
Training Police Officers in Israel

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“Once I used to say Auschwitz was another planet! There is no answer to Auschwitz; there is no description of it...Auschwitz is infernal...from the other side of the human being who was created in the image...

“Auschwitz is now humanity’s consort. Where there are humans, there is Auschwitz. It was not the Devil who created Auschwitz, but rather you and I...”

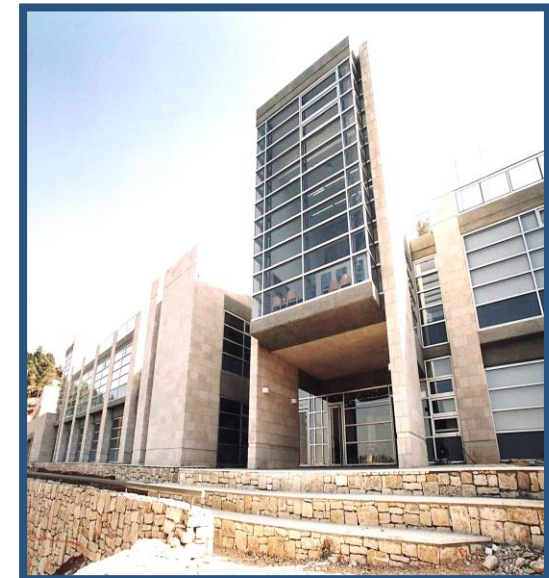
-Yechiel Dinur (K. Zetnik)



June 7, 1961: Yechiel Dinur faints while testifying at trial of Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem, Israel
Credit: Israel National Photo Collection

About Yad Vashem

- The International School for Holocaust Studies
 - Est. 1993
 - >130 professional staff members, >100 guides
- Goals:
 - Develop pedagogical tools and educational methodologies for Holocaust education
 - Train educators from Israel and abroad to teach the Holocaust using an age-appropriate approach
 - Work with a broad section of civil society, including youth, journalists, clergy, policymakers and more



About Yad Vashem

- Archives
 - Contains the world's largest collection of Holocaust documents
 - 127,500 video, audio and written testimonies by Holocaust survivors
- Library
 - 157,000 titles in 54 languages available to the reading public
 - The world's most comprehensive gathering of works on the Holocaust
- Museum
 - 800,000 visitors in 2015
- Online Activity
 - 18 million visits to the Yad Vashem website in 2015
 - Available in seven languages: English, Hebrew, German, Russian, Spanish, Arabic and Farsi



The Work of the International School with Israeli Security Forces

Data for 2015-2016

Target Groups		2015		1 January-30 June 2016	
		Groups	Participants	Groups	Participants
	Seminars for Mossad and General Security Service	20	518	25	640
	Seminars for Israeli Police Officers	74	2,738	57	1,968
	Seminars for Israel Prison Service Staff	40	1,134	28	774
	Seminars Off Yad Vashem Campus	0	0	42	1,515
	Pre-Poland Seminars for Mossad and General Security Service - Personnel	74	3,043	57	2,387
	Pre-Poland Seminars for Mossad and General Security Service - Commanders	12	120	8	70
	Total Seminars for Security Forces	220	7,553	217	7,354

*Average group size: 35 participants

Educational Tools for Work with Israeli Security Forces



Educational Tools for Work with Israeli Security Forces



Educational Tools for Work with Israeli Security Forces



Work of the International School with German Police Officers

- Yad Vashem has trained delegations of police officers from the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) since 2008
- July 2015: Yad Vashem representative delivers educational presentations at NRW police headquarters
- Dec. 2015: Formalized ties with the NRW Interior Ministry
- Feb.-Mar. 2016: First seminar at Yad Vashem for NRW police cadets
- April 2016: Educational work at Yad Vashem with MA students from the NRW police academy

