

Sonderkommando

Introduction

The *Sonderkommando* were Jewish prisoners who worked the death camps in return for special treatment and privileges. Every few months, the current sonderkommando was liquidated and the first task of their successors was to dispose of the bodies of the previous group. Since a sonderkommando usually comprised men from incoming transports, their second task often consisted of disposing of the bodies of their own families. The sonderkommando did not participate in the actual killing -- that was carried out by the Nazis. The sonderkommando duties included guiding the new arrivals into the gas chambers, removing the bodies afterwards, shaving hair, removing teeth, sorting through possessions (much of which they were given as reward), cremating the bodies, and disposing of the ashes. Their knowledge of the internal workings of the camp marked them for certain death. Someone selected for the sonderkommando had a choice: die then or die in four months time [This descriptive appears in many Holocaust web pages]

So the above pretty much reveals what this album is all about. The following chapters reveal in more detail the nature of the songs on the album.

I visited Auschwitz II-Birkenau: in November 2011, and was profoundly touched by the whole experience. I had read and seen images of what occurred here, but to wander within the barbed wire perimeter's, settled my doubts as to any exaggerations or deceptive images I had seen in books. The place was huge, and its purpose resonated with the unspeakable. You cannot manufacture a perpetuating lie from such a resoundingly inhospitable place. You can sense the deathly atmosphere permeating the air, a real aura of hopelessness. I wrote much of the lyrics to the album as I sat by the dread watchtowers, and in various places in the camp.

One bizarre sight was the Polish security guards dressed in black like ghosts of the past patrolling the area with menace. I found this quite ironic. And there were the masses of Jews walking in sombre crowds, flags of Israel held aloft in some warped pride .

Laughter seemed forbidden, much like any visit to a graveyard, and yet there were no actual graves, just the marked areas where the shattered Crematoriums once stood, and the now overgrown death pits that once spat the remains of the dead into the air.

The album I wanted to create has been brought to life by J,D Tait, to tell the story of why, when and where the Holocaust happened.

When part of the human race slides into absolute madness, it takes the courage of those left in the sane world to make good the wrongs of the lunatics.

This essay is not a patronizing self justification of the 'Sonderkommando' album, rather a short [compared to the Jesus the Jew Album, this treatise this is short] elaboration of how I look upon the Holocaust. There will be a few people who will find disdain in such a musical audio venture, some who will find some historical truth, some who will refute some aspects, and some who will not give a shit one way or the other.

The music always comes first and the substance of the experience [the lyrics] second. Eastern Europe [as well as many other nations] has an unavoidable burden of guilt when it comes to the Holocaust. This is not to single out Germany as a single example of where atrocities can exist. Atrocities are, and have been committed by every nation across the expanse of history.

I shall state now, that I do not intend to offend, nor blame the German people of today, but cannot relinquish my history lesson of their past. Although Germany did not wholly carry out the atrocities during the Holocaust, nor can they be blamed for the endemic anti-Semitism that prevailed at the time, the Nazi movement was the ignition for the crime.

We should all accept that whatever nationality we are there is a Burden of guilt from some past atrocity committed for whatever reason. No doubt some Germans will feel aggrieved that this particular event is being dug up yet again, but this is History. The same can be applied to my own country and being an English man I am well aware of my own past, such as the famines that killed between 12 and 29 million Indians, murdered by British state policy, and the how white settlers and British troops suppressed the Mau Mau revolt in Kenya in the 1950s. Thrown off their best land and deprived of political rights, the Kikuyu started to organise - some of them violently - against colonial rule. The British responded by driving up to 320,000 of them into concentration camps. Most of the remainder - more than a million - were held in "enclosed villages". Prisoners were questioned with the help of "slicing off ears, boring holes in eardrums, flogging until death, and pouring paraffin over suspects who were then set alight, and burning eardrums with lit cigarettes". British soldiers used a "metal castrating instrument" to cut off testicles and fingers. There is also the Tasmanian

genocide, the use of collective punishment in Malaya, the bombing of villages in Oman, the dirty war in North Yemen, the evacuation of Diego Garcia, and so on. And what about The English Civil War, and in particular the mass execution and starvation of the civilian population, meant that Oliver Cromwell was responsible for the deaths of approximately 25% of the population of the British Isles. In terms of head count, that wasn't many, but in terms of percentage it puts Hitler in the shade. And we still name roads after him.

