



EINSATZGRUPPEN

THE NAZI WAR MACHINE'S
“SPECIAL ACTION GROUPS”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8NAZmUnAEE>

"[T]his modest Roman Catholic priest from Paris has shattered the silence surrounding a largely untold chapter of the Holocaust."
—*The Chicago Tribune*



*A Priest's Journey to
Uncover the Truth Behind the
Murder of 1.5 Million Jews*

THE HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS

FATHER PATRICK DESBOIS

WITH A FOREWORD BY PAUL A. SHAPIRO





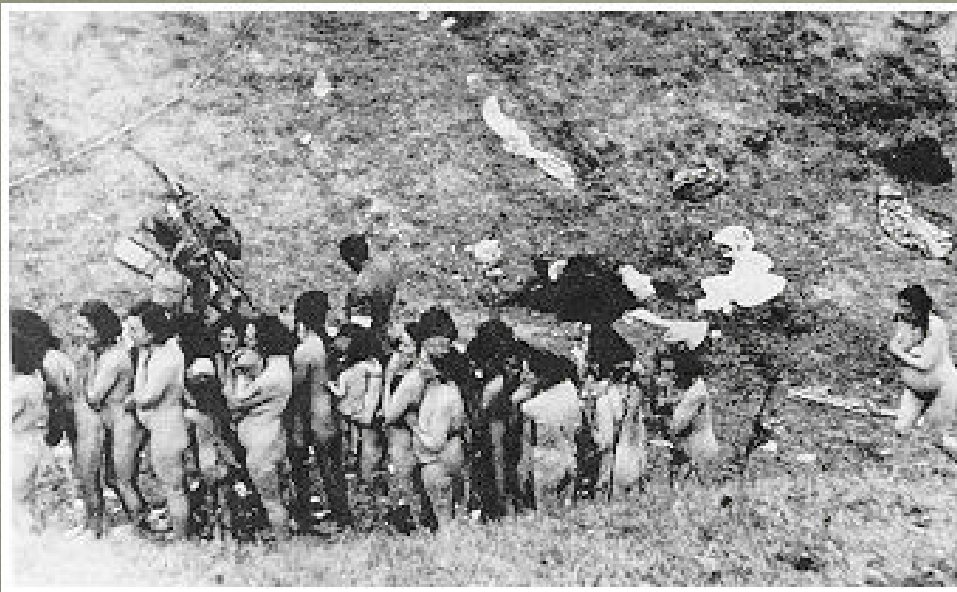


Lebensraum “Living Space” included the invasion of Russia

- German leadership called for unprecedented, ruthless measures against its enemies
- Instructions to the military, and the SS, Hitler, Himmler, and Heydrich made it clear that no mercy was to be shown to Germany’s enemies whether Jew, Communists or resistors
- With the invasion of Russia warfare reached new depths of brutality especially against civilians and Soviet prisoners
- Move from persecution and killing Jews to systematic attempt at total destruction
- 1941 Germany begins the use of special murder squads
- Units called “Einsatzgruppen” (special action groups) were made up of between 500 and 1000 men each
- Many were educated, lawyers, theologians and other professionals
- Worked together with other German units called Order Police

- Both groups cooperated with the German military
- These mobile killing units were instructed by Heydrich to kill Jews, prominent Communists, and anyone suspected of sabotage or anti-German activity
- Their official goal was to fight against Bolshevism (Communism), but by 1941 they began to interpret their primary task as the slaughter of Jews (women, children and elderly)
 - To a lesser degree Gypsies and inmates of mental hospitals as well
- These killing units used local people to help in their grisly task
- Threats, bribes, massive amounts of alcohol and rewards helped in the process
- The mobile killing units followed a pattern in their killing
 - Round up the Jews in a given area
 - Ordered large pits dug in a convenient area: cemetery, forest or field nearby

- Victims were often forced to dig these pits themselves
- Victims were forced at gunpoint to undress
- Victims were lined up on the edge of the pit and were shot, their bodies falling into the pit
- Einsatzgruppen units killed over a million people this way before the construction of the killing centers and gas chambers had begun









- The largest slaughter by the Einsatzgruppen was the massacre at Babi Yar on the outskirts of the Ukrainian city of Kiev
 - September 1941: 30,000 Jews were shot in two days
 - Other estimates say there were 100,000 in total
- The exact number killed by the Einsatzgruppen mobile killing squads cannot be known
 - German records indicate close to 2 million killed
 - Most were Jews about 1.3 million
 - Close to 250,000 Gypsies as well