Work of the International School with German Police Officers

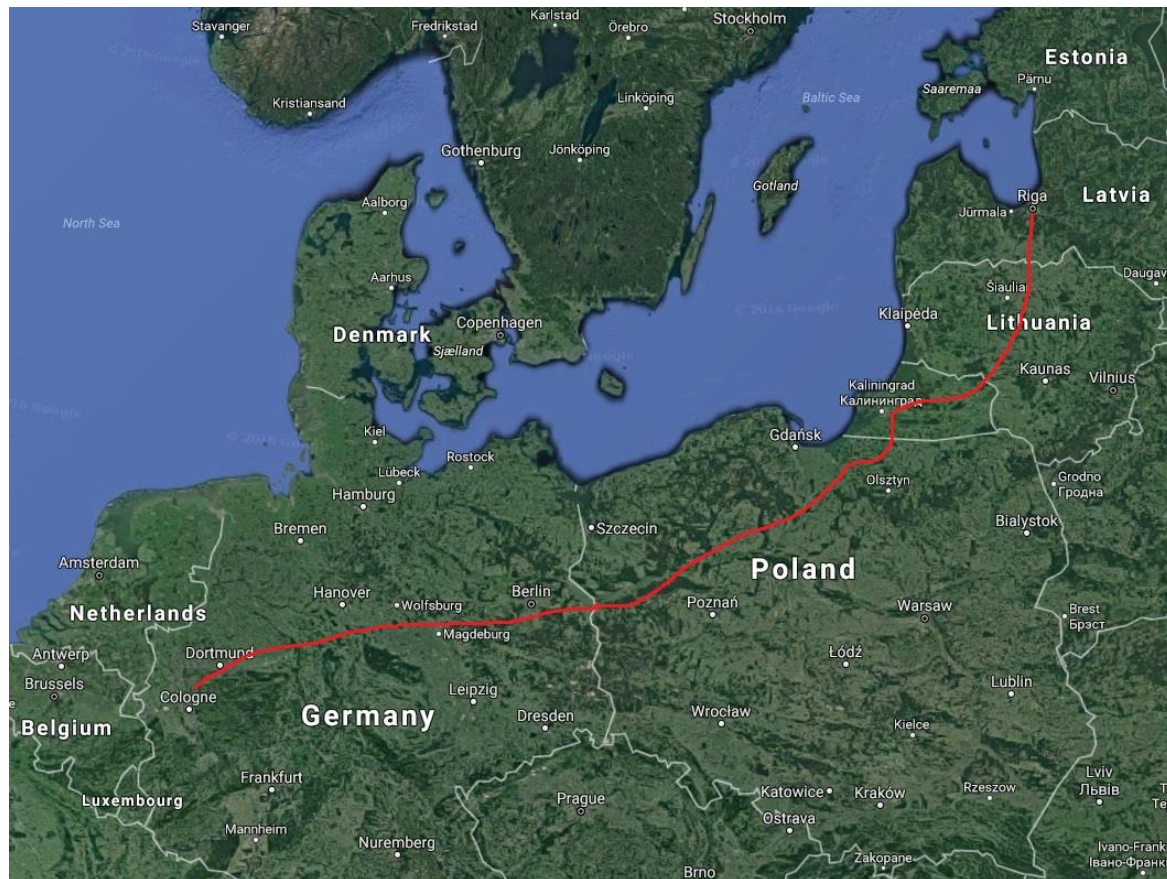
“The third day of our educational journey began with a workshop about life in Bialystok before and during the Holocaust (the Shoah, as the Israelis say in Hebrew). At first, we wondered why we should deal with just the Polish city of Bialystok, but the actions of Police Battalion 309 quickly provided the answer. The police battalion, whose members all came from the area of Cologne, murdered about 2,000 Jews in Bialystok in 1941. [...]

“Our penultimate day began also with a workshop, this time about the aftermath of the Holocaust and again with a special focus on the police and Bialystok. The Wuppertal police trial of 1967-68 came to the fore. Some of the police officers who were in Bialystok in 1941 had to stand trial for it in Wuppertal.”

