

# THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF JEWISH LIFE

Before and During the Holocaust

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synagogue, yeshiva, and school. After WWI, M. was occupied by the Rumanian army, which persecuted the Jews. Later, the Hungarian White Terror gangs attacked the Jews for cooperating with the Rumanians. The Zionists, mainly Mizrachi, were active prior to WWI. The Jews were deported to Auschwitz via Miskolc on 12-15 June 1944.

**MEZOLADANY** Szabolcs dist., Hungary. Jews settled in the early 19th cent., numbering 97 in 1880 and 133 in 1930. On 25-27 May 1944, they were deported to Auschwitz via Kisvarda.

**MEZOSZILAS** (also Szilasbalhas) Veszprem dist., Hungary. A J. community of 151 existed in 1880, operating a beautiful synagogue and a J. school until 1928. Most J. families left following the White Terror attacks (1919-21). The few who remained were deported to Auschwitz via Veszprem at the beginning of July 1944.

**MEZOTUR** Jasz-Nagykun-Szolnok dist., Hungary. Jews arrived in the first half of the 19th cent., reaching a peak pop. of 836 (3% of the total) in 1900 and then declining steadily to 406 in 1941. Jews operated brick and lumber yards and a weaving mill. They opened a school in 1859 and formed a Neologist community. In 1940, 150 men were taken to forced labor and then in 1942, another 30. At the end of June 1944, the remaining Jews were deported to Auschwitz and Austria via Nagykanizsa and Szolnok. The postwar community of 210 dwindled to 26 by 1961.

**MGLIN** Oriol dist., Russia. Jews probably settled in the early 19th cent. Their pop. rose from 1,920 in 1847 to 2,674 (total 7,640) in 1897. Pogroms were staged in 1882 and late 1918. In the latter, Red Army soldiers killed 15 Jews, injured others, and looted numerous J. homes. In the Soviet period, the J. pop. dropped to 1,244 in 1926 and 726 in 1939. The Germans occupied the town on 18 Aug. 1941. On 21 Jan. 1942, all the Jews were imprisoned in the local jail, 60 soon dying of hunger, disease, and the cold. About 600 from M. and its environs were murdered on 2 March 1942.

**MIADZIOL-NOVY** Vilna dist., Poland, today Belarus. Jews apparently settled in the first half of the 19th cent., their pop. reaching 436 (total 1,164) in 1895. After WWI, 60 J. families remained, 30 of them owning

stores and barely earning a living in the face of heavy taxes. J. artisans were even worse off because of local competition. The Germans arrived in June 1941, establishing a *Judenrat* and ghetto under a regime of forced labor and extortion. After 70-80 Jews escaped to the forest, 100 were executed, but a partisan attack in Oct. 1942 under J. command liberated the remaining 90 Jews, who safely reached the Soviet Union.

**MIASTKOVKA** Vinnitsa dist., Ukraine. Jews numbered 604 in 1765 and 2,105 (total 7,996) in 1897. In the 1880s, most of the town's 30 stores were in J. hands. After the Oct. 1917 Revolution, a number of pogroms were staged against the Jews (on 30 Oct. 1917 and in 1919) in which J. property was heavily damaged. In the 1920s, a J. council (soviet) and J. school were in operation. Jews belonged to artisan cooperatives and 120 (in the late 1920s) worked in a J. kolkhoz. In 1939, the J. pop. was 832. The Germans occupied M. on 21 July 1941. After it was annexed to Transnistria, a ghetto was established and Jews from Bukovina and Bessarabia were expelled there. Many died of starvation and disease.

**MICHALANY** (Hung. Alsomihalyi) Slovakia, Czechoslovakia, today Republic of Slovakia. Jews are mentioned in 1746 and again in the early 19th cent. Their pop. rose from 60 in 1869 to 90 (total 712) in 1910 and stood at 77 in 1941. After WWI, Jews served on the local council and owned most of the business establishments in the town. A synagogue was erected in 1934. After the annexation to Hungary in Nov. 1938, Jews were mobilized for forced labor and their livelihoods undermined. On 21 May 1944, they were deported to Auschwitz via the Satoraljaújhely ghetto.

