Dr. Milan Koljanin
Asja Drača Muntean

CAMP AT THE BELGRADE FAIRGROUND 1941-1944

MEMORIAL CENTER
STARO SAJMIŠTE

We devoted this exhibition and catalogue to the
victims of the Nazi camp at the Belgrade Fairground.



MEMORIAL CENTER
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Dr. Milan Koljanin
Asja Drača Muntean

CAMP AT THE BELGRADE FAIRGROUND (1941–1944)

BELGRADE, 2024

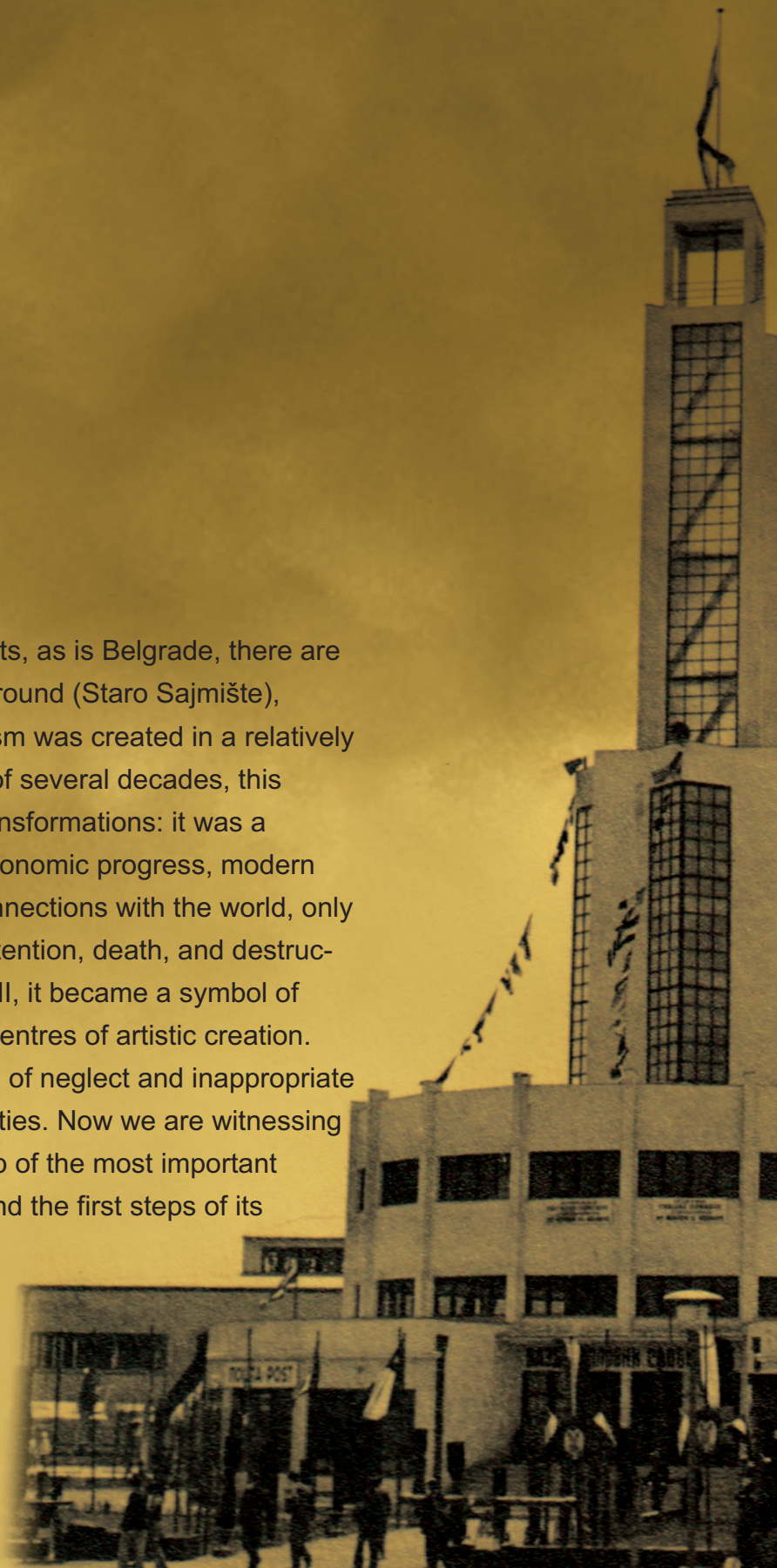


“Circle”, short film

The Memorial center “Staro sajmište” in cooperation with NextGame produced a short film “Circle” which is a part of the exhibition. You can watch the film by activating the QR code.

PREFACE

Even in a city so rich in historical events, as is Belgrade, there are very few places such as the Old Fairground (Staro Sajmište), where so much meaning and symbolism was created in a relatively short period of time. Over the course of several decades, this space underwent several essential transformations: it was a symbol of the expansion of the city, economic progress, modern architecture, and of the creation of connections with the world, only to quickly become a place of mass detention, death, and destruction. In the first years after World War II, it became a symbol of renewal, construction and one of the centres of artistic creation. This was followed by a too long period of neglect and inappropriate use of some of the remaining fair facilities. Now we are witnessing the return of Staro Sajmište to the map of the most important places of remembrance in Belgrade and the first steps of its permanent memorialisation.



The construction of the Belgrade Fair 1937

(Historical Archives of Belgrade (IAB), Collection of Nedeljko Savić)



Aeronautical exhibition at the Belgrade Fair, May-June 1938

(Museum of the City of Belgrade (MGB), Collection of Miloš Jurišić)

“…Belgrade gets an instrument for using its geographical position…”

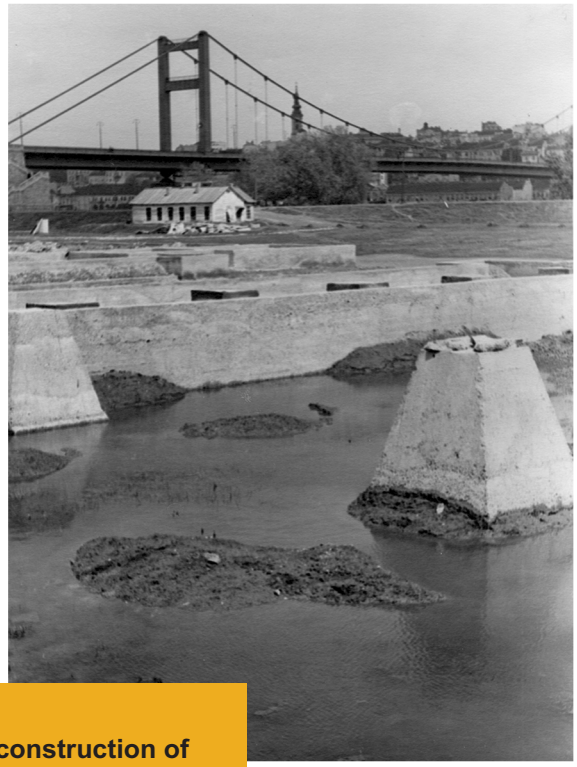
Milan Stojanović, president of the Society for the Organisation of Fairs and Exhibitions



Belgrade Fair 1937–1941

(MGB, Collection of Miloš Jurišić)

On the initiative of businessmen from Belgrade and entire Serbia, the Belgrade Municipality decided in December 1935 to cede its land on the left bank of the Sava River for the construction of a fairground, in the area immediately next to the newly built King Alexander Bridge that connected Belgrade with Zemun. The construction of the Fair was entrusted to the Society for the Organisation of Fairs and Exhibitions. Construction works began on 6 June 1937, and the first international exhibition at the Fair (Sajmište) was held in September of the same year with more than 883 exhibitors from various fields. Up until the autumn of 1940, spring and autumn fairs were regularly organised at Sajmište, as well as other manifestations such as





The construction of the Belgrade Fair 1937

(IAB, Collection of Nedeljko Savić)











Opening of the Belgrade Fair

(IAB, Collection of Nedeljko Savić)



Pavilion of the Philips company at the Belgrade Fair, September 1938: The first television broadcast in the Balkans

(MGB, Collection of Darko Ćirić)

automobile, aviation, crafts exhibitions, book fairs, sports events, art exhibitions, concerts, etc. The first television programme in the Balkans was broadcast in 1938 right at the Fair. The first Belgrade Fair was built according to the project of three municipal architects – Rajko Tatić, Milivoje Tričković and



Belgrade Fair 1937–1941

(MGB, Collection of Miloš Jurišić)



Hungarian Pavilion

(IAB, Collection of Nedeljko Savić)

Đorđe Lukić. The urban complex and architecture of the Fair are a representative example of modern architecture of the 1930s with a dominant constructivist tower that is 40 meters high, visible even from the farthest points of the city.
The central tower, built in 1937 according to the project of Alek-

German Pavilion

(MGB, Collection of Miloš Jurišić)



Romanian Pavilion,

(IAB, Collection of Nedeljko Savić)



sandar Sekulić, formed the core of the Fair. There was a spacious square around it, from which radial communications led to five large Yugoslav pavilions, which were symmetrically arranged around the square. National pavilions of foreign countries as well as pavilions of domestic and foreign companies and associations were built behind the central part of the complex. Italy, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Turkey, and Germany had their own pavilions. The “Škoda” company built a parachute tower, the Dutch company “Philips” and the Nikola Spasić Foundation also had their own pavilions. A number of other pavilions were also built.



Belgrade Fair
Italian Pavilion

(MGB, Collection of Miloš Jurišić)

The relatively well-preserved Italian Pavilion, which was built in the rationalist style of modernist architecture and the *Novecento italiano* movement – dominant styles of the fascist regime –

Belgrade Fair, Pavilion of the Nikola Spasić foundation,

(Collection of Photographs of the Memorial center “Staro sajmište”)



Opening of the Belgrade Fair, short film, Jugoslav Cinematheque (JK)

have special architectural values. The Nikola Spasić Foundation Pavilion was built in the *Art Deco* style and is an anthological example of Serbian interwar architecture.



Belgrade Fair
Italian Pavilion

(MGB, Collection of Miloš Jurišić)



Belgrade in ruins after being bombed by the Nazi German Air Force on 6 April 1941

(Private collection)



The collapsed chain bridge on the Sava River

(MGB, I 2/2-3535)

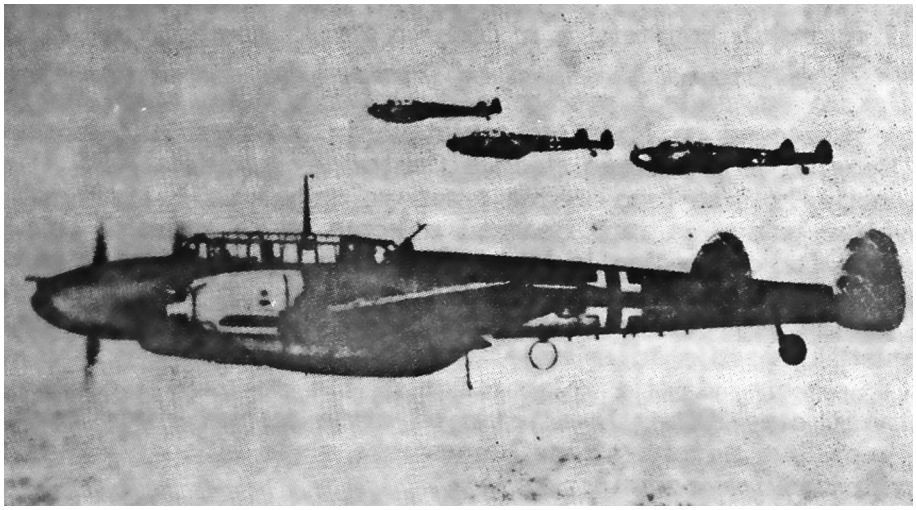
BELGRADE IN RUINS

The aggression of Nazi Germany and fascist Italy, joined by Hungary and Bulgaria, which began on 6 April 1941, caused great destruction and many casualties, primarily in the capital, Belgrade. During the German bombing of the unprotected city, the buildings at Sajmište were not seriously damaged and could be used relatively quickly to incarcerate a large number of people.