-Niklas Wallscheid, Düsseldorf Police, March 2016

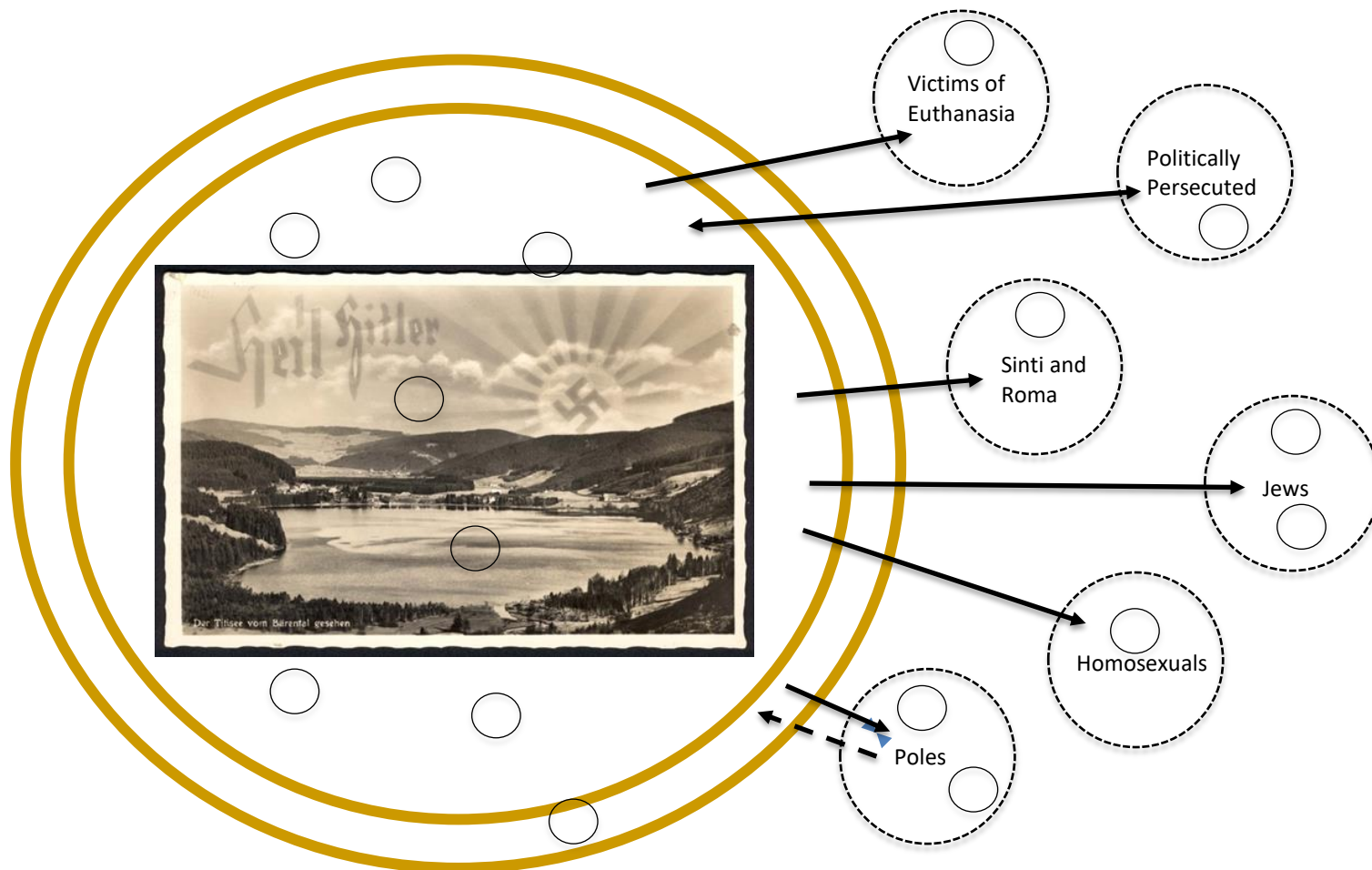
Dialogue About Choices

- The Salitter Report as a Case Study
- A Multi-Perspective Resource about a Deportation of German Jews to Riga, Latvia in December 1941



