungarians occupied the district, they drove the deported Jews to the frontier to the No-Man's Land which thus arose - a space of about two kilometres - and which both armies of occupation left free until the final line of demarcation was agreed to.

As retaliation for the action of the Slovaks, the Hungarians also drove out those Jews from Hungarian districts whose native congregation finds itself in Slovakian territory, and also those who are Stateless. The greatest number of these Stateless people came into being because the poor Jews did not know the complicated citizenship laws, and especially because of the anti-Semitic practice of the authorities.

More than 300 refugees found themselves in an open field for one week, in a temperature which went as low as 2 degrees below zero during the daytime and till 5 degrees below zero at night. They built scanty huts and roofs from maize stalks and dug pits in which they placed their children (some of these children are only a few months old). It is only because of the self-sacrificing assistance of the Jews of Bratislava which saved them from certain death through starvation and freezing.

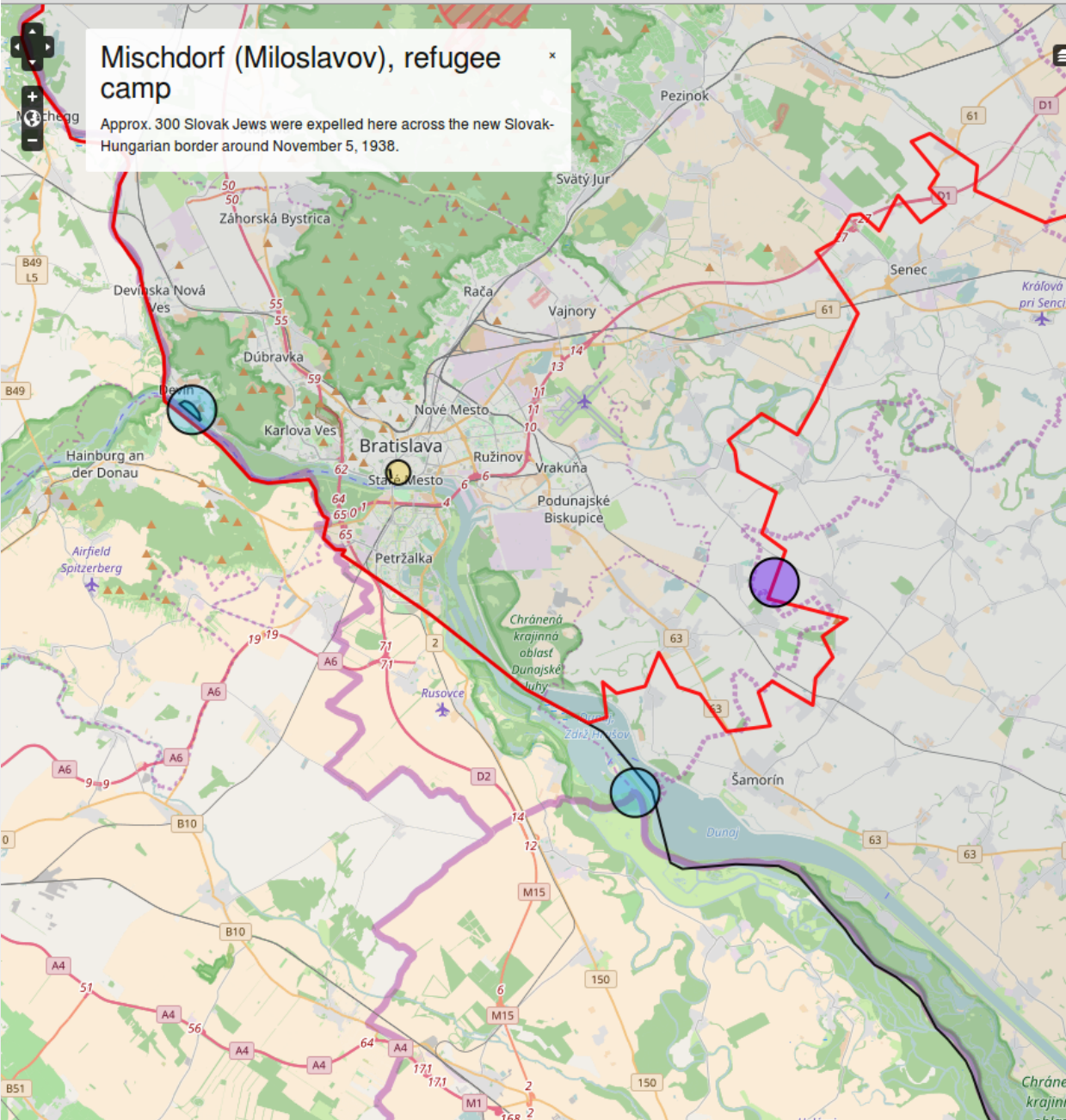
The Slovakian population which, with the assistance of the German propaganda from the Vienna-Slovakian Wireless Station, is instigated the inhuman forms of German anti-Semitism, would have mercilessly allowed them to perish.