General von Kleist at the parade of German troops in front of the National Assembly in Belgrade, 16 April 1941

(MGB, I 2/2-3616)





German bombers over Belgrade on 6 April 1941

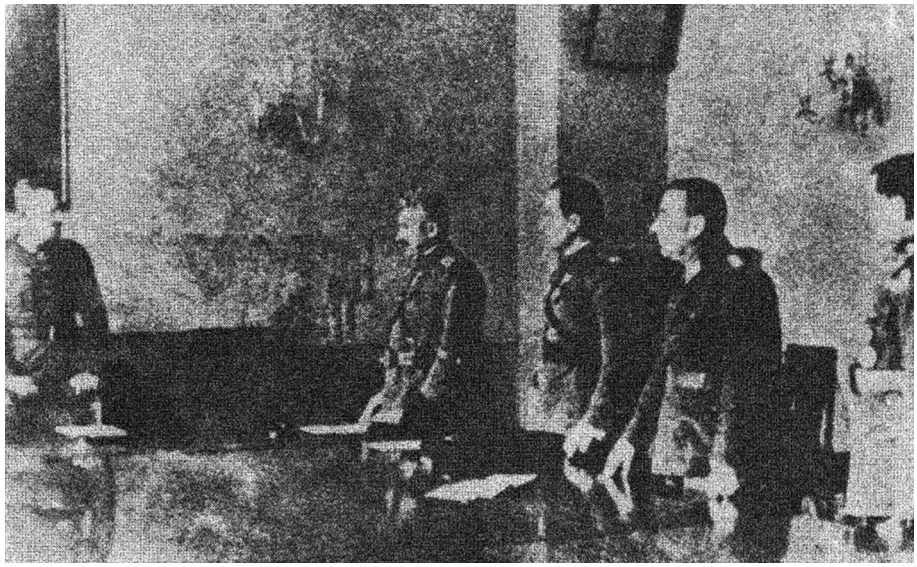
(Muharem Kreso, *Njemačka okupaciona uprava u Beogradu 1941–1944*) (*German Occupation Administration in Belgrade 1941–1944*), Belgrade, 1979, 62)

AGGRESSION AND PARTITIONING OF THE KINGDOM OF YUGOSLAVIA

The overwhelming military superiority of the aggressors, the actions of separatist forces and disorganisation among ranks led to the rapid collapse of the Yugoslav Army and capitulation, which was signed on 17 April 1941 in Belgrade. Neighbouring countries, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Albania (Italian protectorate) occupied different parts of the states. In the central part of the country (Croatia, Bosnia and

Signing of the capitulation of the Yugoslav Army, Belgrade, 17 April 1941

(Military Museum, Belgrade)



Taking Yugoslav soldiers away as prisoners of war

(Military Museum, Belgrade)





Herzegovina, Srem), Germany and Italy facilitated the creation of the Ustasha Independent State of Croatia (ISC). A shrunken Serbia with Banat and northern Kosovo was under German military administration.

Partitioning of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in April 1941

(Akten zur deutschen auswaertigen Politik, Band XII-2, Goettingen 1969)

SERBIA IN THE NEW ORDER OCCUPATION AND COLLABORATION

The Nazi German occupation was represented by the Military Commander in Serbia with his military and administrative staff, who played the role of the country's government. The main executive and repressive institutions were the Operative Group of the Police (SS-Einsatzgruppe) and the Operative Commando of the Police (SS-Einsatzkommando), i.e. the Gestapo. Already at the end of April 1941, the Serbian administration was restored, which and managed by the Council of Commissioners until the end of August 1941, later by the "Government of National Salvation" until the end of the occupation. The collaborationist administration relied on a branched police apparatus and gendarmerie and implemented the policy of the occupier, but also its own ideological and political goals.







General Helmuth Förster, Military Commander in Serbia, 22/04-4/06/1941 (Public domain)

General Ludwig von Schröder, Military Commander in Serbia, 4/06-29/07/1941 (Public domain)

General Heinrich Danckelmann, Military Commander in Serbia, 29/07-8/10/1941 (Public domain)







General Franz Böhme, Plenipotentiary Commanding General in Serbia, 19/09-5/12/1942 (Bundesarchiv Koblenz, 7/11/2)

General Paul Bader, Commanding General and Commander in Serbia, 5/12/1942-summer 1943 (Public domain)

SS-Major General Harald Turner, Chief of Staff of the Military Commander in Serbia (Public domain)

SS-Colonel Wilhelm Fuchs, Head of the SS-Einsatzgruppe Serbia (Berlin Document Center)

SS-Major Hans Helm, Head of the Gestapo in the Einsatzgruppe Serbia, April 1941-January 1942 (Public domain)

SS-Lieutenant Fritz Stracke, Head of the Department for Jews and Freemasons in the Gestapo, April 1941-November 1942 (*Branislav Božović, Stradanje Jevreja u okupiranom Beogradu (Suffering of Jews in Occupied Belgrade*), Belgrade, 2012, 93)

SS-General August von Meyszner, Higher SS and Police Leader in Serbia, January 1942-April
1944 (Public domain)

SS-Colonel Emanuel Schäfer, Commander of the Security Police and Security Service, January 1942-October 1944 (Berlin Document Center)

SS-Major Bruno Sattler, Chief of the Gestapo, January 1942-October 1944 (Berlin Document Center)

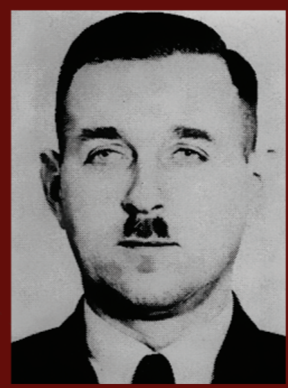






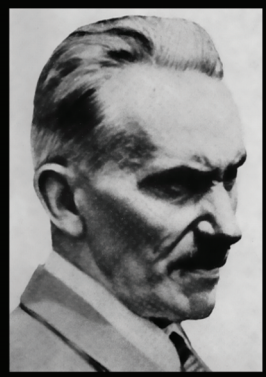


















Milan Aćimović, Head of the Council of Commissioners (Public domain)

General Milan Nedić, Prime Minister of the Serbian collaborationist government (Petar Martinović-Bajica, *Milan Nedić*, Chicago, Il., 195617))

Dimitrije Ljotić, leader of the pro-fascist movement "Zbor" (*Dimitrije Ljotić u revoluciji i ratu (Dimitrije Ljotić in Revolution and War*), Munich 1961)

Dragomir Jovanović, Chief of the Administration of the City of Belgrade and Serbian State Security (Branislav Božović, *Specijalna policija u Beogradu 1941-1944 (Special Police in Belgrade 1941-1944*), Belgrade, 2003,13)

Ilija Paranos, Head of the Special Police Department (Branislav Božović, *Specijalna policija u Beogradu 1941-1944 (Special Police in Belgrade 1941-1944*), Belgrade, 2003, 69)

Police Commissioner Jovan Nikolić, Head of the Department for Jews and Gypsies (Branislav Božović, *Stradanje Jevreja u okupiranom Beogradu (Suffering of Jews in Occupied Belgrade*), Belgrade, 2012, 243)

THE OCCUPATION, THE UPRISING AND THE "FINAL SOLUTION OF THE JEWISH QUESTION"

Order of Belgrade Commander von Keisenberg to the Jews, Belgrade, 25 April 1941

(Jewish Historical Museum (JIM), Belgrade)



ВОЈНА КОМАНДА БЕОГРАД

25 априла 1941
БЕОГРАД

НАРЕДБА

1) Сви Јевреји настањени у Београду могу куповати животне намирнице и другу робу на тргобима и пијацама сваког дана само од 10,30 часова па надаље. Тргобци им несмеју раније продавати.

2) На јавним чесмама и осталим местима где чекају у реду грађани, Јевреји се могу убрстити у ред тек пошто се остали грађани аријевци снабдеју са односним потребама.

3) Свима тргобцима се забрањује, да повећаним ценама и уопште испод руке продају животне намирнице и другу робу Јеврејима.

4) Јевреји који се огреше о горњу наредбу казниће се до 30 дана затвора или новчаном казном до Дин. 10.000. По оцени биће упућени и у концентрационе логоре.

Истом казном биће кажњени и тргобци поменути у члану 3) обе наредбе и

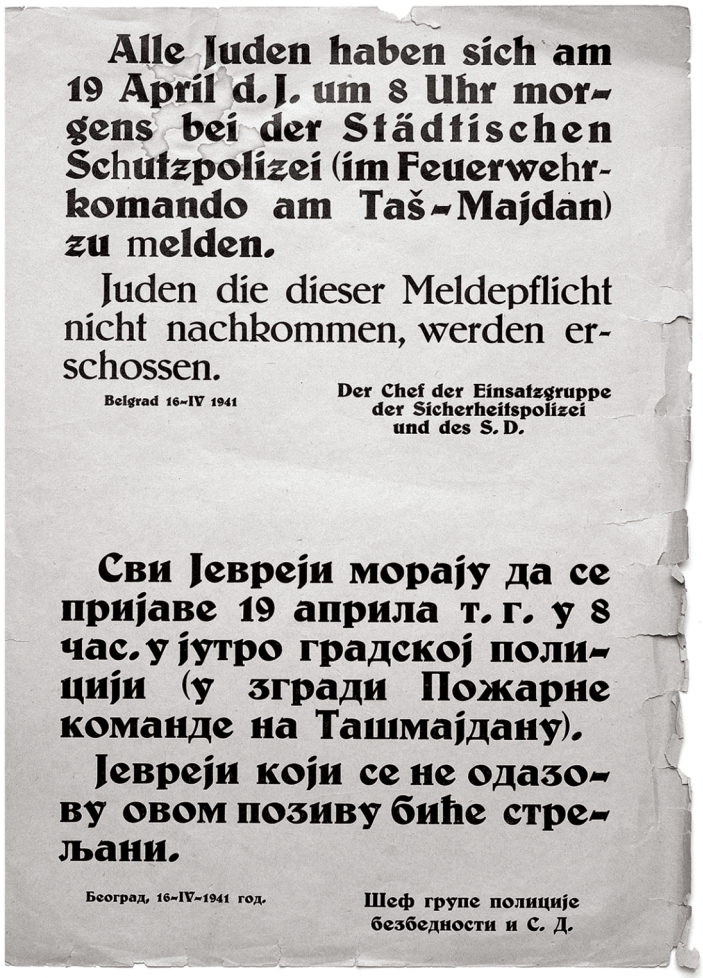
5) За изрицање казни по овој наредби надлежна је Полиција у Београду, односно њени кварторви.

Ова наредба ступа одмах на снагу.

Наређено 25 априла 1941 године у Београду.

Пуковник и командант
фон KAISENBERG

The living conditions in the German occupation area in Serbia became very difficult due to the great destruction during the aggression and the period of German military occupation. Life became even more difficult due to the large influx of Serbian refugees from other parts of Yugoslavia, mainly from the Ustasha Independent State of Croatia. The Jewish population was in a particularly difficult position, exposed to looting, systematic social degradation, and segregation. Jews were registred, marked with a yellow ribbon, they were subjected to forced labour, and their property was taken over and managed by commissaries. All these measures were codified by the order of the Military Commander in Serbia dated 30 May 1941. The collaborationist administration, primarily the Special Police, represented an extended arm of the German police in the implementation of measures against the Jews. After the start of



Alle Juden haben sich am 19 April d. J. um 8 Uhr morgens bei der Städtischen Schutzpolizei (im Feuerwehrkomando am Taš-Majdan) zu melden.

Juden die dieser Meldepflicht nicht nachkommen, werden erschossen.

Belgrad 16-IV 1941

Der Chef der Einsatzgruppe der Sicherheitspolizei und des S. D.

Сви Јевреји морају да се пријаве 19 априла т. г. у 8 час. у јутро градској полицији (у згради Пожарне команде на Ташмајдану).

Јевреји који се не одазову овом позиву биће стрељани.

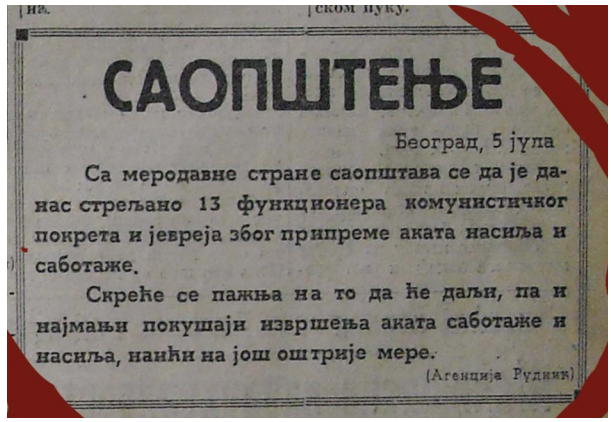
Београд, 16-IV-1941 год.

Шеф групе полиције безбедности и С. Д.

Call of the German police to all Jews on 16 April 1941, under the threat of death, to report to the Fire Brigade

(JIM, Belgrade)

***Novo Vreme*, 6 July 1941: execution of 13 communist officials and Jews**



САОПШТЕЊЕ

Београд, 5 јула

Са меродавне стране саопштава се да је данас стрељано 13 функционера комунистичког покрета и јевреја због припреме аката насиља и саботаже.

Скреће се пажња на то да ће даљи, па и најмањи покушаји извршења аката саботаже и насиља, наићи на још оштрије мере.