The Dynamics of Inclusion and Exclusion: The Reality of Nazi-Occupied Societies

- Those who are (effectively or potentially) included in the *Volksgemeinschaft*
- Those who are (effectively or potentially) excluded



A Deportation of German Jews from Coesfeld, Germany to Riga, Latvia



Pictured, from left: Jacob Cohen, **Wilhelmine Cohen [sole survivor]**, Hermann Cohen, Ida Cohen, Paul David, Emma Cohen, Dora Eichenwald, Gustav Cohen, Salomon Eichenwald, Erich Isaak, Martha Freund, Richard Freund, Ludwig Cohen, Ella Nathan, Karl-Heinz Freund, Kurt Eichenwald, Henriette Goldschmidt, Josef Nathan, Samuel Goldschmidt

Photographer: Anton Walterbusch

Date: December 10, 1941

Source: Stadtarchiv Coesfeld, Courtesy

Hilde Sherman (née Zander)



September
Hitler approves the mass expulsion of Jews from Germany (Order Police responsible for securing deportation trains)

September
German Jews required to wear the yellow star

October
Mass deportations of Jews from Germany begin

October
Riga ghetto sealed off

November
Mass executions of the inhabitants of the "Big Ghetto" (women, children, elderly, sick) begin

December
After the killing of 25,000-28,000 Jews, the "Big Ghetto" is filled with German Jews

1923

1941

1945

1984

1994

1995

2011

Born in Mönchengladbach, North Rhine-Westphalia

Married Kurt Winter, to avoid being separated at deportation
Dec. 11-14, 1941
Deportation from Düsseldorf to Riga, Latvia

Liberated from labor camp near Kiel, Germany

May:
Transferred to Sweden with Swedish Red Cross

Emigrated to Columbia

Published memoirs in German

(Zwischen Tag und Dunkel: Mädchenjahre im Ghetto, Ullstein Verlag)

Gave testimony at Yad Vashem (videotaped)

Immigrated to Israel

Died in Jerusalem

Statistics from a Report on a Deportation

Original
Abschluß

Zusatzgliederung:
Männer: 446
Frauen: 584
1000

Abzugsgliederung:
1-6 Jahre: 40
6-14: 26
14-18: 18
18-50: 908
über 50: 934
1000

Berufsgliederung:
Arbeiter: 3
selbst. Berufstätige: 30
Angestellte: 13
Hauswirtschaft: 137
Arbeiter: 137
Landw. Berufe: 7
Hausangestellte: 40
über Beruf: 568
1000

Personalbestand:
916
584
1000

Abzugsgliederung:
1-6 Jahre: 40
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- An appendix to a report on a transport of 1,007 Jewish people from Düsseldorf, Germany to Riga from December 11-14, 1941
- Categorized the victims by gender, age and profession
- The supervisor of the deportation, Paul Salitter, filed the report on December 26, 1941
- Source: Yad Vashem Archives. Original in Wiener Library, London

Paul Salitter



Salitter's Possible Choices

- Escorting transports was an attractive mission, which was assigned only to a small number of outstanding staff members. These jobs were usually not available for low-ranking policemen. Salitter was allotted a vacation day on the day he arrived, which was his birthday
- Rejecting this mission would not have incurred any punishment for Salitter. However, it could have had a negative effect on his career
- Under the German criminal code, saving/helping Jews was not an offense per se. Neither the civilian nor the military penal codes criminalized helping Jews
- According to a new decree dated October 24, 1941, a person convicted of being friendly with Jews could be punished with up to three months in a concentration camp "for educational reasons"
- The Nazi dictatorship was an abusive regime, which did not have to justify its actions. Sanctions like social defamation, exclusion, loss of work/social position were possible at any point in time

