

Secret Intelligence Service
Room No. 15



Lviv pogrom

75 years ago, July 1, 1941, following the occupation of Lvov by German troops in the city, there was a terrible massacre - the abuse, rape and murder of thousands of Jews, including women and children.

What was it? And who is to blame - aimed at the "final solution of the Jewish question" invaders? Announced the seizure of power by Ukrainian nationalists - the anti-Semites themselves, besides buck to the Germans? Or ordinary citizens, for whom the pogrom become like a medieval carnival - where you can safely afford to surrender to the forbidden and the basest instincts?

What happened?

German troops entered Lviv on 30 June. Despite frequent changes of government since 1914 (from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to Russia, then to Poland, finally, to the USSR), the city remained a multinational: about 50 percent of Poles, 30 percent of Jews

and 16 percent Ukrainians.

The immediate reason for the pogrom was the corpses of executed prisoners of the NKVD, which the German authorities have discovered in three prisons of the city. Jews were forced to make the corpses in the yard, where they shall be presented to the identification of the inhabitants of the city.

Understanding the riots and violence during the Second World War radically changed after the release of the 2001 book by American historian Jan Gross (Jan Gross) "Neighbours" - the destruction of the Jews in the town of Jedwabne their Polish neighbors.

Gross is not removed from the German government's responsibility for the genocide organized, but clearly indicated - Eastern Europeans used the German occupation for personal revenge against Jews and plundered with impunity. Another important signal - the works of Canadian historian of Ukrainian origin, John-Paul Khimki, the Holocaust in Eastern Europe, particularly in Lviv. Conclusions Khimki, Bandera showed an active part in the pogrom of 1941, and consequently provoked a strong criticism of the Ukraine.

So the Germans made certain that the Jewish population tied to the NKVD crimes. The crowd rushed to the Jews, the Germans opened fire. In place of the shot brought under escort new slave laborers. The townspeople threw stones at them, beat with sticks and forced them to move on all fours.

In prison, "Brygidki", according to the memoirs of one of the survivors, one Ukrainian, attired in beautiful embroidery, beat Jews with a cane which had an iron knob - such that the eyes, the skin and the brain pieces flew in all directions. When the cane broke, he took a charred log.

The Germans were all photographed. The Gestapo shot the wounded and those who performed the work (rendered corpses) - only a thousand people. Around nine o'clock the survivors pushed against the wall, demanding to come back to four in the morning.

At the same time in the city Jews were forced to dig trash in places of hostilities and to clean the streets. The derogatory meaning of this was clear: Jews, many of whom were doctors, musicians, professors, should wield brooms. One was forced to clean the pavement with a toothbrush, the other - to collect the manure into a hat.

Women were given special "attention." They were beaten, stripped and threated rioters from one to another. Those pregnant were kicked in the stomach. According to the testimony of a girl, her school friend, a Communist, was caught, shaved bald and forced to run down the street naked. She went home and hanged herself. Cases of rape were reported. The Germans, once again, filmed it all on film.

The Ukrainians - were the real Nazis

So upon whom lays the primary blame for the pogrom organization - at Hitlerites or Ukrainian nationalists? In favor of an active participation of the latter in mockery and murder of Jews says a lot of facts. First, before the start of "Operation Barbarossa", in May 1941, in the instructions for the future Police Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) indicated that hostile minorities - Russian, Poles, Jews - were to be destroyed. In addition, the nationalists (like the Germans) equalized "Jewish" and Bolshevism.

Already on June 30, nationalists began to form the Ukrainian police. Policemen with yellow-blue armbands. Jews were seized in the streets, expelled from their apartments, beaten and driven to prisons. Boys six to ten years, including uniformed OUN, mocked Jewish, plucked hair from the beards of the elderly.

Finally, in Lviv, the Bandera faction of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN-B) proclaimed an independent state. Although the Germans covered this up a few days later, arrested Stepan Bandera and his associates, - OUN members were trying to convince the Third Reich in their allegiance to Nazi ideology (including on the Jewish question).

But the main rivals in the fight for the western lands to the OUN were not Jews, and Poles (constituted in the same Lviv majority of the population) - Bandera killed tens of thousands. Particular zeal in the pogrom on July 1 can only be explained by the desire of Bandera to prove that they deserved a decent place in the "New Europe" of Hitler.