(Агенција Рудник)

sabotages and insurgent activities, the position of the Jews deteriorated even more. Increasingly strong anti-Semitic propaganda accused the Jews of being the leaders and financiers of

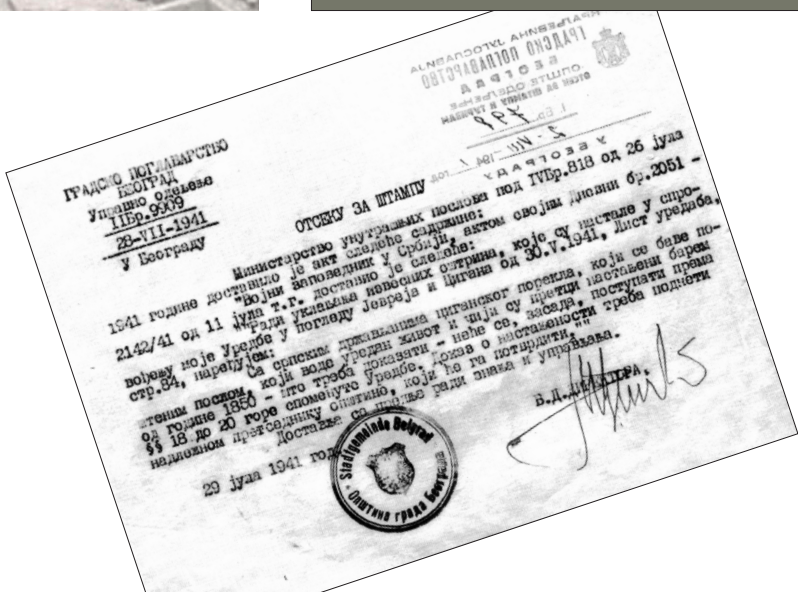


Forced labour of Jews, the removal of ruins in Belgrade

(JIM, Belgrade)

the uprising. Communists and Jews were called culprits for the uprising already when the first executions were announced. This coincided with the aggression of Germany and its allies against the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941 and the beginning of the last phase of the Holocaust, the complete annihilation of the Jewish people in the areas controlled by the Nazis and their allies.

The measures against the Jews also affected the Roma. The order issued by general Turner on 11. 7. 1941 excluded Roma that were permanently settled and with "honorable occupation".





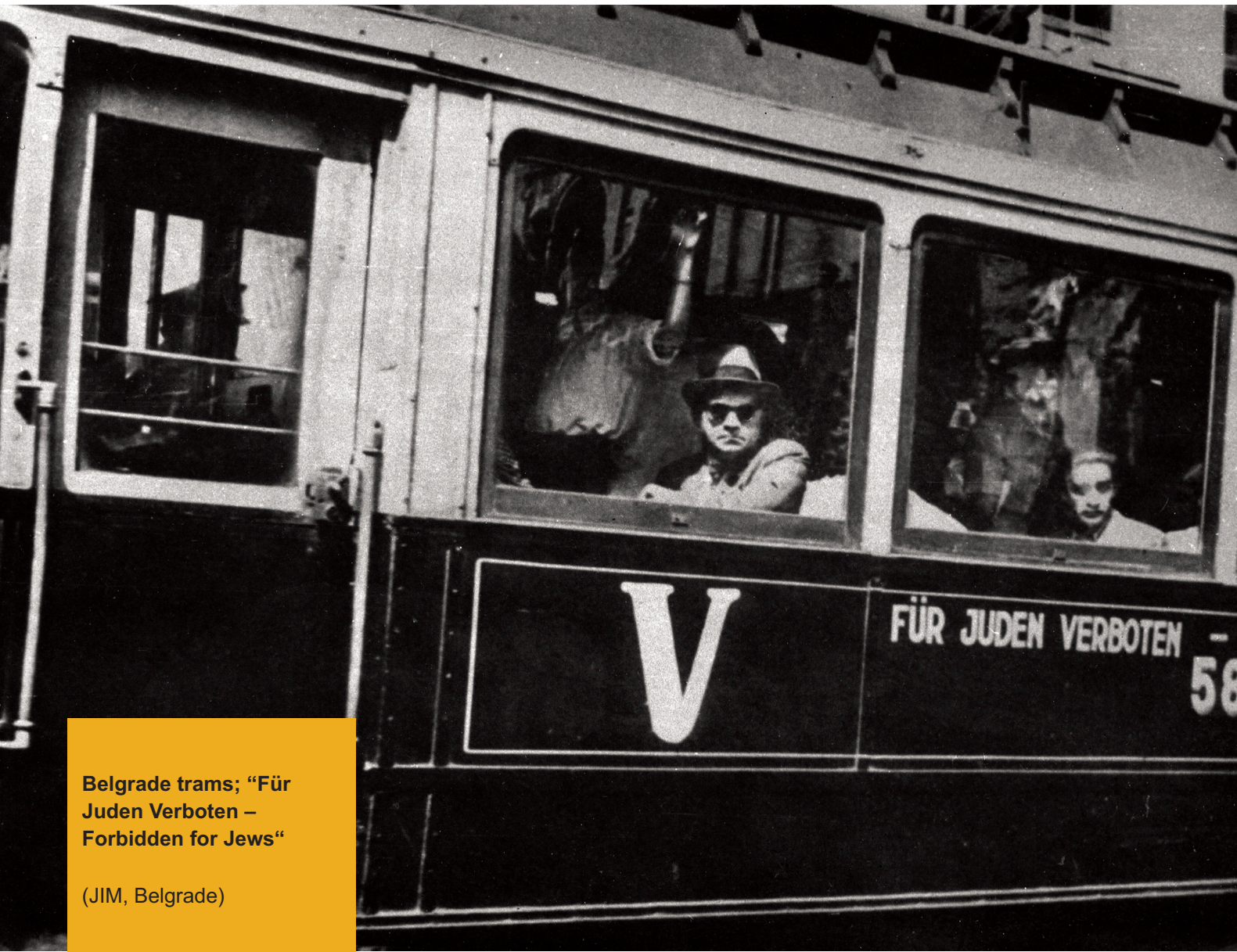
Deportation of Banat Jews to Belgrade, August-September 1941

(JIM, Belgrade)



The fifth company of the Valjevo Partisan Detachment on the march, September 1941

(Photograph by Rade Jokić; B. Matić, *Valjevski partizani 1941–1942 na fotografijama Rada Jokića* (Valjevo Partisans 1941-1942 on Photographs Taken by Rade Jokić), 42).



Belgrade trams; “Für Juden Verboten – Forbidden for Jews“

(JIM, Belgrade)



CREATION OF A NETWORK OF CAMPS AND MASS EXECUTIONS

From the beginning of July 1941, the Nazi occupying power began to create a network of concentration and collection camps for the imprisonment of actual and potential political and "racial" opponents. Camps were organised in Belgrade at Banjica and Topovske Šupe, then in the city of Šabac in military facilities on the Sava River and in the settlement Senjak, and also in Niš, in the municipality Crveni Krst. The camp Topovske Šupe (Jewish Transit Camp Belgrade) was used exclusively for the internment of Jews and Roma. Several thousand Serbs and Jews were executed in the mass reprisals of the German occupation forces during the suppression of the uprising in Serbia in the summer and autumn of 1941. By the end of November, the Jewish male population, partly also the male Roma population, were practically destroyed. Mass shootings of Serbian civilians, Jews and Roma were mostly carried out by the German armed forces (Wehrmacht).

The yellow arm band that Jews had to wear as a sign of humiliation and segregation

(JIM, Belgrade)

Belgrade, Camp Banjica

(IAB, Collection of Photographs)



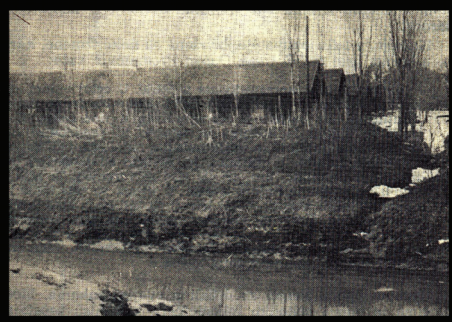
Niš, camp in Crveni Krst

(National Museum of Niš, Collection of Photographs)



Šabac, camp on the Sava River

(Historical Archives of Šabac, Collection of Photographs)



Battle for Kraljevo, October 1941

(Military Museum, Belgrade, VM 20833)







Mass executions of civilians, Šabac, September/October 1941

(Archives of Yugoslavia, Collection of Photographs, 36-266).

Anti-Semitic poster, Serbia 1941

(National Library of Serbia, Collection of Posters)



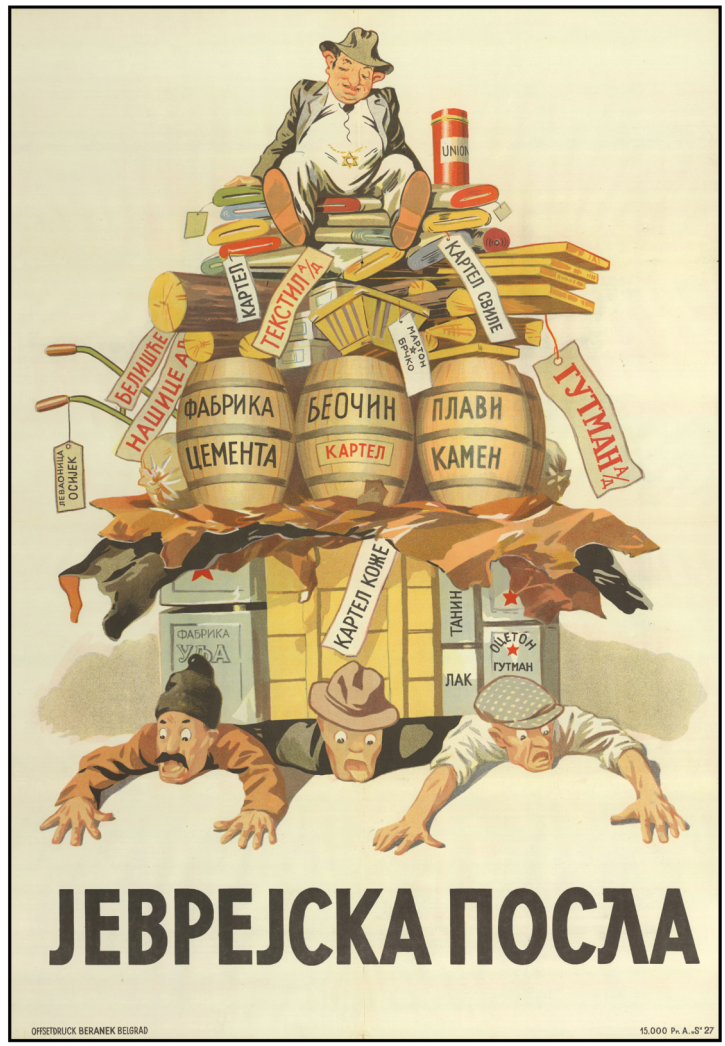
ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA

The military actions of the occupying forces against the insurgent movements, both communist and royalist, were accompanied by strong anti-Jewish propaganda: articles in the press, posters, the showing of anti-Semitic films (“Jew Süss”, “The



Anti-Semitic poster: invitation to the Anti-Masonic Exhibition

(National Library of Serbia, Collection of Posters)



Anti-Semitic poster

(Historical Museum of Serbia, Collection of Posters)

Eternal Jew"). The highlight of that campaign was the organisation of the Anti-Masonic Exhibition opened in Belgrade on 22 October 1941, which was popularised almost daily in the press.



Military Commander in Serbia, General Böhme, to the Wehrmacht South-east Commander, December 5th 1941

"All the Jews and Gypsies will be taken to one concentration camp near Zemun (There are about 16000 persons in question so far). It can be proven that they performed intelligence services for the insurgents."

JEWISH CAMP ZEMUN AT THE BELGRADE FAIRGROUND

One of the measures taken by the occupying forces to suppress the uprising was the mass internment of the population that lived in the areas where the rebellion was active. For the purposes of internment, the construction of a large concentration camp began in the village of Zasavica, in the Mačva region, at the beginning of October 1941. All the remaining Jews and Roma from Serbia were to be interned in that camp. Due to constant floods in Zasavica, on 28 October 1941 it was decided that the site of the Belgrade Fair (Sajmište) would serve as the new camp. It was located on the territory of the Independent State of Croatia (ISC), that is, the city of Zemun. The Croatian Ustasha authorities agreed to the request of the German authorities from Serbia that the exhibition pavilions be used for the internment of Jews, with the condition that the camp be supplied with food from Serbia. German police (Gestapo) members served as the command of the camp, and members of the German police also secured the camp.



Jews on the way to the Sajmište camp

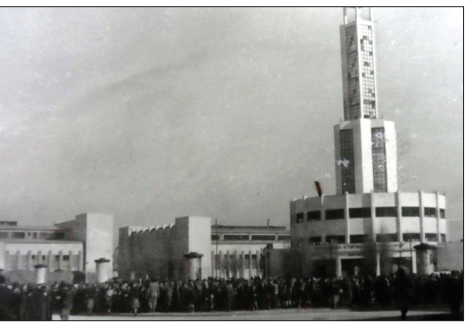
(JIM, Belgrade)





Jews gathered in the Jewish camp Zemun – Judenlager Semlin

(Museum of Vojvodina, Collection of Photographs, ZF 13 290)



Judenlager Semlin

(Public domain)

Starting from 8 December 1941, all the remaining Jews from occupied Serbia, mostly women, children, and the elderly, about 6,400 of them, were interned in the newly formed Jewish camp Zemun (Judenlager Semlin). About 600 Roma women and children were also interned, in a special pavilion, whereas the male members of these families had been executed during the previous summer and autumn.

„9 December 1941, Belgrade“

“Yesterday, they started taking female Jews, together with their children, to Sajmište, to the camp. The men were taken somewhere earlier. In a couple of days, not a single Jew will be left in Belgrade. A lot of liveliness in front of the botanical garden. Jewish women are sent to the camp from there. It looks like a general migration of the entire world”.