I cite the above to show that I am well aware that atrocities are not German born as the Holocaust can sometimes imply.

I also do not intend offense to Jews, but the Holocaust isn't just their lamentation, it is a world view atrocity that everyone can have an emotional link towards. .

The historian, Jacob Talman, states the following on the Holocaust

"Never since the dawn of history had the world witnessed such a campaign of extermination. This was not an explosion of Religious fanaticism; not a wave of pogroms, the work of incited mobs running amok or led by a ring leader; not the riots of a soldiery gone wild or drunk with victory and wine; not the fear-wrought psychosis of revolution or civil war that rises and subsides like a whirlwind. It was none of these. An entire nation was handed over by a 'legitimate' government to murderers organized by the authorities and trained to hunt and kill, with one single provision, that everyone, the entire nation be murdered - men and women, old and young, healthy and sick and paralyzed, everyone, without any chance of even one of those condemned to extermination escaping his fate.

After they had suffered torture, degradation, and humiliation inflicted on them by their tormentors to break them down, to rob them of the last shred of human dignity, and to deprive them of any strength to resist and perhaps of any desire to live, the victims were seized by the agencies of the state and brought from the four corners of Hitlerite Europe to the death camps to be killed, individually or in groups, by the murderers bullets over graves dug by the victims themselves, or in slaughterhouses constructed especially for human beings. For the condemned, there was no judge to whom to appeal for a redress of injustice; no government from which to ask protection and punishment for the murderers; no neighbour on whose gate to knock and ask for shelter; no God to whom to pray for mercy. It is in all this that this last campaign of extermination differs from all the other massacres, mass killings, and bloodshed perpetrated throughout history.

The Holocaust visited on the Jews is different from all other earlier massacres in its conscious and explicit planning, in its systematic execution, in the absence of any emotional element in the remorselessly applied decision to exterminate everyone, but everyone; in the exclusion of any possibility that someone, when his turn came to be

liquidated, might escape his fate by surrendering, by joining the victors and collaborating with them, by converting to the victors faith, or by selling himself into slavery in order to save his life'

The above is a profound statement and one that is very hard to argue against.

I think the arguments over whether 6,000,000 or 1,000,000 people died in eastern Europe/ German death camps makes no difference to the indisputable fact that hundreds and thousands of old people, women and children were murdered because of a vile racist ideology spouted by a violent and egomaniacal political policy.

The revisionist and Holocaust deniers can rant and rave about Zionists owning the worlds media, and milking the sympathy vote for Israel for as long as they choose, but murder of innocents on a vast scale through mass shootings, starvation and brutality, most certainly occurred and the atrocities documented most definitely happened.

Forget the Gas chambers for a moment, especially if you lean towards the revisionist theories, yet the mass liquidation of terrified human beings at gun point on a huge scale is an indisputable fact, even for you.

The whole terrible episode is purely rooted to the age old human inability to rid himself/herself, of Hatred for whatever reason, for whatever cause. [On this occasion it is racial hatred]

Again, this two sided coin of racial hate can be applied to the Jewish hatred of Palestinians, and is as evil as the Nazi hatred of Jews or Palestinian hatred of Jews.

The core reason for most atrocities is Hatred and that is what motivated the Holocaust.

The point here is that this album is about the holocaust, and not about the Palestinians, nor the Jewish infiltrations into the world's political spine. That can be left for someone else to bemoan about.

Another point to remember is, out of the 50 Million estimated to die in World War II, only 6 Million reportedly were Jews. Most were Chinese people. Death is death and such an emphasis is placed on the very word, Holocaust that we tend to forget the many victims of Hitler's war overall.

