

Russia, by murdering all the Jews it could catch. No family was to be spared. Nor were any resources to be wasted in setting up ghettos, nor in the deportation of Jews to distant camps or murder sites. The killing was to be done in the towns and villages, at the moment of military victory.

When the German army invaded Russia in June 1941, its advance was so rapid that less than 300,000 Jews were able to escape eastward, to safety beyond the Volga.

The photograph, taken from the personal album of one of the officers in the picture, shows the arrival of a detachment of Einsatzgruppe D in the town of Drohobycz, in the Polish province of Eastern Galicia, which Russia had annexed in October 1939. Part of the task of these killing squads was to recruit local anti-semites, whether Ukrainians, Lithuanians, or Latvians, who could help them to round up, terrorize and destroy each Jewish community, however small. For the work of this particular detachment in Drohobycz itself, see page 67.

The map above shows the regions allocated to the different killing squads, and the initial points of attack of the German army and its Rumanian ally on 22 June 1941.

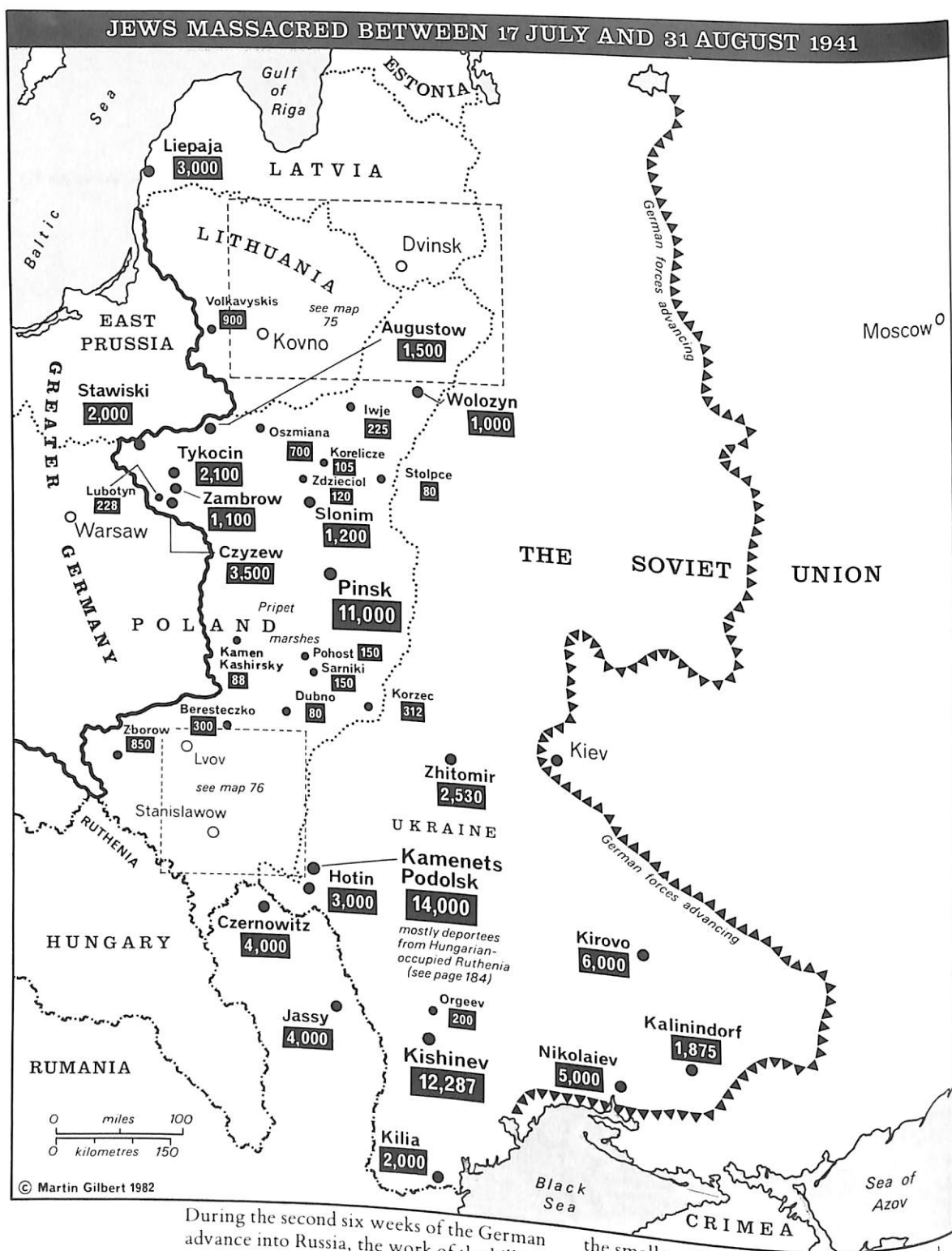




state between the wars. The Volhynia was annexed by Russia at the time of the Nazi-Soviet partition of Poland in October 1939. In the area shown here, there were also more than 100 smaller Jewish communities.

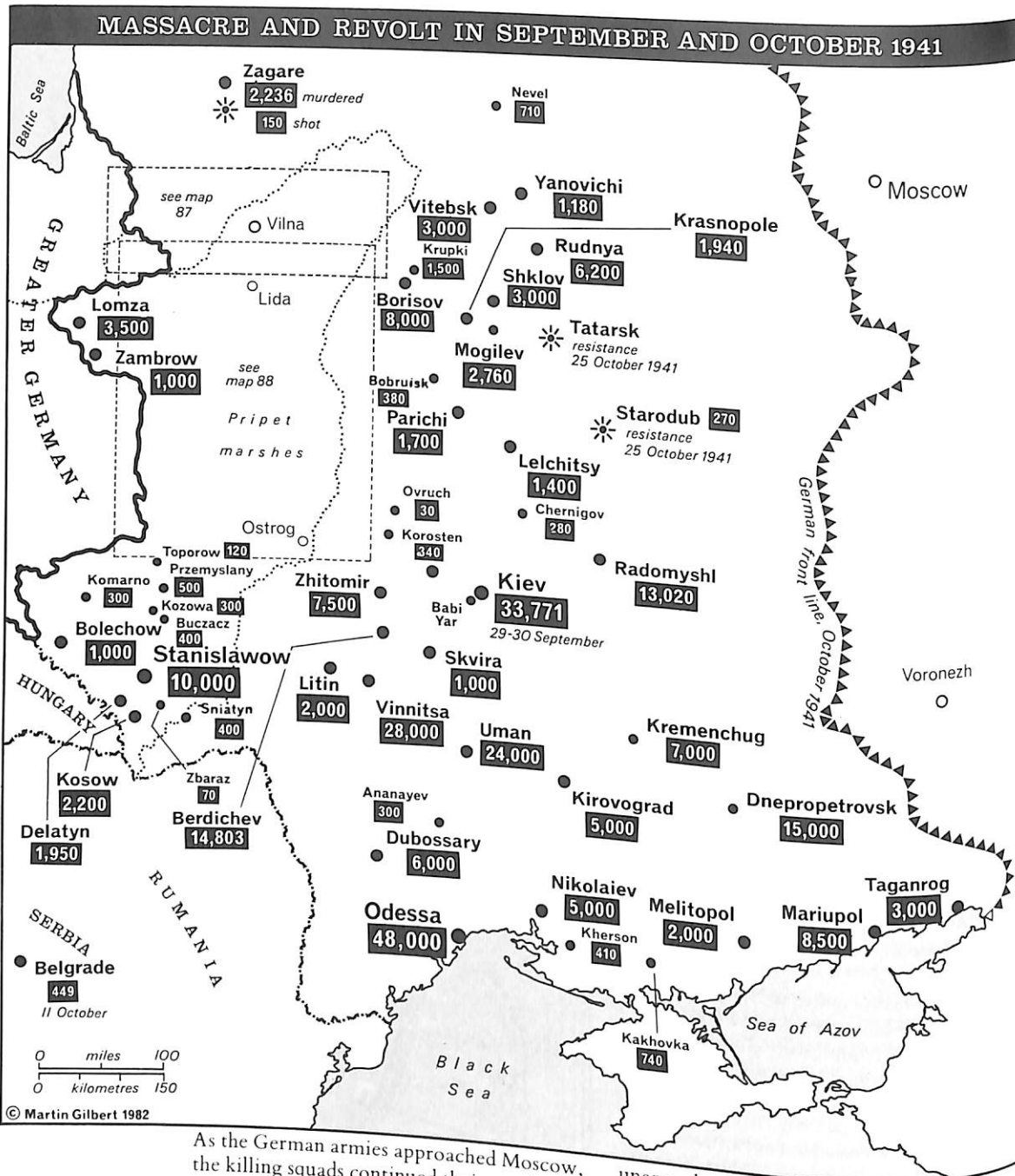
In all, more than a quarter of a million Jews were living in the Volhynia in 1939. The figures above show some of the German killing squad massacres during the first three weeks following the invasion.