(N. Milićević, D. Nikodijević (eds.), *Svakodnevni život pod okupacijom 1941–1944. Iskustvo jednog Beograđanina* (*Everyday Life under Occupation 1941-1944. The Experience of a Belgrader*), 89–90).



The ISC policeman and custom officials are checking the documents of the passengers near the Sava bridge

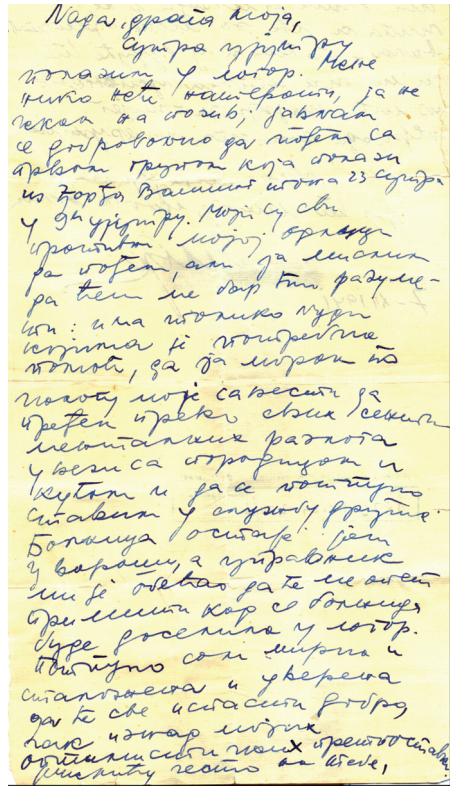
(JK, Eastern border of the Independent State of Croatia, 1943)



Hilda Dajč, architecture student from Belgrade

(JIM, Belgrade)

THE LIFE OF INTERNED JEWS – THE TESTIMONY OF THE VOLUNTEER NURSE HILDA DAJČ

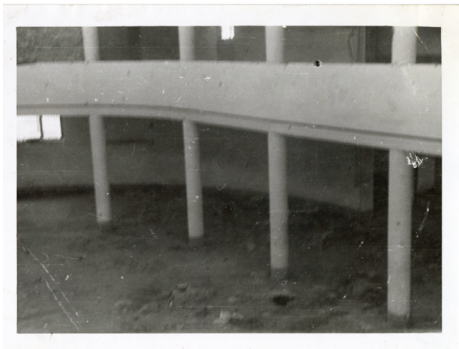


The living conditions in the large, cold pavilions of the Belgrade Fair during the harsh winter of 1941/1942 were very difficult and humiliating. About 500 Jewish prisoners died during the first three months of the camp's existence due to disease, malnutrition, and cold. The testimony of volunteer nurse Hilda Dajč about the life of interned Jews remains – in four letters secretly sent to her school mates Nada Novak and Mirjana Petrović. She described, in a succinct, but faithful and moving manner, her arrival in the camp, the difficult living conditions, and her own experience of imprisonment.

Letter from volunteer nurse Hilda Dajč to Nada Novak, 7 December 1941

(JIM, Belgrade)





Nikola Spasić Foundation Pavilion that served as a camp hospital

(Museum of Vojvodina, ZF 1778e, ZF 1778 f)

Hilda Dajč to Nada Novak, 7 December 1941

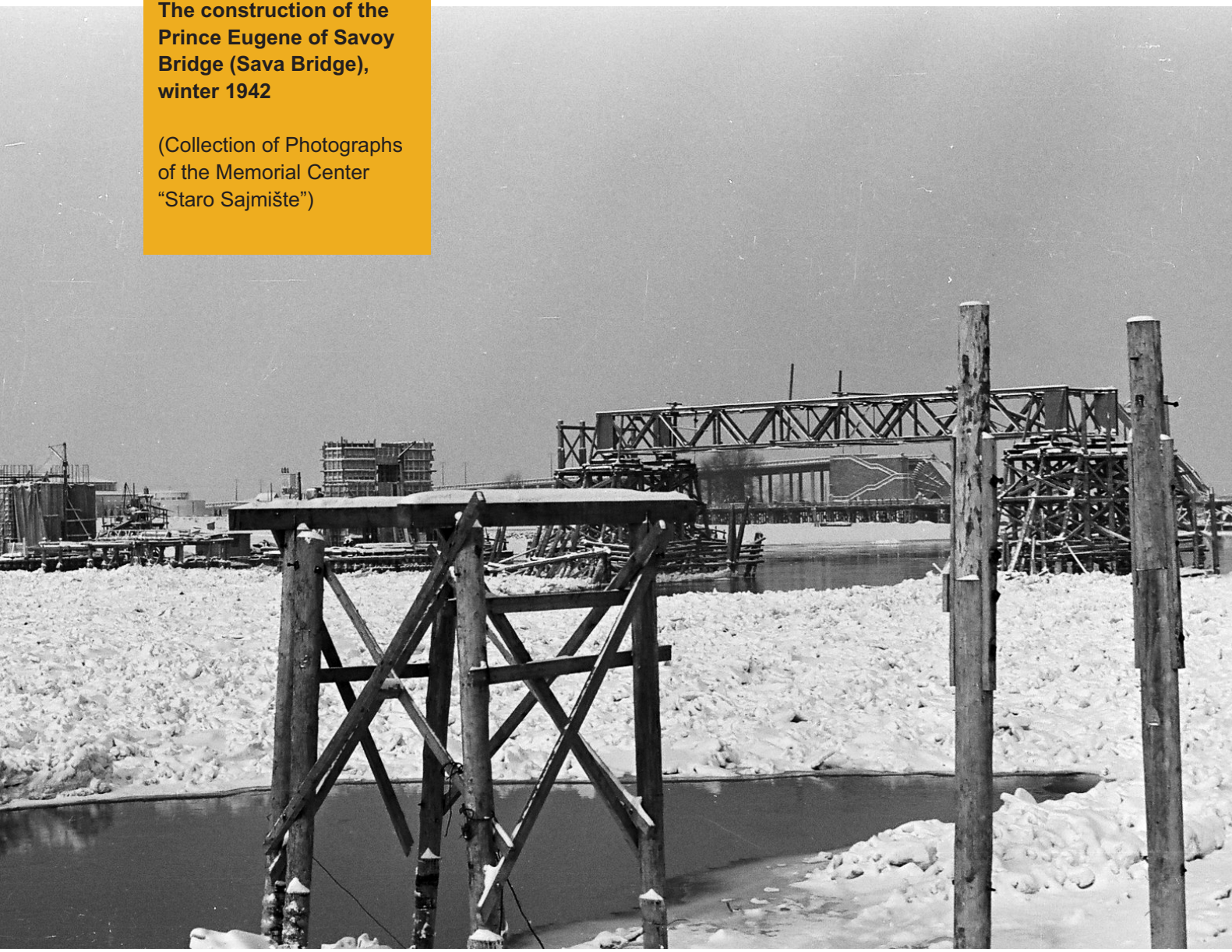
"Nada, my dear,
I'm leaving for the camp tomorrow morning. No one will have to force me. I'm not waiting to be called. I am volunteering to go with the first group that leaves from the street Đorđa Vašingtona 23 tomorrow at 9 am. My folks are against my decision, but I think that at least you will understand me: there are so many people who need help, that I must, according to the dictates of my conscience, go beyond sentimental reasons regarding family and home and put myself completely at the service of others".

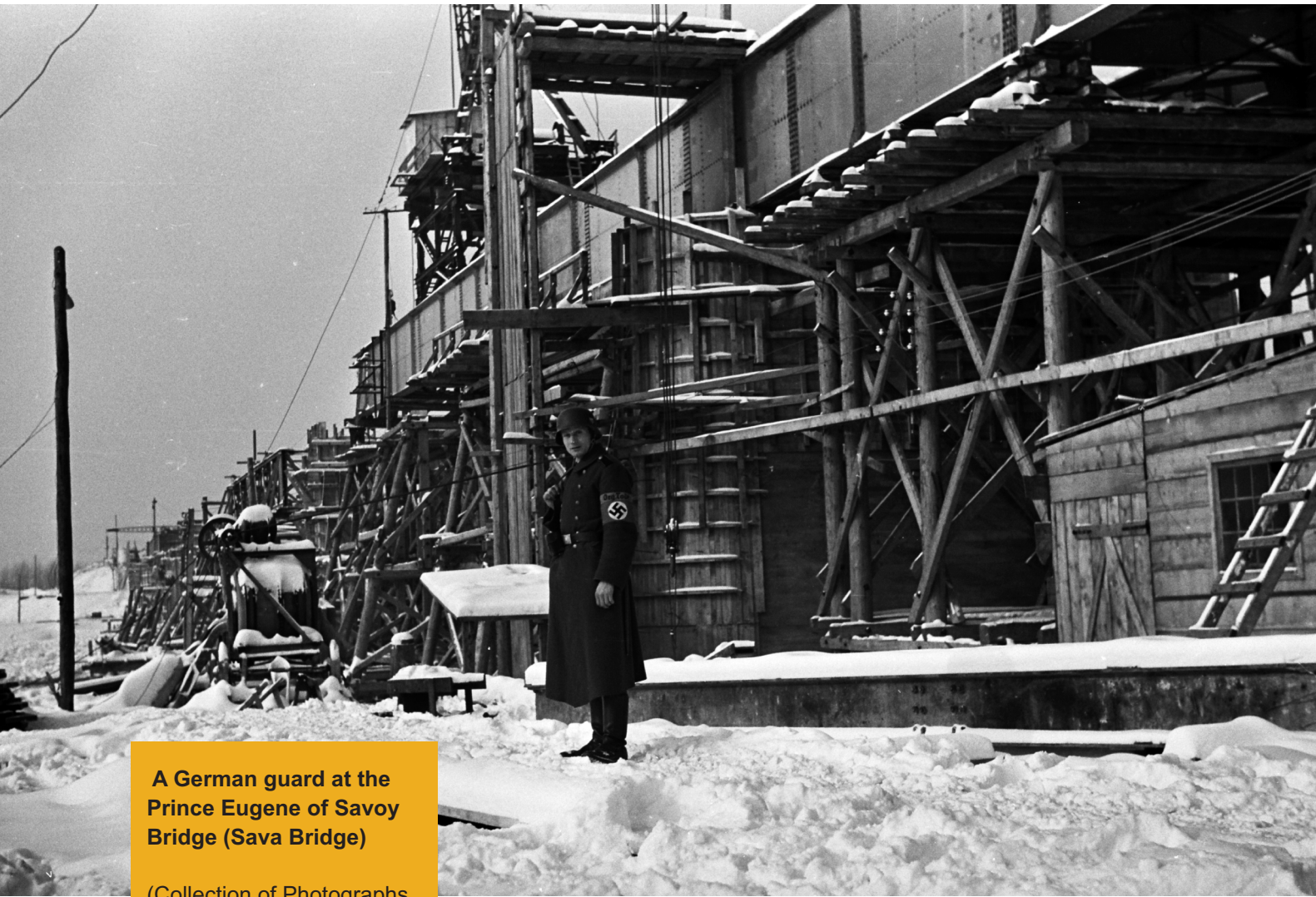
Hilda Dajč to Mirjana Petrović, 7 February 1942

"I know that there is no chance that we will leave here soon, and you and Nada are outside, the only thing that binds me to Belgrade, which by some incomprehensible contradiction I completely hate and love at the same time. You don't know, just like I didn't know, what it means to be here. I want you to never know that. Even as a child I was afraid of being buried alive. And this is some kind of apparent death. Will there be any resurrection after this? I never used to think so much about you two as much as I do now. I talk to you all the time and I want to see you because you are the 'paradise lost' for me. Kisses and love from your camp inmate"

The construction of the Prince Eugene of Savoy Bridge (Sava Bridge), winter 1942

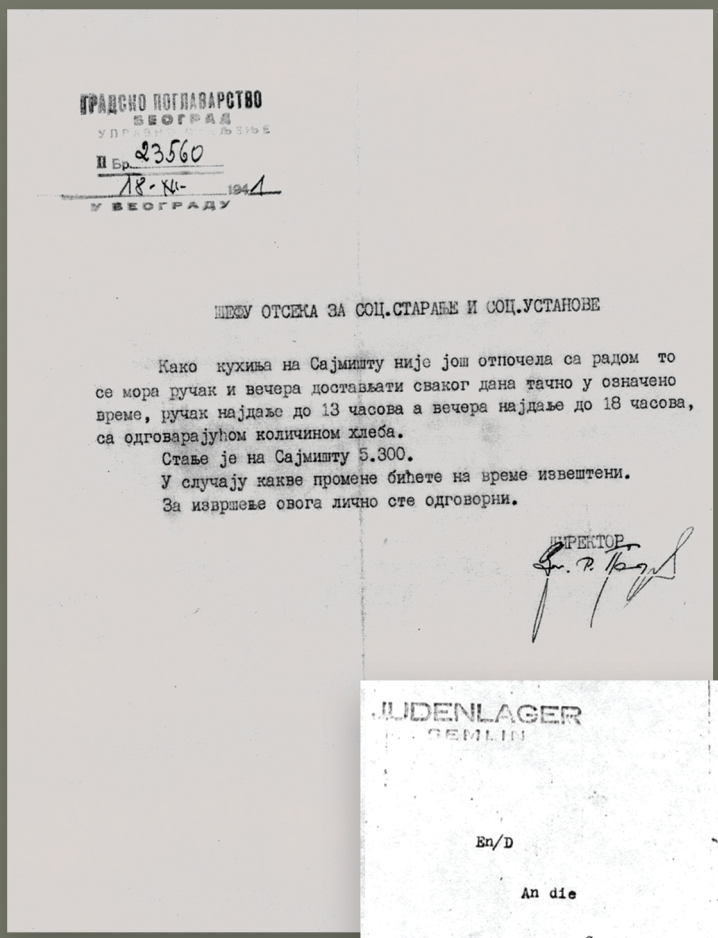
(Collection of Photographs of the Memorial Center “Staro Sajmište”)





A German guard at the Prince Eugene of Savoy Bridge (Sava Bridge)

(Collection of Photographs of the Memorial Center “Staro Sajmište”)



ГРАДСКО ПОГЛАВАРСТВО
БЕОГРАД
УПРАВНО ОДЕЉЕЊЕ
II Бр. 23560
18-XII- 1941
У БЕОГРАДУ

ШЕФУ ОТСЕКА ЗА СОЦ.СТАРАЊЕ И СОЦ.УСТАНОВЕ

Како кухиња на Сајмишту није још отпочела са радом то се мора ручак и вечера достављати сваког дана тачно у означено време, ручак најдаље до 13 часова а вечера најдаље до 18 часова, са одговарајућом количином хлеба.