It is reported that the officials declared during an intervention with the police authorities "What do you want? There are enough mice there." The only help which the Jews of Bratislava got for the difficult relief work was through the Czech military (the camp is about 20 kilometres from Bratislava).

It is to the great credit of one military commander that he allowed a woman, who the whole night long underwent the final pains in giving birth to a child, and through her agonised screams nearly drove the desperate refugees insane, to be brought to hospital on his own responsibility.

Mischdorf (Miloslavov), refugee camp

Approx. 300 Slovak Jews were expelled here across the new Slovak-Hungarian border around November 5, 1938.



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During the last week (the refugees now find themselves 14 days near Mischdorf), the Jews were able to provide four furniture vans in which those who are very ill could be bedded on straw and, for the others, low tents were erected, each tent accommodating 20 people, while others are still in the shelters formed of maize stalks. Until now they had to fetch water from a distance of about one kilometre, and only now a pump has been erected.

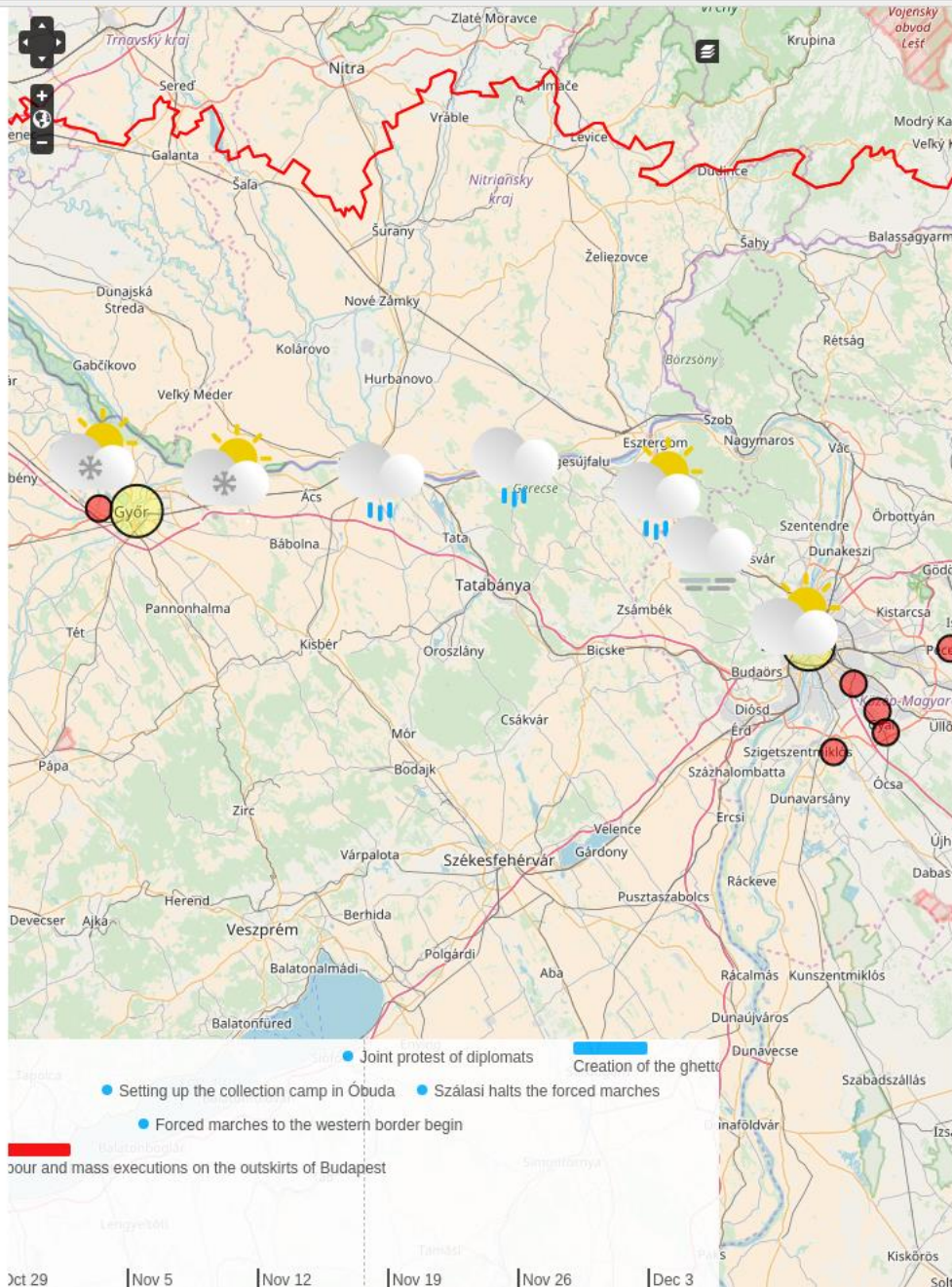
There is not one chair or table in the whole camp, most of the refugees pass the time by lying in the vans or in the tents in order to protect themselves from the cold.