The Holocaust [which means 'a sacrifice completely consumed by fire; or a, burnt offering], is a subject like many that will stimulate many different emotions. Some will be ignorant of its very meaning, others will be indifferent. Then there are the Jews in which this crime was mostly [but not entirely] perpetrated against [and make no mistake, a crime it most definitely was], and the perpetrators of the crime itself, the German Nazi political movement. [Although heavily aided and abetted by many different satellite states that befell their human fragility in the pursuit of greed and bloodlust when allowed to do so without fear of retribution.]

The Holocaust specifically relates to the Jewish Genocide of World War Two, the term Genocide was invented by Raphael Lemkin in (1943)"by combining "genos" (race, people) and "cide" (to kill). The word denotes "the deliberate and systematic destruction, in whole or in part, of an ethnic, racial, religious, or national group"

The progression towards the Holocaust from the last album, The Murder of Jesus the Jew, seems a completely natural one, as both are unavoidably linked in the meandering paths of history. Without Jesus, there would be no Christian Church, and without that lumbering corrupt institution, there would be no inbred hatred for Jews, which would nurture the intense anti-Semitism that was festering in Europe during the centuries preceding the rise of the Nazi movement. One part of the 'Sonderkommando' album is to show that Adolf Hitler was but a spark that ignited this tragedy of History.

I don't think you can cite Hitler as the main cause for the Holocaust. He was its ignition point, but the fuse had been lit since the Pope of Rome condemned the Jews for the murder of their supposed God. The irony here is that this God just happened to be a Jew himself/ itself/ whatever God is supposed to be?]

[The creation of the Jesus myth is well documented in the Jesus the Jew album chapters found on this site]

Hitler, though culpable on many accounts, was only a piece of a very complex sequence of events that led to the Holocaust. The Composer Wagner was influential to Hitler's mindset, and influenced Hitler and many Germans. And the anti-Semitism ripe, in many of the countries the Nazi war machine overwhelmed was just waiting for a spark to prompt its native populations into committing such despicable acts of violence. To understand why it happened we must look into the past.

First of all, the Holocaust and the wholesale murder of Jews is not a fabricated lie as some revisionists proclaim. You can't invent something so vast, so terrible, and not have any substance of its existence. Even if you remove the gas chambers as I have already mentioned, we still have the mass slaughter of innocents and a racial motive for doing so.

Like the African slave trade, or the decimation of the North American Indians, and numerous other tragedies of mankind, the Jews were the victims of pure and simple hatred.

The five death camps in [more of them later] Poland, all have their own tales of barbarity and cruelty to share with the world and not all can be the exaggerated lies many would have us believe. The Holocaust was a unique Crime against Humanity, the deliberate and mercilessly efficient extermination of a whole race, men, women,

children, the old and the disabled. All condemned to death, not for what they had done, but for who they were.

This all consuming hatred is not a new phenomenon in the history of the Human Race. The vicious slaughter of fellow human beings have always been part of the animal instincts of Man, History is littered with massacres carried out through political or religious incentives. Territorial disputes, expanding empires, and even the word 'Progress' can be cited for the ruthless annihilation of indigenous peoples.

The great famines caused by Stalin, the appalling, unpunished genocide of the Armenians during the first world war by the Turks, the atrocities of Maoist China, the lesser, but by no means less horrifying genocides of, Cambodia, and, ex-Yugoslavia. One can also mention totalitarian Marxist ideology in Russia that caused the deaths of twenty million people. This is a monstrously high figure, and yet a much lower percentage of all soviet citizens than the one third of all Jews butchered by the Nazi [Two thirds of European Jewry].

The worst Genocide in history was the slow eradication of North American Indians who were annexed into reservations where their cultural existence was virtually blotted from the face of the earth. This is a genocide of over 15 million Native Americans, whose only crime was being in their place of residence first.

We can also cite the Rape of Nanking, where the Japanese raped, pillaged, and murdered somewhere between 100,000 and 400,000 Chinese citizens, after taking the Chinese capitol of Nanking.

It has been and probably always will be possible for a culture to become infected with the notion that another culture is inferior, diseased, or evil, and needs to be eradicated. Recall the cultural genocide in Rwanda just a few years ago, when 800,000 were murdered because of their heritage and position. A look at the events leading up to the war in Kosovo is proof enough of the fact that a power-mad dictator can stir up hatred among his fellow citizens in what seems almost the blink of an eye.