Стање је на Сајмишту 5.300.

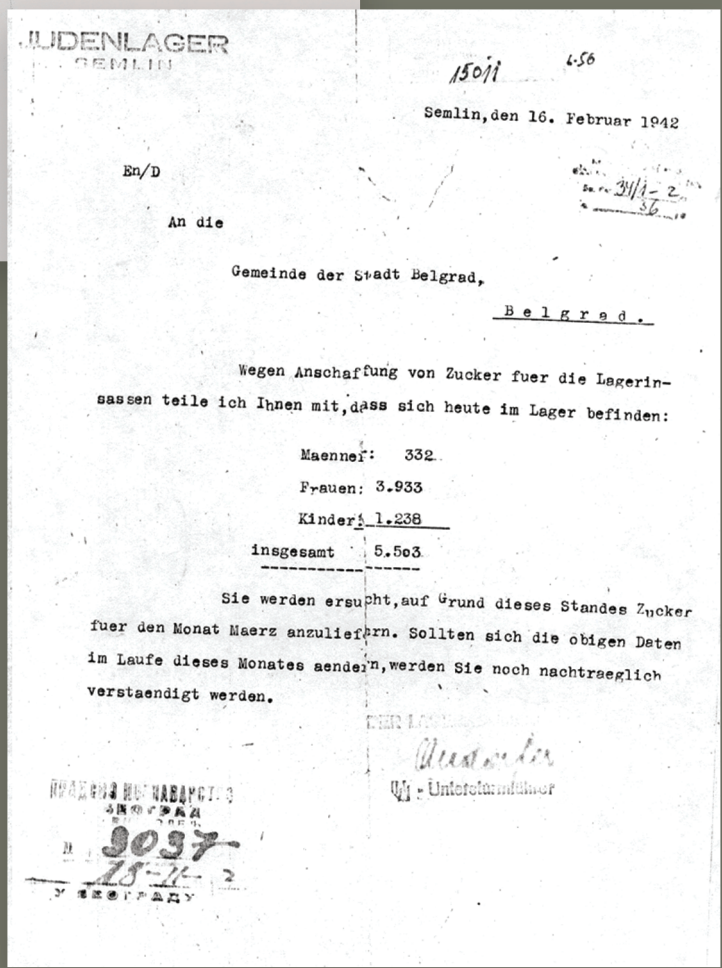
У случају какве промене бићете на време извештени.

За извршење овога лично сте одговорни.

ДИРЕКТОР

Need for food for 5,300 prisoners of the Sajmište camp, 18 December 1941

(IAB, OGB, k-314)



JUDENLAGER
SEMLIN

15011 6.56

Semlin, den 16. Februar 1942

En/D

An die

Gemeinde der Stadt Belgrad,

Belgrad.

Wegen Anschaffung von Zucker fuer die Lagerinsassen teile ich Ihnen mit, dass sich heute im Lager befinden:

Maenner: 332
Frauen: 3.933
Kinder: 1.238
insgesamt 5.503

Sie werden ersucht, auf Grund dieses Standes Zucker fuer den Monat Maerz anzuliefern. Sollten sich die obigen Daten im Laufe dieses Monates aendern, werden Sie noch nachtraeglich verstaendigt werden.

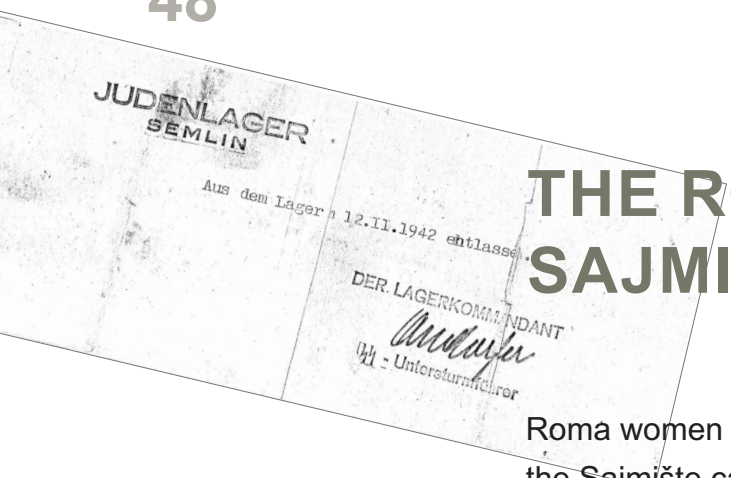
DER LAGER

Andorfer
Ul - Unterstürmführer

ГРАДСКО ПОГЛАВАРСТВО
БЕОГРАД
3037
18-II-2
У БЕОГРАДУ

Camp commandant Andorfer to the Belgrade Municipality, 16 February 1942, on the procurement of sugar for the camp, the number and structure of camp inmates

(IAB, OGB, k-314)


JUDENLAGER
SEMLIN

Aus dem Lager 12.II.1942 entlassen.

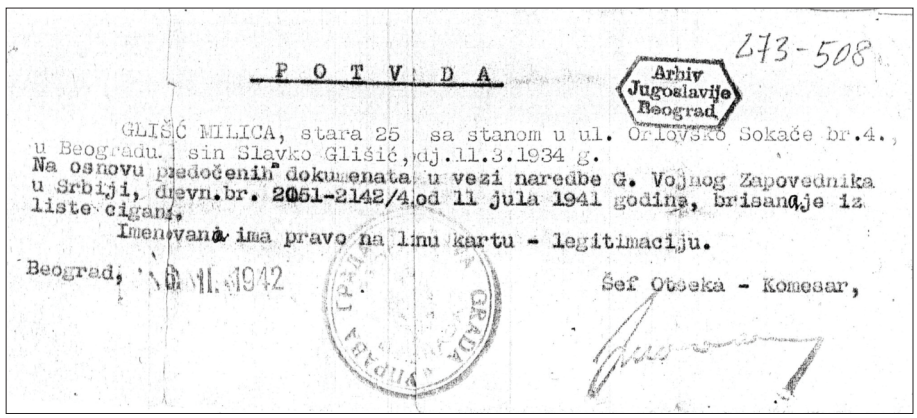
DER LAGERKOMMANDANT
Andorfer
Ost - Untersturmführer

THE ROMA IN THE SAJMIŠTE CAMP

Roma women and children were interned in Second pavilion in the Sajmište camp. They were brought to the camp with almost no belongings, and their living conditions were even worse than in the Jewish part of the camp. Between 56 and 100 Roma lost their lives from hunger, disease, and torture in the camp. The Roma that survived were released gradually from the camp in the period from the beginning of February 1942 to the beginning of April 1942.From early February to early April, the surviving Roma were released from the camp at the request of the their family members with evidence that they were permanently settled and had and “honorable occupation”.

Camp commandant Andorfer confirms the release of Milica Glišić and her son Slavko

(AJ, 110-273-508)


273-508

Arhiv Jugoslavije Beograd

P O T V D A

GLIŠIĆ MILICA, stara 25 sa stanom u ul. Orlovsko Sokaće br.4., u Beogradu. sin Slavko Glišić, dj.11.3.1934 g.
Na osnovu predočenih dokumenata u vezi naredbe G. Vojnog Zapovednika u Srbiji, drevn.br. 2051-2142/4 od 11 jula 1941 godina, brisana je iz liste cigana.
Imenovana ima pravo na linu kartu - legitimaciju.

Beograd, 10.II.1942

Šef Otseka - Komesar,

The Roma in the Sajmište camp: confirmation for the release of Milica Glišić and her son Slavko on 12 February 1942

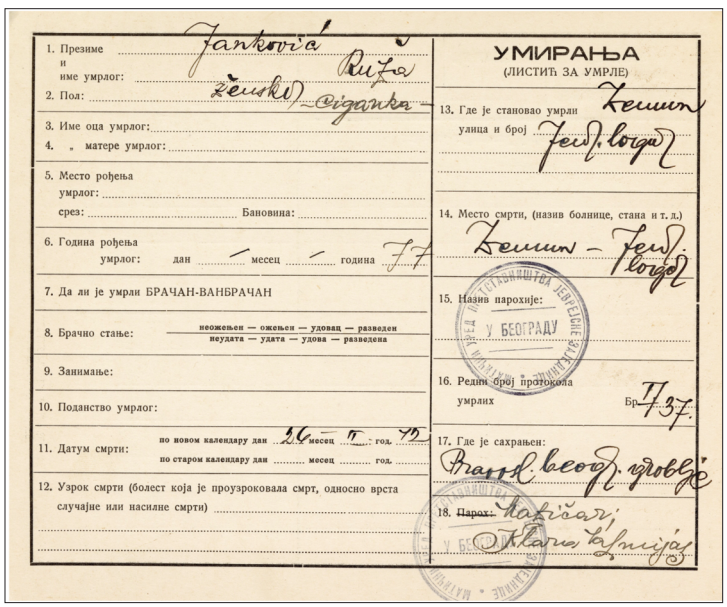
(AJ, 110-273-508)



УМИРАЊА
(ЛИСТИЋ ЗА УМРЛЕ)

1. Презиме и име умрлог: Јовановић Душан
2. Пол: мушки Циганин
3. Име оца умрлог:
4. „ матере умрлог:
5. Место рођења умрлог:
срез: Бановина:
6. Година рођења умрлог: дан / месец / година 1
7. Да ли је умрли БРАЧАН-ВАНБРАЧАН
8. Брачно стање: неожењен — ожењен — удовац — разведен / неудата — удата — удова — разведена
9. Занимање:
10. Поданство умрлог:
11. Датум смрти: по новом календару дан 27 месец II год. 42 / по старом календару дан месец год.
12. Узрок смрти (болест која је проузроковала смрт, односно врста случајне или насилне смрти)

13. Где је становао умрли улица и број Земун Јевр. логор
14. Место смрти, (назив болнице, стана и т. д.) Земун. Јевр. логор
15. Назив парохије:
16. Редни број протокола умрлих Бр. 7/38.
17. Где је сахрањен: Гр. гробље
18. Парох: Православни свештеник Глига Јанијев



УМИРАЊА
(ЛИСТИЋ ЗА УМРЛЕ)

1. Презиме и име умрлог: Јанковић Ружа
2. Пол: женски Циганка
3. Име оца умрлог:
4. „ матере умрлог:
5. Место рођења умрлог:
срез: Бановина:
6. Година рођења умрлог: дан / месец / година 77
7. Да ли је умрли БРАЧАН-ВАНБРАЧАН
8. Брачно стање: неожењен — ожењен — удовац — разведен / неудата — удата — удова — разведена
9. Занимање:
10. Поданство умрлог:
11. Датум смрти: по новом календару дан 26 месец II год. 42 / по старом календару дан месец год.
12. Узрок смрти (болест која је проузроковала смрт, односно врста случајне или насилне смрти)

13. Где је становао умрли улица и број Земун Јевр. логор
14. Место смрти, (назив болнице, стана и т. д.) Земун – Јевр. логор
15. Назив парохије:
16. Редни број протокола умрлих Бр. 7/37.
17. Где је сахрањен: Гр. гробље
18. Парох: Православни свештеник Глига Јанијев

Pavilion number 2: pavilion where the Roma were interned in the Sajmište camp

(MGB, Collection of Miloš Jurišić)