Although the Jews of Bratislava brought clothing and blankets in large quantities, there are many cases of frostbite. The condition of health is obviously becoming worse daily; there is a doctor from Vienna in the camp who, although he has the possibility to cross the frontier, refuses to comply with the wishes of his family, because he will not desert his patients. Without his help the misery would be unimaginable.

The scene of the sick in the furniture vans is terrible. Lying side by side are cripples who are quite unable to move, a blind woman, one who is seriously ill with haemorrhage of the stomach, war invalids, people with high fever, tuberculous, sufferers from serious womens' complaints, etc.

When the doctor was asked as to where the people wash themselves, he replied that they have not yet washed themselves, and that he is the only one who does so.

Near the tents and in the open field, the ovens on which the food is prepared, and baskets of coal are to be found.



Minister of the Interior's Decree on the transport and placement of Jewish forced labourers

Hungarian Ministry of Defence

Subject: To accompany the Jews suitable for labour service to their workplace

Number: 178774

1944/VII.res.

Strictly confidential!

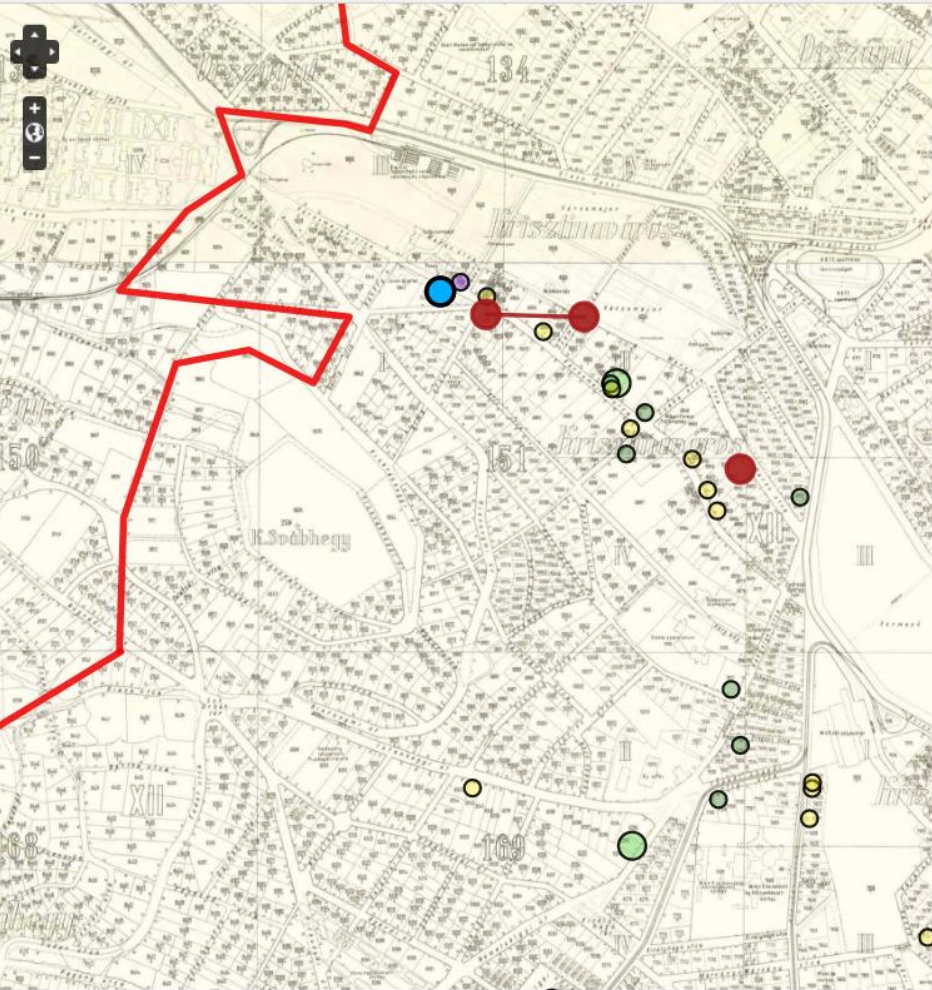
For a proper procedure, I hereby inform the Subprefect that the Jews from Budapest who were found suitable for labour service will be accompanied on foot to their assigned workplace, from the 6th of November 1944 on, until further measure. On the way, the escort will be carried out by the H.[ungarian] R.[oyal] Army, while the guard service at the catering and night stations will be provided by the H.[ungarian] R.[oyal] Gendarmerie. I notice the Subprefect to ensure, catering and night stations for 2,000 persons per day at the places listed below, from the date indicated below until further measure. The daily supply of a person should be the allotted portion of bread and a bowl of hearty warm meal. Covered premises should be designated for night stations, where the persons escorted to their workplace can be completely separated from the population of the municipality. There should be adequate number of latrines as well in the night stations. In case of contagious disease or death, the assigned public health officer should be informed.