The holocaust is unique in that it was not a concentrated elimination of a people, nor a sporadic decimation of certain cultures. We have here a kind of culling of nations where Jews were extracted from 22 counties and sent to a central hub [Poland] for execution, be it via starvation, exhaustion, shooting or gas. The Holocaust has no parallel and the industrial scale, efficiency and the complicated logistics of making it happen was extraordinary.

The difference is, as a species we have the gift [or curse] to contemplate, evaluate and judge our actions. Our conscience [or lack of one] determines our motives and ultimately the consequences.

This ability to comprehend our actions takes the whole subject of cruelty and brutality out of the natural order of nature and into the realms of sadistic self indulgence. The ability to reason allows us, as human beings, the truly magical option of having a choice. To smash a Child's head to pieces on a brick wall, or to abstain from doing so.

To understand the Holocaust you have to also understand the Darwinian biology of the time. There was a growing sense, particularly since Ernst Haeckel, that there were those in society who were 'biologically' inferior and that for a 'fit' world to survive and thrive, those who were 'unfit' should be removed from society.

This Nazi racial ideology separated the Jews as unworthy of life, therefore ripe for extermination, but there were other victims such as, Gypsies, Russians, Poles, and even ethnic Germans with physical defects, all brutally worked to death, shot, or gassed. Estimates of six million Jews is the usual figure of victims of the holocaust, but if we add the gypsies, Soviet prisoners, Jehovah's Witness's, homosexuals, political opponents, and other minorities, then the figure would be between eleven and seventeen million.

Society can become apathetic when it loses its ability to distinguish between right and wrong. The idolatry of power corrupts, none more so than the paranoid mindset of the Nazis. The Novelist, Jacob Wassermann said, the hatred of the Jews was a self induced pathological delusion that was not only irrational but impenetrable.

So, why were the Jews treated with such contempt? At the turn of the 20th century Jews were treated as the source of all evils, the inner fragmentation of urban civilization. Hitler's genocidal racist ideology depended upon the elimination of the Jewish Race [the final solution]. It is the receptiveness to the dehumanization of the Jews by the Germans [and other Europeans] that made the ruthless slaughter of a fellow human being so nondescript. This receptiveness to an illogical hatred is not of a German origin, but is rooted to a much older tradition of Christian anti-Judaism. The Nazis did not have to invent this hatred, for the Jews were already pariahs of European society.

The Judaic doctrine of the Jews would have us believe the following, "There are many reasons for people to hate Jews. In fact, the Talmud says that hate for Jews began immediately upon the Jews receiving the Ten Commandments and the Torah. Just as children are jealous when father gives one child something but not the others, so are the nations of the world envious and angry at Jews for receiving the Torah instead of them"

Well, that's as much nonsense as the revisionist's theories, and has no place in this very real world of pain and horror, but it serves to remind us the Jewish race can also be singled out for hatred through their own self exclusion from the rest of the world.

It's strange to think that although anti-Semitism simmered in most European societies, it was not even half as volatile than the tensions between Catholics and Protestants. In Germany itself, the friction between East Prussia and southern Bavarians, or Rhinelanders and Berliners, were far more notable than any Jewish problem. In fact, the Jews were entirely German, just as the French Jews were entirely French. Only the fervent ramblings of a political activist [Hitler] would unsettle the Status Quo.

The Christian Church, whether through Catholic persecution by the inquisition in Spain, or the Protestant reformation in Germany, created the negative stereotyping of the Jews. The refusal of the Jews to accept Christianity is a major factor in anti-Semitism as God killers, usurers [money lenders]

In 1215 the pope [supposed descended of the disciple peter and direct link to God] decreed that Jews must wear a badge and distinctive clothing and all over Europe Jews were restricted in their chosen trades.