During the second six weeks of the German advance into Russia, the work of the killing squads continued without respite. This map, like the previous map and the maps on the right, shows only a small percentage of the total killings. For many places, particularly

the smaller villages and hamlets, no record survives. Nor was the killing confined to SS units. In Lithuania local non-Jews were among the most savage killers, while in the south, Rumanian troops and militia murdered thousands of Jews in the area of

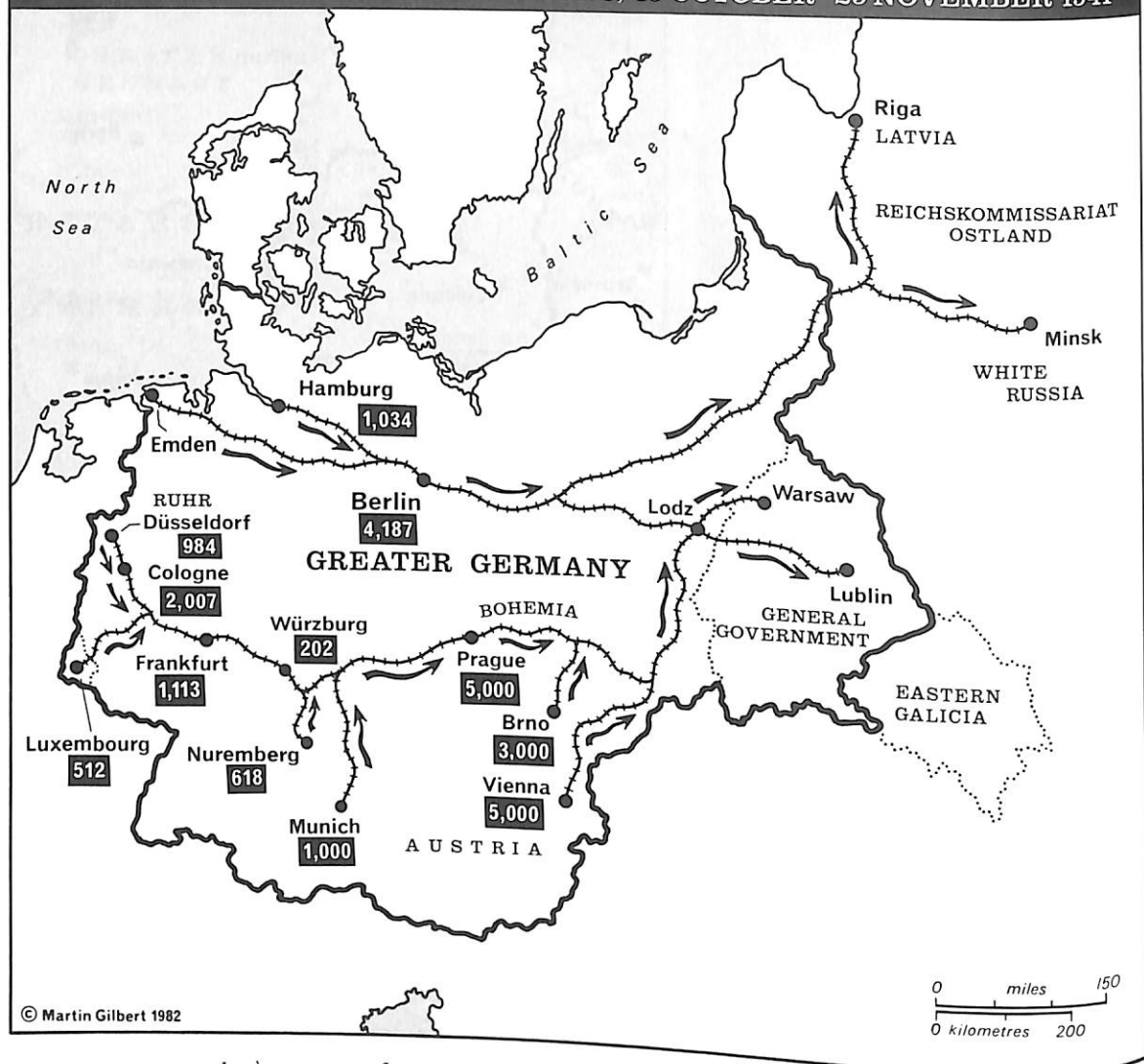


As the German armies approached Moscow, the killing squads continued their work behind the lines. The map above shows some of the main killings. The map opposite (above) shows the details in the Vilna region of Lithuania, where a German lieutenant carefully recorded for his superiors the precise number of those killed on each day of his squad's activities, dividing his statistics into men, women and children.

The killing squads were heavily armed and had strong local support. The Jews were

unarmed, and surrounded by an extremely hostile peasantry, who sometimes attacked them even before the killing squads had arrived. In some cases this random butchery of so many Jews led the SS to order the locals to stop the killing, in order to put it on a 'systematic' basis, according to the killing squad schedules. Despite the overwhelming odds against them the Jews rose in revolt wherever they could. The first revolts, as shown above, were at Tatarsk and Starodub. To crush this resistance, German regular

TWELVE EASTWARD DEPORTATIONS, 16 OCTOBER-29 NOVEMBER 1941



In the autumn of 1941 the SS decided to deport more than 22,000 Jews to the ghettos of Lodz, Warsaw and Lublin, and to the former Soviet cities of Riga and Minsk (*above*). The first of these deportation trains left on 16 October 1941. On reaching the ghettos, the Jews were faced with starvation. On reaching Riga and Minsk, many were taken to nearby woods and shot.