Catering and night stations:

From November 6, 1944 **Piliscsaba** ,

From November 7, 1944 **Dorog** ,

From November 8, 1944 **Süttő** ,



Apartment of Arrow Cross leader "Father" András Kun

Arrow Cross Headquarters

Arrow Cross raid on the Városmajor street Jewish hospital and nursing home

Attack on the Alma street Jewish nursing home

Mass murder in the Maros street Jewish hospital

Killing site in the Városmajor park

Front line between January 6 and 20, 1945

Yellow-star houses

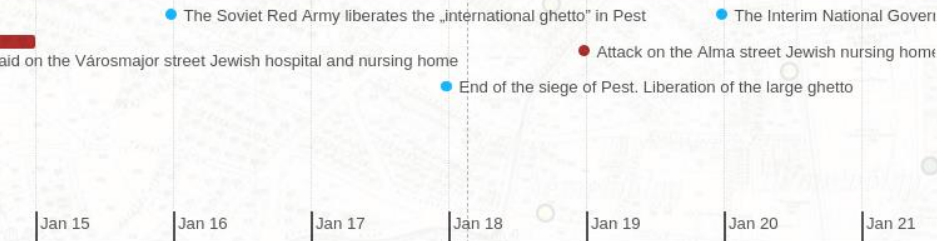
Apartments of Arrow Cross men

Városmajor Street Elementary School, Hungarian military hospital

An eyewitness' description of what has happened with the employees and patients of the Jewish institutions in Városmajor during the siege of Buda

On the 14th of January, 1945 grenades whizzed above the Városmajor. The Russian outposts were just 2-300 meters away from us and we were all quakingly waiting for the liberation. Around 4 o'clock in the afternoon in addition to the constant, accustomed sound of machine gun shots a different kind of duller sound came to our ears. The sound came from the direction of the Jewish hospital, named after Dániel Biró. I ran to the window, I looked out and staggered back in horror. One of us fainted from the terrible sight. Four-five nurses in white veil were standing in a row, facing the coal chamber in the yard of the hospital. Behind them some Arrow Cross in uniforms, one of whom shot and the nurses screamingly collapsed. We could not stand to look at the horrible sight, and because we could not help – a dozen guards armed with submachine guns stood guard scattered on the street – we sat, sunk into ourselves and listened to the repeated gunshots and death screams for another hour.

The following day, Ferenc Joksa, employee of the Jewish nursing home at Alma-street told in details what happened. The Arrow Cross appeared in the Dániel Biró hospital at 11 o'clock in the forenoon of Sunday, on the 14th of January. Their leader was a red-haired marauder with a wicked face, and two German soldiers were with them too. Apparently the Germans acted upon, but by the time when it came to implementation, they had left. The Arrow Cross previously sorted out those, who had Christian papers and sent them to the basement. Then they gave the order that anyone who can walk should get out of bed and get dressed. These people were sent in smaller groups down to the hospital's courtyard, where they were ordered an about-face and they were shot with submachine guns in the back of their head and their back. Some were sent into the coal chamber and were shot down there. Already around 4 o'clock, dead bodies on dead bodies were lying all in a heap. When the ambulant patients and the Jewish employees have all been lying in the courtyard, the Arrow Cross comrades continued to work in the wards. They were walking from room to room and were done away with everybody. Old people, seriously ill people, and small children were equally shot dead. The dead bodies of two little boys were found later on their mother, embracing her. The director of the hospital also died there. Chief physician named Zuber was laying under two dead bodies in the courtyard, groaning for a long time. Residents of the house on the opposite side wanted to lift him out, but the Arrow Cross guard who was standing in the courtyard threatened to shoot them, but he begrudged the grace shot for the unfortunate chief physician. All together 130 people died here in two hours. – On the next day Arrow Cross guards stood in front of the house and would not let anyone in. On Tuesday morning, the dead bodies, lying in the courtyard and covered with a red carpet, were spilled with petroleum and then they were set on fire along with the building. The building was burning for two days and the corpses partially burned completely down, some were only charred. The dead bodies were later





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