Germans: Holocaust proxy

Yes, the Ukrainian nationalists were enthusiastic mobs, but the present directors of the tragedy were still Germans. Historian Paul Dieter (Dieter Pohl) indicates the spontaneously evolved division of labor: the Jews being ready to destroy the SS was very badly imagined. Ukrainian cities - one where he lived - and

did not know the language. they point to the victims (and sometimes lead) local informants and interpreters.

And the Germans are welcome manifestation of the "people's anger." One of the Jewish women ran to the German soldiers in the prison yard, begging to protect herself from abuse. "No, we can not, it is revenge Ukrainians", - said she. But the Gestapo clearly said "stop" to the evening of July 1, and the next two or three days of mayhem was "off".

For this you can see the trick Heydrich and the SS: action facilitated the work of the German firing squads (Einsatzgruppen), doing the work for them.

Finally, the occupation authorities received an excellent argument to convince Jews to move freely in the ghetto - see, only there you will be safe from the "wrath" of the local' (It is clear that to organize the destruction of those assembled in the ghetto population was much easier).

However, in addition to the SS, organizing actions and helping them were Ukrainian nationalists, mayhem, as it is shameful to admit, was a city-wide "business" - more precisely, a carnival. As we know from the works of the philosopher Mikhail Bakhtin, the carnival in a traditional society - a periodic ritual scrapped the usual public order, when the brawl and festivities ridiculed powers and imposed their strict rules. Carnival "let off steam" and in the end only leads to the strengthening of the old order.

In the "pogrom carnival" 1 July was spilled hatred of the Jews, who allegedly took the best places in the city - hence the mocking requirements for doctors and businessmen to clean the streets and toilets. From here - sexual permissiveness and aggression.

In addition, the pogrom of the citizens in the form of games, "celebrated the" liberation of Lviv by Soviet authorities. Jews were forced to march, to sing Russian songs and praise Stalin in a loud voice. One witness recalled how the Ukrainians demanded that the Jews around the fortress hands up and shouting: "We want Stalin!" These "rituals" were not limited to Lviv. For example, in Coloma, Ukrainians forced a Jew to stand on the pedestal of the statue of Soviet leader defeated, while others chanted: "Stalin, you fool!"

What happened July 1, 1941 explains a different anthropological

term: a rite of passage. To the residents of Lviv could emancipate from the tainted Bolsheviks in a new and "clean" society, they had to prove their anti-Soviet beliefs specific action - killing or even mocking the Jews who were turned into scapegoats. "Atonement of Bolshevism sin meant the sacrifice of the Jew, who embodied a sin", - writes the historian, Wendy Lauer.

Therefore, in the pogrom, was involved all sections of society - not just thugs, hooligans and other scum elements as claimed later by Ukrainian activists.

The nationalists, Polish and Ukrainian priests, representatives of the liberal professions and the peasants from the surrounding villages, the elderly and young people, civil servants and workers - abused and robbed the Jews. Many surviving witnesses recall the speech of the Polish thugs (the Poles, one recalls, were the largest ethnic group in Lviv).

So the pogrom of July 1, 1941 arranged all of the powerful. Germans - the frightened Jews, - an action of intimidation actually being in someone else's hands. Ukrainian nationalists demonstrated their strength and loyalty to the new authorities. The rest of the townspeople looted with impunity and mocked.

One can hardly say a word to justify the pogrom. Trying to explain his revenge for the atrocities of the NKVD citizens, Ukrainian nationalists seemed to forget that the Jews also suffered from the Soviet authorities persecuted the Bund, the Trotskyites and the Zionists.

But what is very important - one must not forget that the Holocaust was not only orchestrated from Berlin- more "complex events". In the early years of the war and occupation the Jews were very actively hunted by the locals and the Holocaust developed in line with the supposed settling of accounts with the neighbors.

But as one looks toward the east everything changed. The closer to the lands of the former Russian Empire, the more Jews perished in the organized actions of the Germans and less - in the "grassroots" excesses. In Kiev, there was a pogrom - which was of course, Babi Yar.

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Adversitate. Custodi. Per Verum