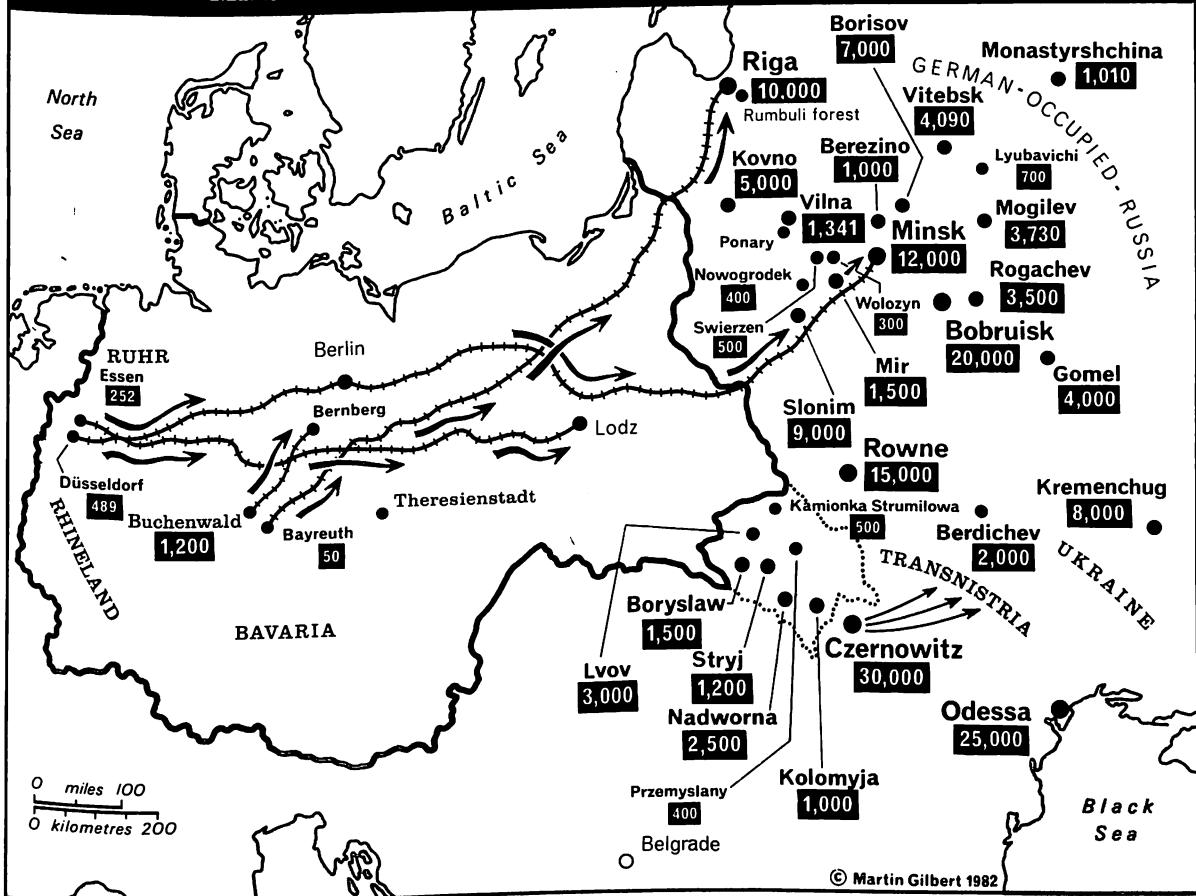
Meanwhile, beginning on 10 October 1941, thousands of Slovak Jews were sent to labour camps at Sereď, Vyhne and Novaky, while the remaining Jews living in what had once been Czechoslovakia were ordered out of their homes and sent to specially designated 'ghetto areas' in 14 selected towns (*opposite, above*). Already, on 1 September 1941, these Jews had been

ordered to wear the yellow star, and to cease all business activity. In Slovakia alone more than 10,000 Jewish shops and businesses had been closed down.

