



# HOL LO KA UST

IN  
NOVI SAD

Miško stanišić



TERRA ••  
FORMING



# THE HOLOCAUST



Cover Photo:  
Danijel Rip (right) in front of the furniture  
-making and repair workshop he founded  
with his partner.  
Date: 1937  
Photo number: 55619



Caption: Elvira and Mira Keller,  
daughters of Daniel's older sister  
Irene Ripp Keller,  
were killed in Auschwitz.  
Date: 1938-1940. Mr.



The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and murder of Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945.

The Holocaust is an unprecedented crime in history. Nazi Germany based its ideology on racist antisemitism. Before the dream of the new world order and living space for the German nation, for the Third Reich, the destruction of Jews became not only an instrument but the goal and sole purpose. Because when Germany is already essentially losing the war, the killing of Jews accelerates and intensifies despite or precisely because of it.

The Holocaust is an unprecedented crime in history because behind the project to destroy a minority community was the complete apparatus of a sturdy and modern German state, with all the resources, capacities, administration, and organization. All the segments, all the screws and gears of that powerful complex mechanism worked and turned with only one goal - to kill all the Jews. All the ministries, from economy and agriculture, energy and transport, to culture, information, and education, through services for social and family affairs, ministries for youth and sports, to the police and the army, all worked diligently and meticulously to kill one entire nation.

The Holocaust is an unprecedented crime in history because it took place on the entire European continent, as the Nazis were not alone. They had helpers all over Europe who willingly and happily joined in this enterprise, often killing their Jewish neighbors and fellow citizens on their own initiative and without German participation, or they arrested and handed them over to the Germans. In Serbia, too, we had collaborators and criminals: from Milan Nedić, through Dimitrije Ljotić and Kosta Pećanac, and various nameless and petty people who used the opportunity to steal something from someone else's misfortune and steal something.

The Holocaust is an unprecedented crime in history because it happened before the eyes of tens and tens of millions of silent observers. These bystanders did not want to see, or pretended not to see, or were afraid to see. While some, and not so rarely, were pleased and supported what was happening. All those quiet millions essentially made the Holocaust possible and enabled the crime.

Behind this silence, antisemitism, the oldest hatred, has been deeply embedded in the fabric of European cultural identity.

The Holocaust was a turning point in history as an event that crossed geographical boundaries and affected all segments of the societies it touched. Decades later, societies are still searching for ways to deal with the memory of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust remembrance culture implies not only preserving the memory of the victims but also recognizing one's own personal and social responsibility and the obligation to identify and oppose contemporary threats to civil and human rights. This also includes countering contemporary antisemitism and the abuse and distortion of history for the purpose of promoting nationalism, fear, and hate.

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Caption: Daniel's parents,  
Hinko and Marie Ripp  
in their garden in Novi Sad.  
Hinko was killed in the Novi Sad raid,  
and Mari in Auschwitz.  
Date: 1938-1940. Mr.  
Photo number: 32028



## HOLOCAUST IN NOVI SAD

During World War II, the population of 4,350 Jews in Novi Sad suffered greatly in the Holocaust. A total of 3,020, or 70%, of the Jewish community in Novi Sad were killed.

Crimes in Bačka, including those in Novi Sad, occurred in several periods. Immediately after the entry of Hungarian occupation forces on April 12 and 13, 1941, waves of violence targeted civilians in Novi Sad, as well as in Sombor, Subotica, Srbobran, and the Šajkaška villages: Čurug, Žabalj, Titel, Mošorin, Gospodinci, Đurđevo, and others.

### The Novi Sad Raid ✕

During the Raid in Southern Bačka in January 1942, the Hungarian army and gendarmerie killed over 4,000 civilians, mostly Serbs and Jews. In Novi Sad alone, about 900 Jews were murdered, which at that time accounted for nearly a quarter of the city's Jewish community.

### Forced Labor ✕

Throughout the Hungarian occupation of Bačka, anti-Jewish measures were systematically implemented. Jews were disenfranchised, harassed, looted, and expelled. All Jewish men aged 18 to 60 were forced to report for labor duty. Some were sent to labor camps in Central Europe, the Bor mines, or "labor units" on the Eastern Front. Many were killed or succumbed to disease and exhaustion.

### Deportation to Death Camps ✕

After German troops occupied Hungary in March 1944, even harsher anti-Jewish measures were immediately introduced, affecting Jews in Bačka as well. The looting of Jewish property was completed, and Jews were forced to wear yellow badges on their clothing.

In April, one of the most monstrous operations of the Holocaust began: over just eight weeks, approximately 424,000 Jews from Hungary were deported to Nazi death camps. This logistically complex and demanding operation resulted in the transportation and murder of over 565,000 Jews from Hungary and Hungarian-occupied territories. Mass arrests of Jews in Novi Sad and throughout Bačka began in the early hours of April 26, 1944, carried out by German and Hungarian forces. All members of the Jewish community were arrested, including children, women, the elderly, and the sick. Practically the entire Jewish population of Novi Sad was taken to the city's synagogue.

