# killing squads accountsoftheholocaust.org/

ROBERT KATZ

***Israel Gurwicz*** *you mentioned that there were lorries taking people away from the Ghetto that you were in –where were they taking them?*

HALINKA STREZGOWSKI

Last night Papa described the death of a friend. Nazi's had dragged him from his home, taken him to an empty lot, made him dig a grave and when he was done... they shot him.

ISRAEL GURWICZ (Vilna)

The Lorries went directly to the Ponary Forests where holes had been dug out [before the German invasion] as storage bunkers, 50 metres by diameter and 20 metres deep. [The Einsatz commandos](https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/einsatzgruppen) would massacre by machine gun, rifle and revolver. The bodies would just fall into the pits. The executioners would shovel sand into the pits to hide the bodies. The victims would undress prior to being shot so the Nazis could eliminate evidence and the bodies could disintegrate and be burned. The Clothes were sent back to the ghetto to be sorted and then sold by the Nazis as blood loot to the gentile merchants. Sometimes a bullet in the back of the head was not enough; snipers who saw movement in the trenches would finish them off. Sometimes when night would fall there would be survivors who would make their way out of the forests to try and escape.

ROBERT KATZ

*This is unbelievable? Can anyone else corroborate that this really happened?*

TRUCK DRIVER

I watched when the Jews – men, women and children arrived… Once undressed, they were led into the ravine and made to lie down on top of Jews who had already been shot. The corpses were literally in layers. A police marksman came along and shot each Jew in the neck with a submachine gun… I was so shocked by the terrible sight that I could not bear to watch for long…

RIVKA YOSSELEVSCKA

I felt the German soldier take my child from my arms. The child cried out and was shot immediately. And he then aimed at me. I heard a shot and I fell into the pit amongst the bodies. I thought maybe I am not alive… They all left… I was praying for death to come. I remained there. Stretched out on the grave, three days and three nights. Suddenly I heard a soft weeping near me in the grave. I recognized the weeping of a child. I crawled toward the voice. I discerned a little girl of three, alive and whole, and decided to save myself and the child. As I rested with her, holding her in my arms on the pile of corpses, I knew that if I survived, it would be she who had saved me.

ROBERT KATZ

*How is it possible for humans to commit murder on this scale?*

PAPA (member of the Einsatzgruppen)

It is a weakness not to be able to stand the sight of dead people; the best way of overcoming it is to do it more often. Then it becomes a habit.

ROBERT KATZ

*I do not understand how you can justify your actions?*

PAPA

The more one thinks about the whole business the more one comes to the conclusion that it was the only thing we could do to safeguard unconditionally the security of our people and our future…

ROBERT KATZ

***Papa*** *I don’t think I only speak for myself when I say that hateful and unrepentant opinions likey yours will not be tolerated on this group.* ***Anna Liebner****, I think you should close the comments on this post and maybe even report* ***Papa****?*

JAN M (Luta, Poland)

They [the victims] were not treated like humans, it was worse than animals. They didn’t consider them human.

* \*\*\*\*\*An admin turned off commenting for this post\*\*\*\*\*

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