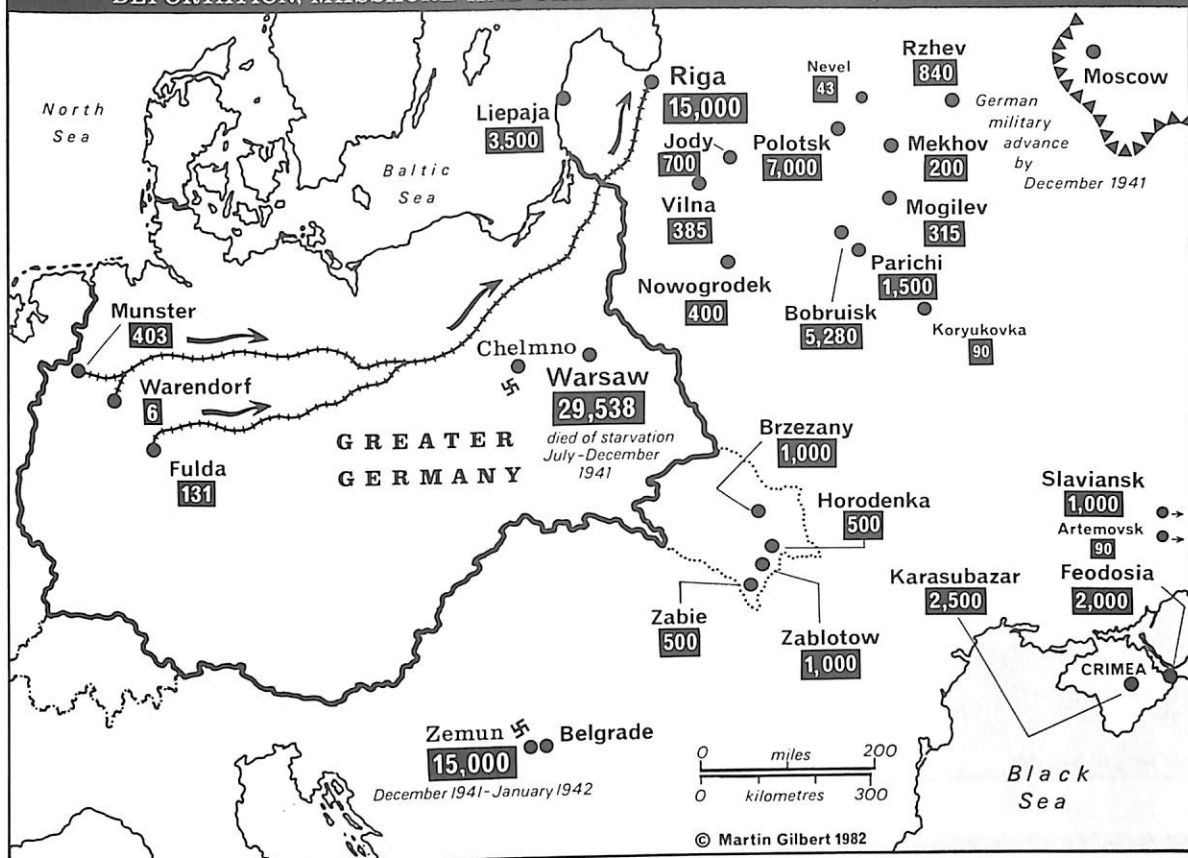
The largest of the new ghettos was established on 24 November 1941 in the small fortress town of Theresienstadt, known in Czech as Terezin. By the end of the war, 73,614 Jews had been deported to Theresienstadt from Bohemia and Moravia, and thousands more from elsewhere in Greater Germany.

In November the eastward deportations continued, as did the work of the mobile killing squads (*right*). At the same time, as an experiment, 1,200 prisoners at Buchenwald were taken to the euthanasia institute at Bernburg, and gassed.

MASSACRE AND DEPORTATION, NOVEMBER 1941



DEPORTATION, MASSACRE AND THE FIRST DEATH CAMP, DECEMBER 1941



The successful gassing of 1,200 Jews from Buchenwald in November 1941 was followed two weeks later by a second gassing experiment. The place chosen was a wood near the Polish village of Chelmno; the victims were Jewish villagers from several nearby communities (*opposite*). The method chosen was to bring the Jews by narrow gauge railway from Kolo to Powierce, drive them with whips to the river, lock them overnight, without food or water, in the mill at the hamlet of Zawadki (seen here in a photograph taken in 1980), and then, in the morning, drive them in lorries to the woods near Chelmno, gassing them by exhaust fumes during the journey. The bodies were then thrown into deep pits, while the lorries returned to the mill for more victims. In all, five lorries were used, three of which held up to 150 people, and two up to 100. By noon, the whole trainload had usually been destroyed.