1898

1937

1938/39

1941

1942

1944

Born in East Prussia

Joined the Nazi Party

Worked for the Nazi Party surveillance agency

Promoted to Captain
Responsible for escorting Transport No. Da 38, deporting 1,007 Jews from Düsseldorf to Riga, Latvia

Served as supervisory officer of Ukrainian *Schutzmannschaft* Unit 101 in Starokonstantinov

Helped coordinate police cordon in at least one mass execution

Promoted to Major

Paul Salitter



Betrifft: Wiederverwendung im Dienst der Schutzpolizei

Am 9.12.1946 bin ich aus der Zivilinternierung entlassen worden. In meiner Wohnung fand ich den Bescheid vor, nach dem ich auf Anordnung der Militärregierung mit dem 19.10.1946 aus dem Amt entlassen bin. Dieser Bescheid trifft mich ausserordentlich hart, da ich aus Ostpreussen stamme, seit 1919 im Polizeidienst stehe und seit dieser Zeit nur meine Pflicht getan habe. Ich verspreche, auch in der neuen Demokratie meine ganze Persönlichkeit in den Dienst der Sache zu stellen, genau so, wie ich es unter den Regierungen Wilhelms II, Ebert, Hindenburg und im dritten Reich getan habe, und bitte, mich wieder in der Schutzpolizei-wenn auch im Dienstrang eines ~~Polizeimeisters~~ Oberinspektors - verwenden zu wollen.

"...I also promise that in the new democracy I will serve the cause with my whole being, exactly as I did under the regime of Wilhelm II, Ebert, Hindenburg and the Third Reich. I ask that you let me work as a policeman again, even at a rank below chief inspector. (...)"

Source: GO Villa ten Hompel (Münster) / Düsseldorf Police Headquarters, Supplementary Documentation, ED 0011, Personal File, Paul Salitter

1945

1946/47

1951

1966

1972

Imprisoned
by the Allies

Released for good conduct

Classified as a Lesser Offender (Category III) under Allied Denazification regulations

Awarded reduced pension of 150 RM per month, forbidden from serving as a policeman

Reclassified as a Follower (Category IV)

Entailed full pension and possibility of working as a policeman, but as a former SD member, he was denied to work again on grounds of age

New investigation opened against Salitter by the German State Criminal Police Office (LKA), no imprisonment

Died in
Düsseldorf,
aged 74

Examining the Sources

Salitter's Report

Hilde Sherman's Testimony

I. Preparing the Transport

The Jew transport planned for 11 December 1941 included 1,007 Jews...The transport was compiled of Jews of both sexes, of various ages...

On the way from the slaughterhouse yard [the designated assembly point]...[a]n elderly Jewish woman walked away from the platform without anyone noticing – it was raining and it was very dark – entered a neighboring house, took off her clothes and sat on a toilet. However a cleaning woman noticed her and she too was led back to the transport.

...According to the Gestapo's orders, we could take up to 50 Kg. of luggage...Of course, everyone tried to squeeze his best belongings into the suitcase, as no one knew how long they would have to last during this so-called 'resettlement'...And so we boarded the train on the 10th [of December 1941]. I said goodbye to my parents...

My husband's name was Kurt Winter. I was deported with his family. We arrived at Dusseldorf at dawn. We had to disembark and walk to the slaughterhouse yard, where we were gathered together. I remember that even at that point the older people were unable to carry their baggage and simply threw it on the street. I saw how the people [of the town] were watching. They did not go out on the street, they were watching from behind the windows. I saw how the curtains were moving. No one can claim that they did not see. Of course they saw us. We were over one thousand people.

We then arrived at the slaughterhouse yard [the assembly point] and stood there the entire night. Everything was deep in water. It was a terrible night. That was the beginning. It was the first time I was beaten. It was a high-ranking SS officer who stood at the entrance. There were steep stairs leading down into the yard and the people were not moving fast enough. So he pushed me and screamed: What are you waiting for, the streetcar? There will never again be a streetcar for you...

For Further Information

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