They were held in the synagogue from April 26 to April 28 without water, food, or toilets. From there, they were transported to assembly camps in Subotica, Baja, and Bačka Topola, where they were sorted and deported by trains to Nazi death camps, primarily Auschwitz. Most were killed in gas chambers immediately upon arrival. Of the approximately 1,900 Jews from Novi Sad deported in April 1944, only around 200 survived.

### Survivors ✕

After the liberation, only a few hundred Jews returned to Novi Sad. Some had survived the war as fighters in the Partisans, in exile, or in hiding under false identities, while others, against all odds, endured the horrors of concentration camps across Europe. A significant number of survivors emigrated a few years later, primarily to Israel but also to other countries.

Rebuilding the Jewish community in Novi Sad proved to be extremely challenging. Those who survived and chose to remain in Novi Sad, finding the strength to create a new life, establish families, and build a new community, became the foundation from which a young and vibrant Jewish community in Novi Sad grew—a community that exists to this day.

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Caption: Daniel Ripp, in Novi Sad

Date: July 1940

Photo number: 32025



# Daniel Rip

## *One of the stories about the Jews of Novi Sad*

Daniel Rip was born in Novi Sad in 1922. His parents were Hinko and Marie Rip. Daniel had a sister, Irena, and three brothers: Imre, Teodor, and Mihajlo.

Daniel's brother Teodor left for the United States before the war.

Daniel's sister Irena married and, as Irena Keller, gave birth to two daughters: Mira and Elvira. Imre was an activist of the Hashomer Hatzair - a Labor Zionist, secular Jewish youth movement.

Daniel trained to become an upholsterer and carpenter and started his shop shortly before the war.

In April 1941, Germany and its allies attacked Yugoslavia. After a short war, Novi Sad was under Hungarian occupation.

During the Novi Sad Raid on January 23, 1942, Hungarian gendarmes arrested Daniel's father, Hinko. A group of detained citizens, including Hinko, were ordered to lie down on the street, after which they were shot in the back of the head. Then, the Hungarian gendarmes threw the victims' bodies into the Danube River.

After the occupation, Imre was engaged in the resistance movement. In mid-1942, a few months after their father was killed, Imre was arrested for political activity and sent to forced labor in Ukraine, where he was killed, probably in 1943. He was posthumously honored by the Organization of The Partisans, Underground and Ghetto Resistance Fighters in Tel Aviv.

Together with the rest of the Novi Sad Jews, in April 1944, Daniel's mother, Marie, sister Irena, and Irena's two daughters, Mira and Elvira, were deported to Auschwitz, where they were killed, probably immediately after arriving in the camp.

In the summer of 1942, Daniel was sent to forced labor to build bunkers and barracks for the Hungarian military. In 1943, he was sent to the Hungarian border to build roads and then further east, where he was exploited working in a mine. There, Daniel was caught in the crossfire and wounded in the leg. After his leg healed, he was again forced to work in the Hungarian military labor battalions. The working conditions were very harsh, and the prisoners were beaten daily. Daniel was deported to the Budapest ghetto at the end of 1944. There he met his future wife, Judit Fribert, from Czechoslovakia.

Judith Fribert was the youngest of the nine children of Emanuel and Vera Fribert. After the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia, Judith escaped to Budapest. She begged her family to accompany her to Hungary, but they still decided to stay in Czechoslovakia. All members of Judith's family were killed. In the ghetto in Budapest, Judith met Daniel Rip.

Judith and Daniel survived the Holocaust. They married on February 26, 1945, less than two weeks after Soviet troops liberated Budapest. Judith and Daniel decided to return to Novi Sad and look for surviving relatives. The only survivor was Daniel's brother Michael.

Judit and Daniel had two children in Novi Sad: Vera in 1946 and Henri in 1947. Immediately after arriving in Novi Sad, Daniel was recruited into the Yugoslav Army. After finishing his military service in 1948, Daniel, Judith, the children, Daniel's brother Mihajlo, and Mihajlo's wife immigrated to Israel.

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Caption: Portrait of the four  
Ripp brothers: Daniel, Imre, Mihael,  
and Teodor, in Novi Sad.  
Date: 1938-1940  
Photo number: 55617



# THE HOLOCAUST



Caption: Irena Ripp Keller  
and her daughters Elvira  
and Mira in their yard in Novi Sad.  
They were killed in Auschwitz.  
Date: 19.01.1940. Mr.  
Photo number: 32026



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Caption: Yugoslav Jews on board the ship Kefalos, sailing from Bakar in Croatia to Israel.

Date: December 1948.

Photo number: 24743



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All photos:

Source and copyright: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington

Provenance: Vera Ripp Hirschhorn

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Literature and references:

Deportation of Jews from Bačka in 1944 (Vladimir Todorović, Petar Đurđev and Aleksandar Bursač, Archives of Vojvodina - Danubius Association)

Holocaust Encyclopedia (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

Place of remembrance of the deportation of Novi Sad Jews to concentration camps

(kulturasecanja.com - Archives of Vojvodina)

Teaching Material Against Antisemitism (Terraforming)

Recommendations of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance IHRA

Murder of Hungarian Jews (Yad Vashem)

Author: Miško Stanišić

Design: Darko Vuković



Caption:  
Classical music concert in the Novi Sad synagogue, 2024.

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