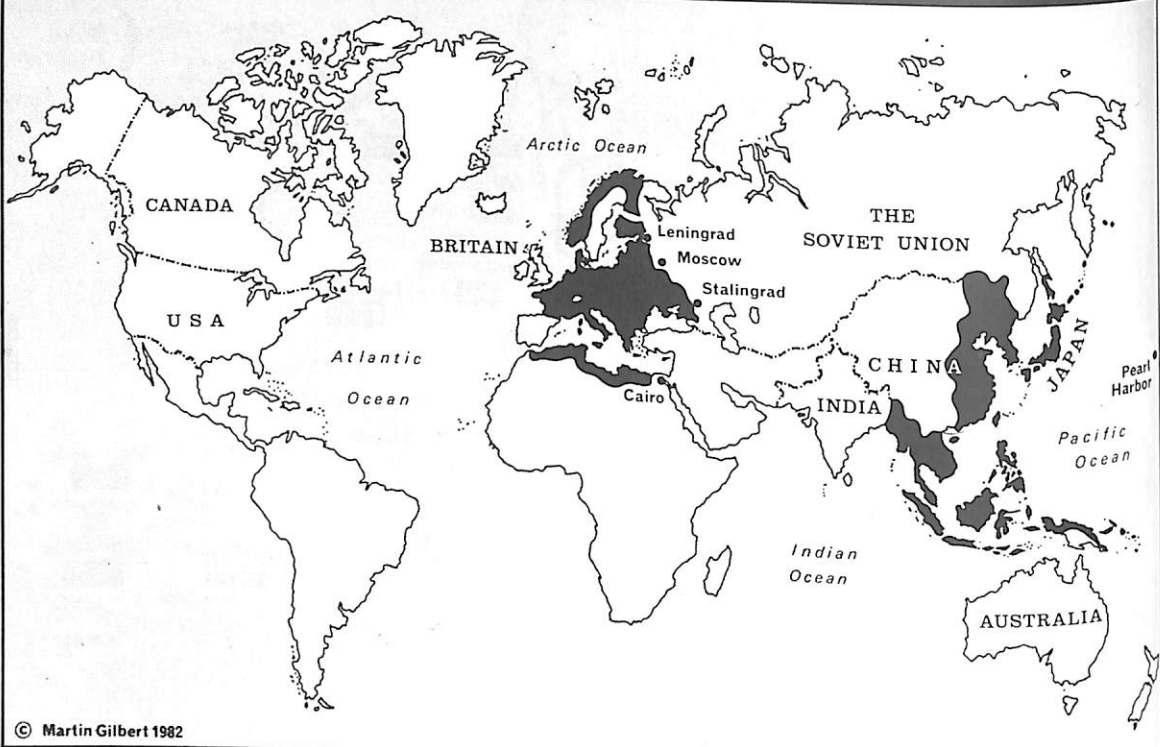
The first gassing at Chelmno took place on 8 December 1941. It was judged a success, and was continued on an ever widening scale. The next 1,000 victims had already been

taken by truck from six villages to Kowale Panskié, and were held there until the journey to Chelmno on 10 December 1941.

Even as the gassings at Chelmno began, the deportations from Germany to Riga continued, as did the mass murder of deportees almost immediately after their arrival (*above*). Thus on 13 December 1941 the last six Jews living in Warendorf were deported to Riga and killed: their small community dated back to 1387, and had been 41 strong in 1933. Most had managed to emigrate by 1939. In the south-east, German forces had conquered the Crimea. Here too, community after community was being wiped out by the killing squads.

It was not only at Chelmno that mobile gas vans were being used. At the concentration camp at Zemun, just outside Belgrade, some 15,000 Jews from all over Serbia were gradually but systematically being gassed in vans disguised as Red Cross vehicles. By June 1942 all had been killed: an average of 120 every day. No sooner had the vans completed their task at Zemun than they were transferred to Riga (*page 104*).