**MICHALISZKI** Vilna dist., Poland, today Belarus. A community of 396 taxpaying Jews was present in 1765. They were permitted by the local nobility to purchase one-acre plots of land where they could set up auxiliary farms. The Jews were shopkeepers, artisans, and wholesalers dealing in lumber and flax. By 1897 their pop. had grown to 951 (total 1,224). Most lost their property in WWI, and required assistance from the relief agencies in the aftermath. However, recovery was stunted by stiff competition from the Polish cooperatives. Yiddish and Hebrew schools were founded between the World Wars and the Zionist youth movements became active. After two years of Soviet rule

(1939–41), the Germans arrived on 24 June 1941, instituting a regime of forced labor and persecution. In fall 1941 a ghetto was established for the town's 1,500 Jews. On 25 March 1943, after Jews from other ghettos had been brought there, all were sent to Vilna and Kovno, but most were detoured within a few days to Ponary for execution.

**MICHALOVCE** (Hung. Nagymihaly) Slovakia, Czechoslovakia, today Republic of Slovakia. One J. family is mentioned in the census of 1726 and eight in 1746, most living on the estates of nobles. In the early 19th cent., Jews began arriving from neighboring villages and a 300-seat synagogue was built, subsequently becoming a hasidic *klaus*. A new synagogue in the Oriental style was built in 1888 as the J. pop. increased to 1,079 in 1880 and 1,492 (total 4,906) in 1900. A *beit midrash*, *heder*, and *talmud torah* were also built in this period. R. Shimon Ehrenfeld, who served in 1893–1932, ran a yeshiva with 80 students. The Zionists became active in the early 20th cent. and an Agudat Israel group began operating in 1913. After WWI, J. businesses were looted in riots and there was considerable damage to J. property. The J. pop. grew steadily, to 2,200 in 1910, 3,386 in 1930, and 4,197 in 1940, with J. refugees from Galicia arriving in WWI and joining the hasidic congregation. Jews served on the municipal and district councils and owned numerous stores and workshops. Zionist activity intensified between the World Wars, with WIZO and Mizrachi the first to open branches and the youth movements attracting most of the young (300 in Hashomer Hatzair; 250 in Bnei Akiva). A Beth Jacob school was opened in the 1930s but the first J. elementary school was only opened in 1939–40, expanding to include the junior high school grades after J. children were expelled from the public schools. The school eventually reached an enrollment of 500. In 1941, the authorities closed down 436 J. businesses and dozens of men were seized for forced labor. On 25 March 1942, 120 J. girls were deported to Auschwitz via Poprad and in early April, 100 young men were sent to the Majdanek concentration camp via Zilina. Several young men managed to escape from the deportations and joined up with the partisans. In early May, about 3,100 Jews were deported to the Lublin dist. of Poland, including nearly two-thirds to the Lukow ghetto where most perished. The remaining 1,000 Jews were sent to western Slovakia on 15 May 1944 as the fighting

neared the city. About half of the postwar community of 600 left for Israel in 1949. A few dozen Jews remained in 1995.

**MICHALOWO-NIEZABUDKA** Bialystok dist., Poland. Jews first settled in the mid-19th cent, entering the thriving cloth industry which German industrialists had established. Some bought up discarded hand looms and developed a home industry. Young Jews were in the forefront of the fight against the long hours and exploitation of child labor at the factories. With the decline of the industry after 1906, many Jews emigrated, their number dropping from 1,033 in 1897 to 887 (total 2,176) in 1921. During WWI, Jews worked abandoned farms to feed themselves. After the war, economic difficulties continued under heavy taxes and stiff competition. Mutual aid societies and a YEKOPPO-sponsored bank offered relief. In the mid-1920s, a Bund-supported CYSHO Yiddish school joined the Hebrew school founded by the Zionists before the war. The leading Zionist party was Po'alei Zion and the most popular youth movement Hashomer Hatzair. An Orthodox anti-Zionist Neturei Karta group was also prominent. After two years of Soviet rule in 1939–41, the Germans captured the town on 29 June 1941, confining its 800 Jews to a ghetto. In Nov. 1942 they were brought to the old Polish cavalry barracks near Bialystok and from there deported to the Treblinka death camp. Most of the 50 young Jews who managed to escape were subsequently caught and murdered.

**MICHAYLOVSKAYA** Krasnodar territory, Russia. In 1917, there were four prayer houses in the village, mostly serving converts. There were also Karaites present. A Tarbut school founded by the Zionists was closed down shortly after the Soviets seized power. When the Germans arrived in summer 1942, they murdered those Jews who had neither fled nor been evacuated, most of them refugees.

**MICHELBACH AN DER LUECKE** Wuerttemberg, Germany. The first Jews were apparently refugees from Rothenburg (1519–20). The community grew rapidly in the 19th cent., numbering 216 (total 692) in 1869 but thereafter declining steadily through emigration. The first synagogue was built in 1755 and a J. school was founded in the 1830s. From the second half of the 19th cent., Jews were mainly engaged in the cattle and horse trade and were among