Death certificate for Jovanović Dušan issued in the Jewish camp Zemun

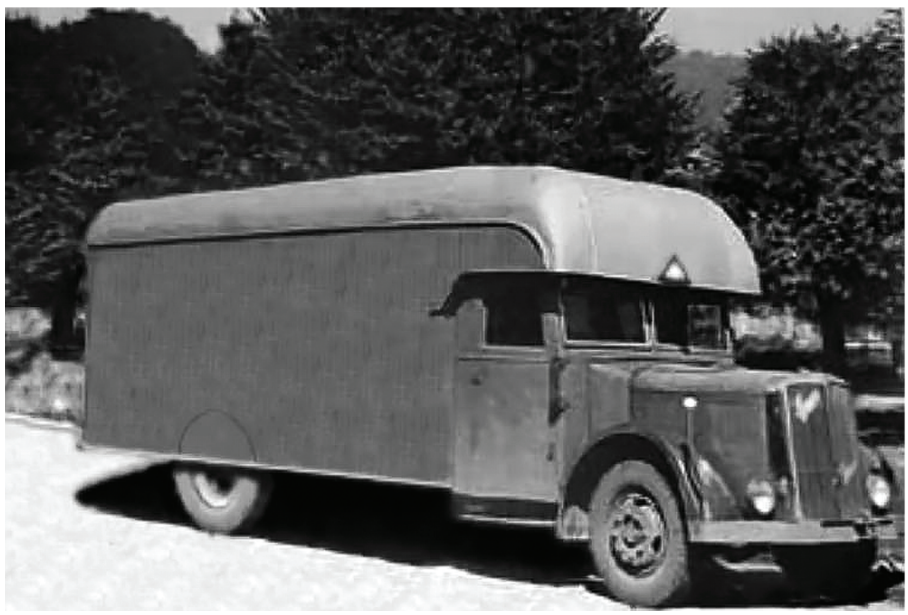
(Museum of Vojvodina, ZD AK 3010-11)

Death certificate for Janković Ruža issued in the Jewish camp Zemun

(Museum of Vojvodina, ZD AK 3010-11)

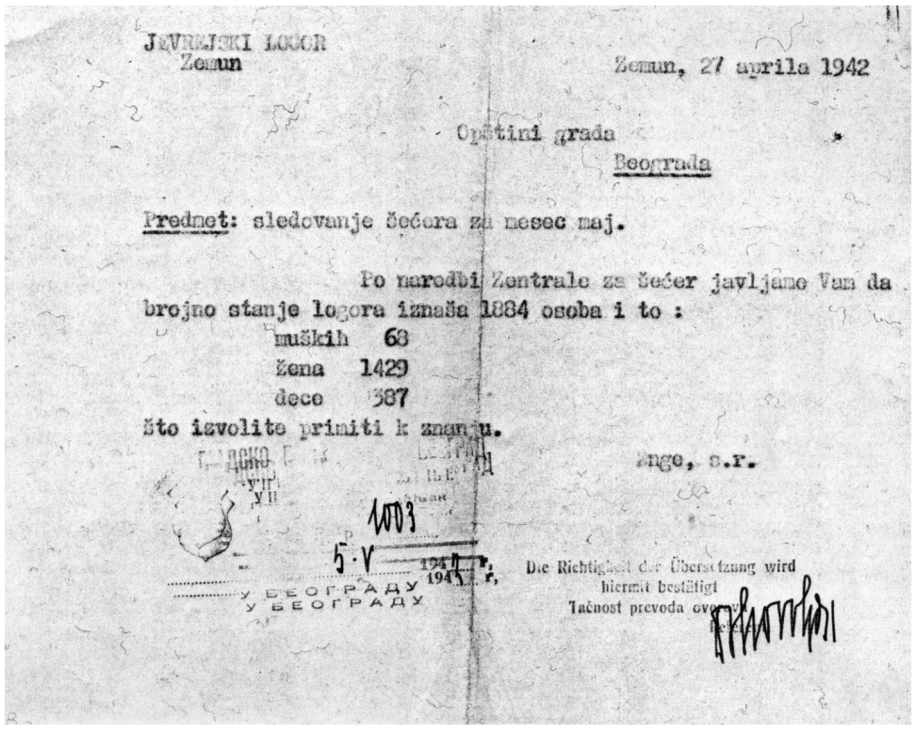
THE GAS CHAMBER VAN HAS FULFILLED ITS "SPECIAL MISSION"

The heads of the German police in Berlin decided to exterminate the Jewish prisoners in Serbia itself, which is why a special van with a gas chamber and with two experienced police officers was sent to Belgrade. From the first half of March to 10



Gas van on assignment in Belgrade, March-May 1942

(Public domain)



JEVREJSKI LOGOR
Zemun

Zemun, 27 aprila 1942

Opštini grada
Beograda

Predmet: sledovanje šećera za mesec maj.

Po naredbi Zentrale za šećer javljamo Vam da brojno stanje logora iznaša 1884 osoba i to :

muških 68
žena 1429
dece 387

što izvolite primiti k znanju.

Enge, s.r.

1003

5.V 1942 r.

У БЕОГРАДУ
У БЕОГРАДУ

Die Richtigkeit der Übersetzung wird hiermit bestätigt
Tačnost prevoda overa

Deputy commandant of the Jewish Camp Enge, to the Municipality of the City of Belgrade, 27 April 1942, on the number and structure of camp inmates

(IAB, OGB, k-314)

May 1942, practically all Jewish prisoners, about 6,320, were killed on the way from the Sajmište camp to the prepared pits at the military execution site in Jajinci. Although the executions were mostly not carried out in the camp itself, it was, in a certain way, a death camp. The bodies of those killed, as well as the remains of others shot in Jajinci, were burned during an action aimed at removing traces of the crime at the end of 1943 and in the first months of 1944. After the killing ended, the highest of-

Right:
Map of Belgrade with the route of the gas van from the Sajmište camp to Jajinci

(Private property)

ficers of the Nazi occupation administration boasted that only the question of Jewish property remained to be solved. They emphasised that Serbia was the first country where “the Jewish and Gypsy question was solved”. Although Estonia was practically the first country where Jews were annihilated, the German Nazi commanders in Serbia emphasised that they were even better and were proud of it.

Commander of the Security Police and Security Service in Serbia, SS-Lieutenant Colonel Emanuel Schäfer, to Major Pradel in the Reich Security Main Office, Berlin, Belgrade, 9 June 1942.

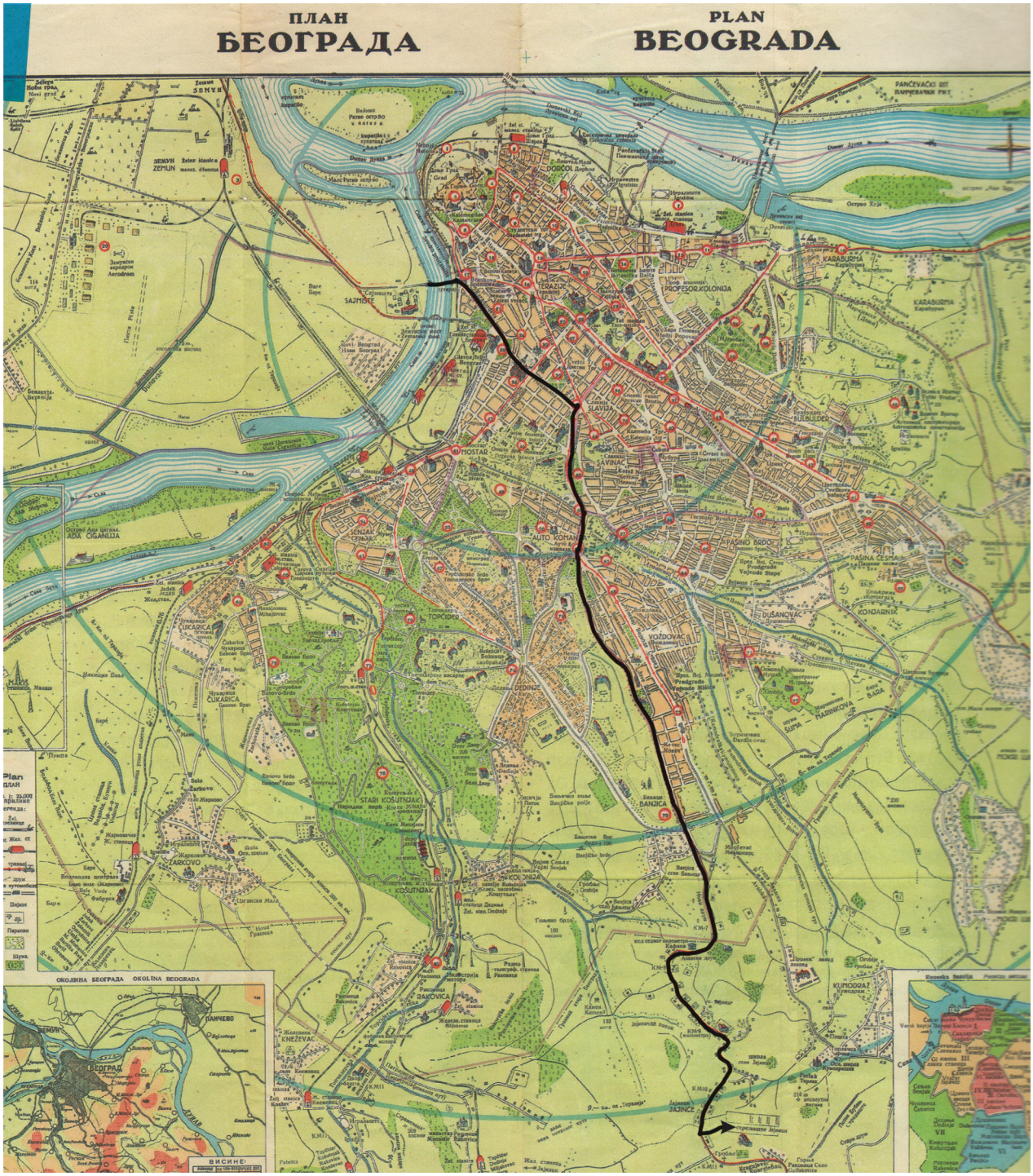
“Subject: Special Vehicle Saurer.

Reference: None.

The chauffeurs SS-NCOs Götz and Meyer have fulfilled their special mission, so that they can return now with the above-mentioned vehicle. Due to the breakage of the rear axle of the vehicle, the vehicle cannot be driven. Therefore, I ordered that the vehicle be loaded and transported by rail to Berlin." (Zločini fašističkih okupatora i njihovih pomagača protiv Jevreja u Jugoslaviji (*Crimes of Fascist Occupiers and their Collaborators against Jews in Yugoslavia*), Belgrade: Federation of Jewish Communities of Yugoslavia, 1952).

ПЛАН БЕОГРАДА

PLAN BEOGRADA



A column of prisoners from the Ustasha camps Jasenovac and Stara Gradiška enters the Detention camp Zemun

(JK, "Guard on the Drina", 1942)
Insert from the same film.

A column of prisoners from the Ustasha camps Jasenovac and Stara Gradiška enters the Detention camp Zemun

(JK, "Guard on the Drina", 1942)



DETENTION CAMP ZEMUN ON THE BELGRADE FAIRGROUND



Gate of the Jasenovac concentration and death camp

(Public domain)

The Nazi occupying forces accelerated the killing of Jewish prisoners in the Sajmište camp because they expected a renewal of the uprising in the spring of 1942 and an influx of new prisoners. As the German war economy needed more and more manpower, they changed – to some extent – the way they treated captured insurgents and their sympathisers in Serbia and abroad. In the second half of April 1942, an agreement was reached between the German police in Serbia and the Croatian Ustasha police to take over “politically undesirable elements” from the camps in Jasenovac and Stara Gradiška in order to send them to German camps in Norway.



“Boy from Kozara, drawing by Boško Novaković”

(Boško Novaković, Radivoje Dmitrašinović, *Iskre u tami, Sparks in Darkness,* Zemun: SUBNOR, 1963, 134)

SERBIA AND “POLITICALLY UNDESIRABLES” FROM THE CAMPS IN JASENOVAC AND STARA GRADIŠKA

While the last groups of Jews were being led to their death in early May 1942, the first groups of captured partisans from Serbia, and later also groups of prisoners from Ustasha camps, began to arrive at the Sajmište camp. At that time, the camp was already named Detention Camp Zemun (Anhaltelager Semlin) and a new command was formed in it. The conditions of detention, primarily malnutrition, disease, and torture, caused a high death rate among the detainees. It reached catastrophic proportions during the summer of 1942 after the arrival of large groups of Serbian civilians captured in the operation of the Nazi German and Croatian military Ustasha forces in the area of the Kozara and Prosara mountains.



Doctor Dragomir S. Stevanović,
***Sura grobnica (Cruel Tomb)*,**
London, 1967, 18.

"There was no grass in the circle for a long time. The hungry ones fought over a leaf, grass, or root, and to this day I still see a boy gnawing a bare bone on his father's lap. When I returned after some time, the father was holding his dead son with one hand and gnawing the same bone with the other. When the father also died, other hungry inmates fought over that bone!"

"The executioners took the last old men from Kozara to the Hungarian pavilion", drawing by Boško Novaković

(Boško Novaković,
Radivoje Dmitrašinović, *Iskre u tami*, *Sparks in Darkness*,143).

DEATH TRAIN

At the end of August 1942, inmates who were more or less fit to work were transferred from the Sajmište camp to the nearby camp of the German military-economic Organisation Todt. A large group of close to 3,000 emaciated and half-dead inmates was returned to the Jasenovac camp on the “death train”. Those who survived several days of transport were immediately killed at that camp’s execution site in Donja Gradina.