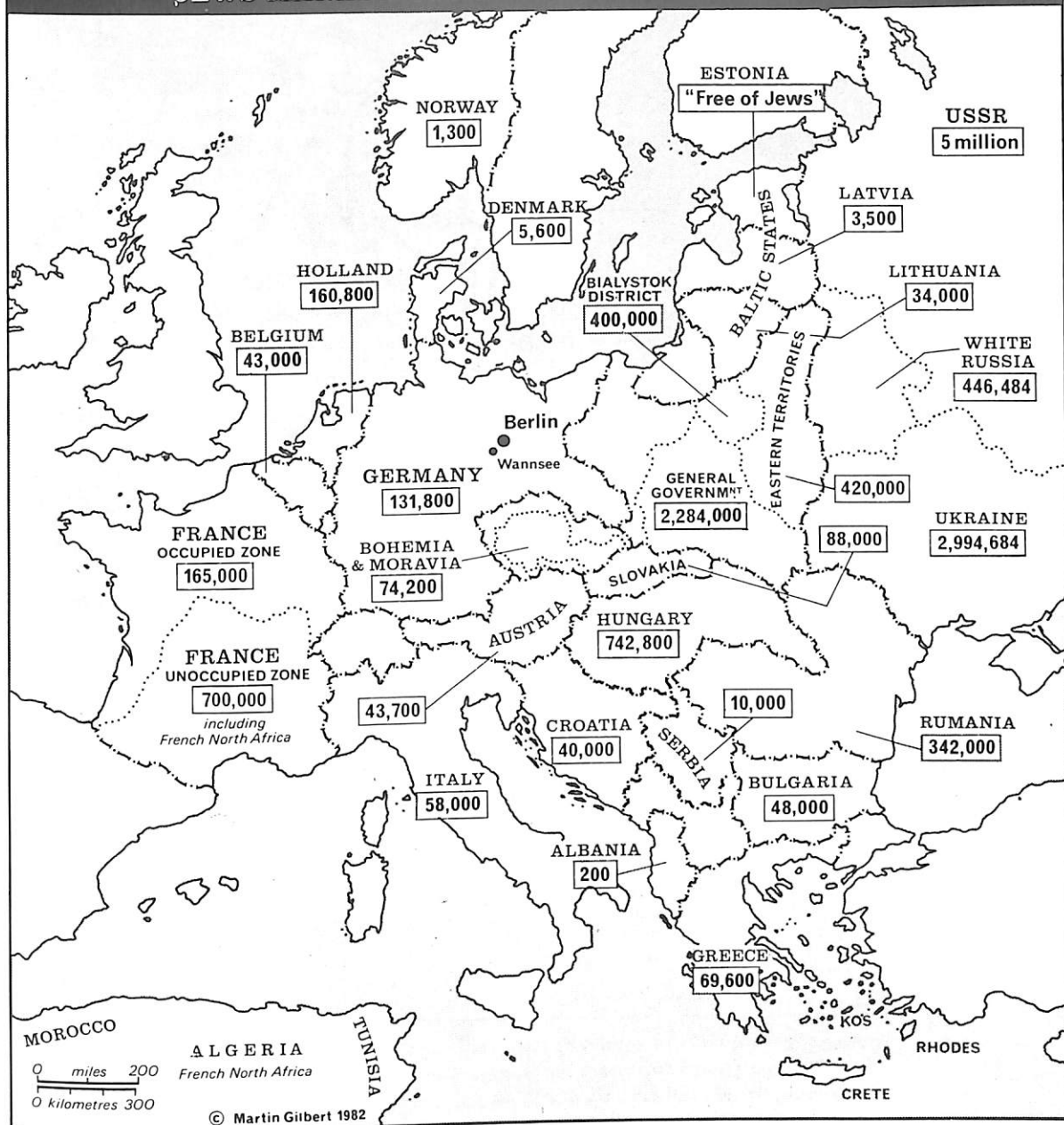
GLOBAL WAR: THE U.S.A., THE AXIS POWERS, AND JAPAN



THE KILLING OF JEWS CONTINUES: THE BALTIC STATES



Jews Marked Out for Death, 20 January 1942



By December 1941 the German armies were masters of Europe, and on 7 December 1941 the Japanese entered the war against the United States and Britain (*opposite, above*).

From Estonia the killing squads reported to Berlin with their usual precision the murder over the previous six months of 229,052 Jews in Latvia and Lithuania (*opposite, below*). All 1,000 Jews caught in Estonia had also been killed.

At the Wannsee suburb of Berlin, German officials gathered on 20 January 1942 to

discuss the final destruction of European Jewry. They also noted, as seen on the map above, what they believed to be the precise number of Jews still to be killed. The 'low' figures for the Baltic States indicate their knowledge that so many thousands had been killed already. At the Wannsee Conference plans were made for what was called the 'Final Solution', to be carried out by means of slave labour for all able-bodied Jews, the separation of men from women, and mass deportation.



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