Inmates from Sajmište in the camp of Organisation Todt

(AJ, Collection of Photo-graphs, RZ-II-533)

Nikola Nikolić, *Jasenovački logor (Jasenovac Camp)*, Zagreb 1948, 207-208.

“A long train with freight wagons stood in a semicircle. There were about 80 of them. The first two wagons were open. A terrible sight appeared before our eyes: a pile of stacked dead bodies stood in front of the wagons. Real skeletons. Ribs protruded, faces sunken, eyes sunken into the skull. [...] The dead bodies were thrown on piles at random, so that heads, legs, arms were scattered everywhere and on all sides. Most of them were young people and boys, and there were also older people. Under that pile, ghosts were moving on the grass and yawning. We could not hear their voices, but we still discerned what they were saying based on the movement of the lips: 'Water, water!”



Inmates from Sajmište in the camp of Organisation Todt

(AJ, Collection of Photographs, RZ-II-534)



Inmates from Sajmište in the camp of Organisation Todt

(AJ, Collection of Photographs, RZ-II-536)

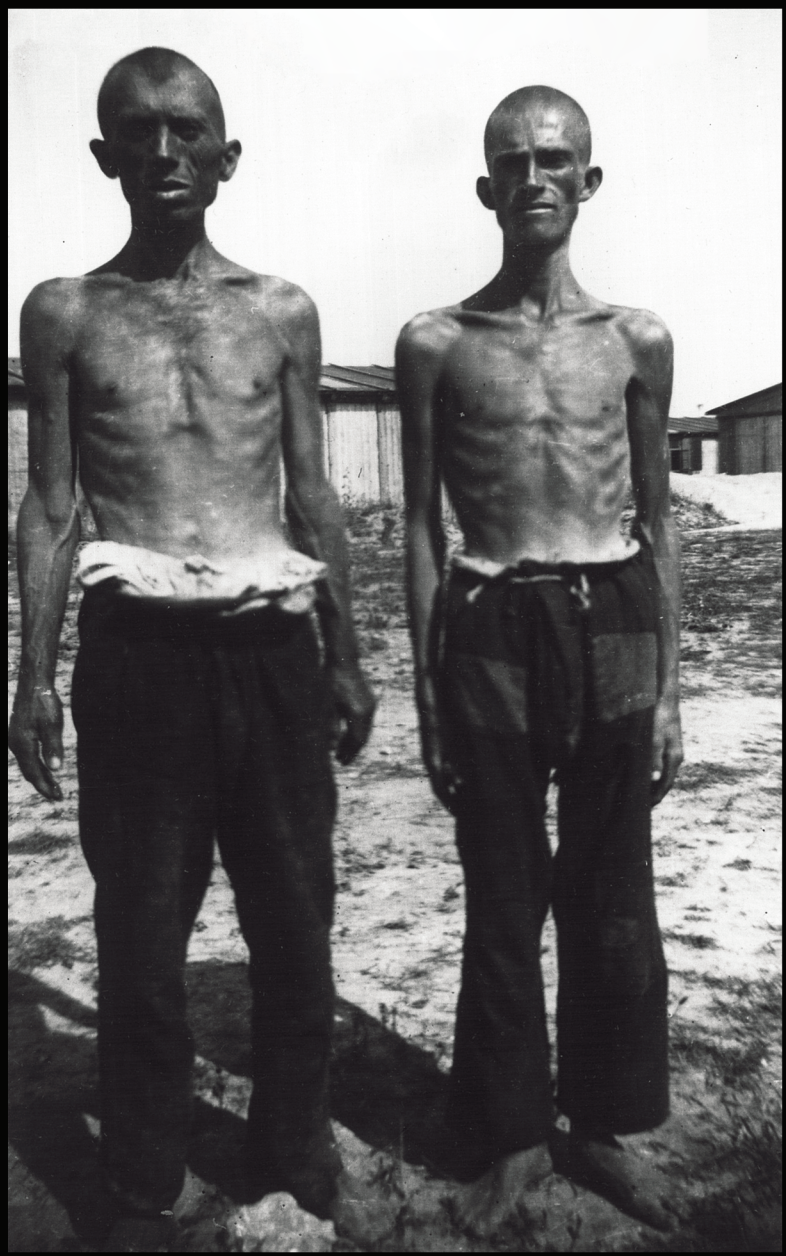


Inmates from Sajmište in the camp of Organisation Todt

(AJ, Collection of Photographs, RZ-II-537)

Right:
Inmates from Sajmište in the camp of Organisation Todt

(AJ, Collection of Photographs, RZ-II-538)





Camp commandant Becker plays chess with a member of the command

(AJ, Collection of Photographs, RZ-I-792)

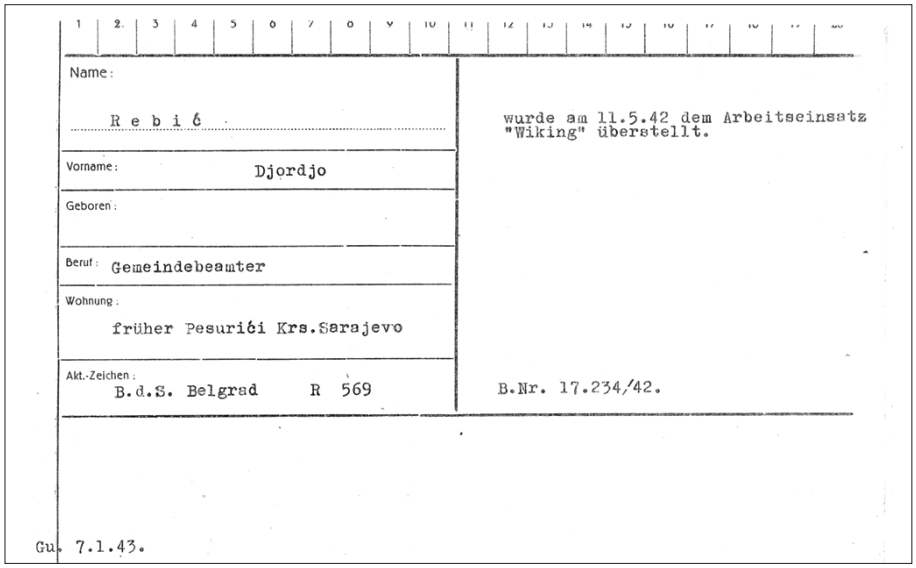


Military doctor Selenić examines inmates from the Sajmište camp

(AJ, Collection of Photographs, RZ-II-535)

SAJMIŠTE AS THE MAIN GERMAN DETENTION CAMP FOR SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

The first transports of inmates were sent from Sajmište to forced camps in Norway as early as May 1942. However, due to epidemics and poor “quality” of the workforce, the transports were stopped just at the time when a large number of new inmates were brought to the camp in the summer of 1942. From the end of August 1942, deportations to camps in Norway, and then to the Mauthausen camp and to camp in Thessaloniki continued. In the following years, deportations to numerous other camps began, including Auschwitz, then to forced labour camps in Germany itself or in occupied countries, including Serbia (camps next to the Bor and Trepča mines). Among the inmates were members or sympathisers of the partisan National Liberation



Name:

Rebić

Vorname: Djordjo

Geboren:

Beruf: Gemeindebeamter

Wohnung:

früher Pesurići Krs.Sarajevo

Akt.-Zeichen:
B.d.S. Belgrad R 569

wurde am 11.5.42 dem Arbeitseinsatz "Wiking" überstellt.

B.Nr. 17.234/42.

Gu. 7.1.43.

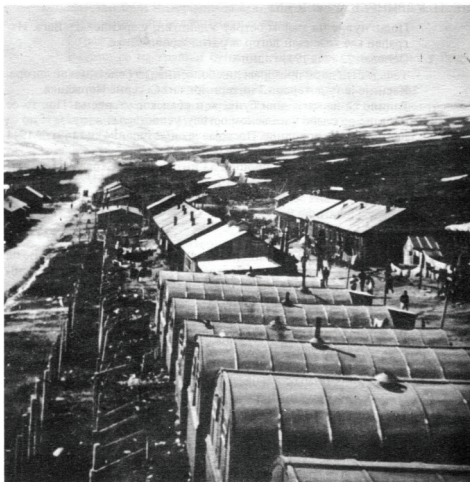
Police record of Rebić Đorđe who was deported to a forced camp in Norway

(IAB, BdS, file)



Norway, Arctic Circle forced labour camp

(Ljubo Mlađenović, *Pod ši- from 'Viking' (Codenamed 'Viking')* Beograd,1991,15.)



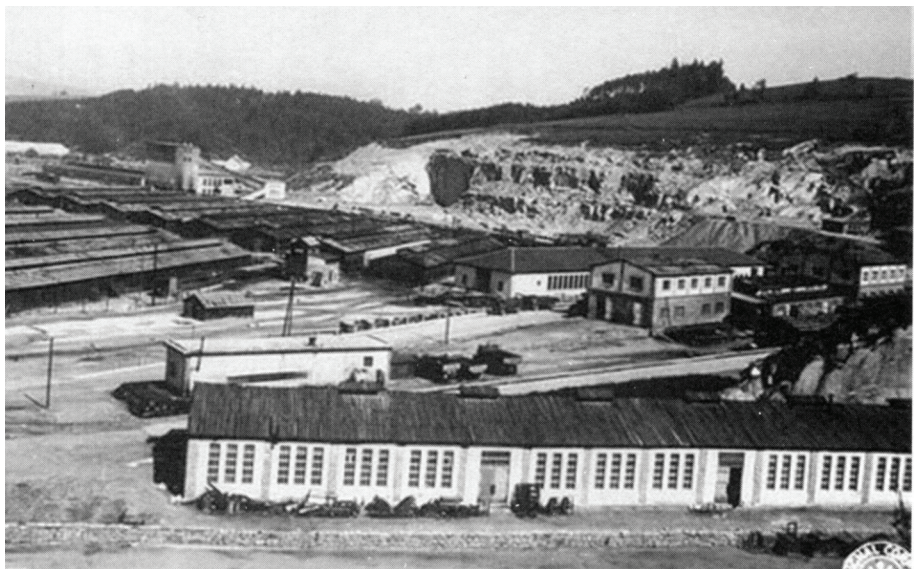
Forced labour in northern Norway

(Ljubo Mlađenović, *Pod šifrom 'Viking' (Codenamed 'Viking')* Beograd,1991,15)

Gusen camp, branch of the Mauthausen camp

(Ljubomir Zečević, Tamara Ćirić, *Povratak nepoželjan (Return not Desired)* Beograd, 2015, 140.)

Movement, and in a much smaller number also members and sympathisers of the royalist movement of General Mihailović and other opponents of the occupation. The inmates were mostly able-bodied men, and later also women, from the area of ever larger military operations on the territory of the Ustasha state. They were mostly Serbs, but there were also many Bosnian Muslims, Croats, Jews, and members of other nations. Starting from the autumn of 1943, Italian prisoners of war were briefly interned in the camp, and then also members of the resistance movement from Greece and Albania. Thus, the Sajmište camp became the main German detention camp for the entire southeastern Europe.





Mauthausen concentration camp (Mauthausen–Wiener-graben)

(Ljubomir Zečević, Tamara Ćirić, *Povratak nepoželjan (Return not desired*) Beograd, 2015, 136.)





Auschwitz concentration and death camp

(Public domain)

PARTISANS AND HOSTAGES FROM SREM AND SLAVONIA

“Collecting sand”, drawing by Nada Novaković

(Historijski muzej Bosne i Hercegovine (HMBiH), inv. no. 1357)



In 1943, due to ever larger partisan actions in Srem and Slavonia, and especially due to their demolition of the main railway line, the German and Croatian Ustasha police and army started arresting thousands of civilians from villages in that area. Most of them were interned in the Sajmište camp. One of the usual punishments was the hanging of prisoners from Sajmište along the railway line. The living conditions in the camp were still very difficult, the inmates were exposed to hunger and torture, and they were forced to do various meaningless jobs.



Internment of civilians of Buđanovci in the Sajmište camp in 1943

(Private collection)

Hanging of prisoners along the railway line

(AJ, Collerction of Photo-graphs, RZ-II-1351)

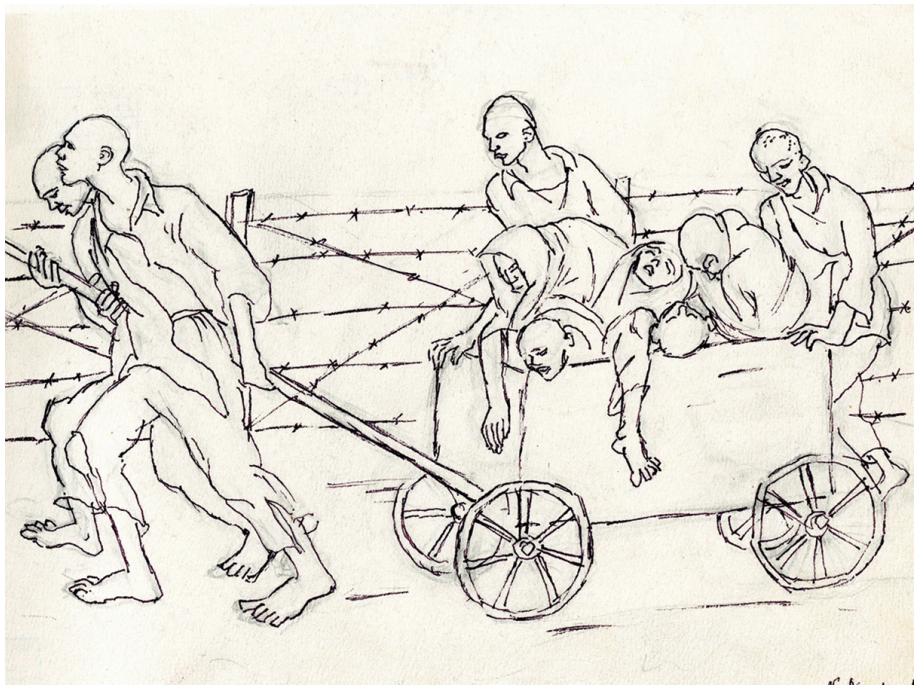


WOMEN IN THE CAMP

Doctor Dragomir S. Stevanović, *Sura grobnica*, London, 1967, 45.

"In one group, there was one woman who was about to give birth. One morning, when I was on duty and went to the women's camp, she had already given birth to a son! That's how a beautiful Serb opened his eyes in the camp. Who else, if not a Serb?! [...] We took the mother and the newborn to the hospital. Monk Mitrofan Kresojević, also a camp inmate, sanctified the water, and after a few days baptised the camp's son. The mother chose me to be the godfather and we named the little one Slobodan. This is how the nation is being rebuilt, at the exact place where it was being destroyed".

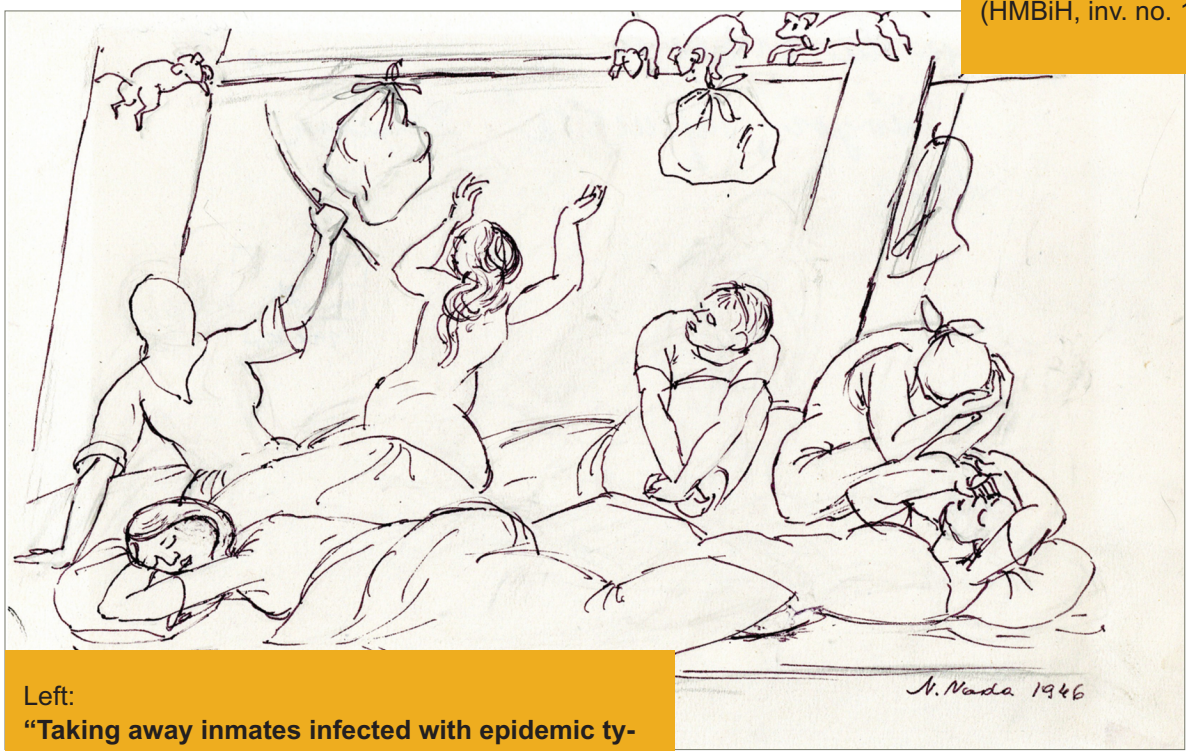
Starting from 1943, there were more female prisoners who were imprisoned in the Pavilion of the company "Hansa" and as their numbers increased, they were transferred to the Czechoslovak pavilion and then to the Yugoslav Pavilion no 1.



They were isolated from men and rarely sent to work. According to the testimonies of survivors, the female prisoners were mostly punished by being deprived of food for two or three days. While waiting for transport to other camps, they were able to receive packages that mostly contained food but also other necessities.

“Rat invasion”, drawing by Nada Novaković

(HMBiH, inv. no. 1360)



Left:
“Taking away inmates infected with epidemic typhus”, drawing by Nada Novaković

(HMBiH, inv. no. 1359)

ALLIED BOMBING OF BELGRADE AND ZEMUN



Bombing of Belgrade on 17 April 1944

(Public domain)

On Easter Sunday, 16 April 1944, the American Air Force carried out a heavy bombing of Belgrade and Zemun, which continued the next day and the following months. The bridges on the Sava River were not affected, but the Sajmište camp and the nearby POW camp (Dulag 172 Semlin) were badly damaged. In the Sajmište camp, nearly 200 inmates died as a result of the bombing and fire from the weapons of the German guards, while hundreds more were wounded. With damaged and partially demolished pavilions, at a location so openly exposed to bombing, the Sajmište camp lost its former significance.



Bombing of Belgrade in April 1944

(Public domain)



Ivo Andrić watches the bombing of Belgrade and Zemun on the terrace of his apartment, April 1944

(IAB)

BOMBARDOVANJE LOGORA SAJMIŠTE

ALEKSANDAR ZOGRAF.



SAJMIŠTE, CRTEŽ BOŠKA NOVAKOVIĆA

GODINE 1941, NAKON OKUPACIJE SRBIJE, **GESTAPO** JE FORMIRAO SABIRNI LOGOR NA PROSTORU SAJAMSKOG KOMPLEKSA U BEOGRADU, ODAKLE JE U SMRT POSLATA GOTOVO CELOKUPNA POPULACIJA SRPSKIH JEVREJA. LOGOR **SAJMIŠTE** JE U PERIODU 1942-1944. BIO PRETVOREN U PRIHVATNI LOGOR ZA POLITIČKE ZAROBLJENIKE (ANHALTELAGER), U KOJEM SU, POD TEŠKIM USLOVIMA, BILI ZATOČENI PRIPADNICI PARTIZANSKIH I ČETNIČKIH JEDINICA, KAO I RATNI ZAROBLJENICI IZ VIŠE ZEMALJA... U KNJIZI **"RATNE PRIČE I SEĆANJA"** (1995), **BOŠKO NOVAKOVIĆ** JE OPISAO PAKAO KOJI JE DOŽIVEO KAO ZATOČENIK I SVEDOK SAVEZNIČKOG BOMBARDOVANJA LOGORA, APRILA 1944. AMERIČKO BOMBARDOVANJE GRADOVA U SRBIJI (SAMO TOKOM 1944, BEOGRAD JE BOMBARDOVAN 11 PUTA) NIKADA NIJE U POTPUNOSTI OBRAZLOŽENO, A U VREME OPŠTEG STRADANJA, TRAGEDIJA LOGORAŠA SA SAJMIŠTA NIKADA NIJE DOSPELA U ŽIŽU INTERESOVANJA ŠIRE JAVNOSTI, VEĆ SU SE TIME BAVILI SAMO ISTORIČARI-EKSPERTI...

"POČETKOM PROLEĆA 1944. GODINE, AMERIČKA AVIJACIJA JE SVE ČEŠĆE NADLETALA BEOGRAD, A GESTAPOVCI U LOGORU SVE NERVOZNIJE SU DVOGLEDIMA PRETRAŽIVALI NEBO. KOD ZATVORENIKA JE TO IZAZIVALO NADU, DISKUTOVALO SE O BEKSTVU... U TO VREME STRAŽU SU PREUZIMALE USTAŠE, KOJI SU SADA ZAJEDNO SA NEMCIMA ČUVALE LOGOR, NA TAJ NAČIN DVOSTRUKO POJAČAVŠI NADZOR..."

"KADA SU PRVE BOMBE POČELE DA PADAJU, BILI SMO U KULAMA SAJAMSKIH PAVILJONA. PRAVO JE ČUDO DA SMO OSTALI ČITAVI, PORED KIŠE STAKLA I OBRUŠAVANJA ZIDOVA. KRICI SU SE PROLAMALI, PRAĆENI EKSPLOZIJAMA BOMBI!"

"U IZBEZUMLJENOSTI, NEKO JE MOŽDA I NESVESNO POVEO STOTINE LJUDI KA ŽICI, GDE IH JE DOČEKALA VATRA NEMAČKIH I USTAŠKIH MITRALJEZA IZ BUNKERA"...



Aleksandar Zograf, Bombing of the POW camp

Comic Strip

THE JEWS OF KOSOVO AND METOHIJA AND SS DIVISION "SKENDERBEG"



A yellow mark – a Star of David that Jews had to wear as a sign of humiliation and segregation

(JIM, Belgrade)

Starting from February 1944, the camp was under the jurisdiction of the German police command in the ISC, and on 17 May of the same year, the camp was handed over to the Croatian Ustasha police, but under the control of the German police. Some of the inmates were previously transferred to the Banjica camp, where the camp commandant and some bashers also transferred. The ever-decreasing number of inmates in the Sajmište camp continued to be exposed to harsh living conditions, torture, and occasionally even killing. As before, they were mostly deported to German concentration and forced labour camps. One of the last and largest groups interned at the Sajmište camp were Jews sent from Priština on 18 May 1944. 440 of them were arrested by members of the German 21st

SS division “Skenderbeg” made up of Albanians from Kosovo and Metohia. During their detention, they were also subjected to torture by Ustasha policemen, soldiers and kapos, and some were killed. After a little more than a month, on 23 June 1944, they were deported to the Bergen-Belsen Nazi camp.



Bergen-Belsen concentration camp after liberation

(Public Domain)

Pavle Dželetović, *Jevreji Kosova i Metohije* (*Jews of Kosovo and Metohia*), Beograd 1988, 133.

Excerpt from the testimony of Rabbi Josip Levi from Priština.

"They arrested us in the night between 13 and 14 May. The arrests of us Jews in Priština in 1944 began exactly at midnight and lasted until eight o'clock in the morning, until they managed to arrest us all. Our arrest was carried out by the SS division "Skenderbeg", whose military staff consisted of Albanians from Kosovo and Metohia, especially from Drenica, and the officers were Germans. They made the arrests based on the addresses that Germans received from the Albanian fascist community – *Questura*. In Priština, they loaded us into "G" wagons, cattle wagons, and transported us to the "Sajmište" camp in Zemun, which was under the administration of the "SD" police, and where the Ustashas were guards and administrative staff. [...] Upon entering the camp, there was a general search, they took away the few things that we had. We provided our personal information at the counters of the "SD" police. Isak Ruben had 100 Albanian napoleons in a notebook, and because he did not report them, he was severely beaten by the Ustashas. These Ustashas were trained for special beatings. They had wooden sticks with a diameter of 2.5 centimetres. We slept on boards in these pavilions. There were also rats that were bigger than weasels. One of the Ustashas, who stood out the most during the beatings and killings, was Stipetić, otherwise a chauffeur in the camp".

DISSOLUTION OF THE DETENTION CAMP ZEMUN



Testimonies of survivors, short film, 2023

By the second half of July 1944, the remaining inmates were sent to other camps, and the Detention Camp Zemun at the Belgrade Fair was dissolved. At the end of September 1944, Jews who were returned from forced labour in Bor were briefly detained in the camp. During the battles for the liberation of Belgrade and Zemun in October 1944, the pavilions of the former camp were additionally damaged. It was then that the post-war history of the first Belgrade Fair, today's Old Fair (Staro Sajmište), began.

From the beginning of May 1942 to the second half of July 1944, a total of 31,972 inmates were held in the Detention Camp Zemun. As many as 10,636 inmates, or one third of those brought to the camp, lost their lives in the camp or

immediately after being taken away. These numbers should be considered an approximate lower limit of both those interned and those who lost their lives. In total, about 39,000 people were interned in the Jewish Camp Zemun and the Detention Camp Zemun, of which a little over 17,000 (43.6%) lost their lives.

Detention Camp Zemun after liberation (Hungarian Pavilion)

(IAB, Collection of Photographs)





Detention Camp Zemun after liberation (Nikola Spasić Foundation Pavilion)

(IAB, Collection of Photographs)



Detention Camp Zemun after liberation (Entrance)

(IAB, Collection of Photographs)



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