Martin Luther 1543 ; A piece Martin Luther wrote called, On The Jews and Their Lies, stated "What then shall we Christians do with this damned, rejected race of Jews? Since they live among us and we know about their lying and blasphemy and cursing, we can not tolerate them if we do not wish to share in their lies, curses, and blasphemy. In this way we cannot quench the inextinguishable fire of divine rage nor convert the Jews. We must prayerfully and reverentially practice a merciful severity. Perhaps we may save a few from the fire and flames [of hell]. We must not seek vengeance. They are surely being punished a thousand times more than we might wish them"

Another reason that the Jews have been victimized and suffered racial alienation are,

Jews have been remarkably good at maintaining communities within communities. They have maintained their ethnic and religious identity over many generations instead of becoming part of the cultures in which they live. Groups that set themselves apart always attract prejudice. For example, Italian and Irish immigrants were hated for various reasons by many native-born Americans in the 19th century. As they assimilated into the mainstream American culture they did not face the same prejudice (if for no other reason, just because they can't easily be identified as different). Minority groups that do not or cannot assimilate tend to attract prejudice.

Homophobia is like racism and anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry in that it seeks to dehumanize a large group of people, to deny their humanity, their dignity

There have been many known people who have commented on Jews in the past, Also such sentiments as, "After Satan Christians have no greater enemy than the Jews [Abraham a Sancta Clara, 1683, I hold the Jewish race to be the born enemy, and of pure humanity [Richard Wagner, 1881], and, You have no right [Jews] to live among us, The German Nazis had at last decreed; you have no right to live [Raul Hilberg, 1961].

By the fifteenth century most Jews in Germany and Spain had been expelled, and many found refuge in Poland, and the Baltic states.

Maria Theresa, Queen of Hungary and Bohemia (1771 - 1789) "Henceforth no Jew, no matter under what name, will be allowed to remain here without my written permission. I know of no other troublesome pest within the state than this race, which impoverished the people by their fraud, usury and money-lending and commits all deeds which an honourable man despises. Subsequently they have to be removed and excluded from here as much as possible."

The New Testament has also references of Jews being the, Accursed people, Murderers of God. The name Judas would become a byword for treachery. These polemics would follow the Jews down through the centuries and the fact that they were exiled from their own land by the Roman was twisted into a retributive punishment of the Christian God for their blindness in recognizing Jesus as the Messiah. For history to be twisted by the Church and accepted by the ignorant masses is not that greater illusion to perform. Religious fanatics are flying planes into tower blocks and blowing themselves to pieces today, so how hard is it to believe that this same fanaticism thriving hundreds of years ago.

Irrational superstitions exist in the ignorant, to be nurtured by the ignorant. The point I am trying to make is that Germany was not wholly to blame for the Holocaust. The prevailing mitigating circumstances brought forward many willing conspirators to the murder of civilians under the cloak of War. Collaborators, such as Lithuania, Latvia, The Ukraine, Hungary, Romania, Croatia, and other European nationalities are all stained by their cowardly acts of compliance to the Nazi will.

Many nations were not directly involved in the actual murder of the Jews, but were instrumental to their deportations. The French bare a despicable blight on their integrity for what they did to their own Jewish populations.

This policy of parasitic motivation [as the Nazi's were indeed parasites upon the nations they overran] that necessitated an anti-Semitic diatribe did not always overcome common decency.

The Bulgarians managed to resist the efforts to deport their Jews. The absence of any real anti-Semitism in Bulgaria was not an exceptional case, [it just showed Jews and indigenous peoples can exist in peace] but it was unusual. Denmark must also be applauded in its humanitarian stance, as must Italy, and Finland. These countries were a living, breathing spark of light in a dark, suffocating world of insane racial hatred. As for the rest, they are the shameful edifices of greed/fear motivated compliance.

The Germans could not have achieved their plans of industrial mass murder without the collaboration of their subjected states. They had neither the man power nor the means to instigate such a massive logistical nightmare.

In Poland during the holocaust, it was always the Pole who shouted 'Yid' as an escapee came running past. The whole locating of Jews was not a German skill, but a Polish incentive. This was the case in many other countries where the enthusiastic applauding of bestial pogroms began to intensify. Considering the Germans treated the Polish people as equal low life's it is certainly ironic that even to be Hated by one makes no difference to your own hatred of someone else.

The seed of hatred cast by the Nazis fell on well nourished soil, and the wheel of death was set in motion.

Fredrich Nietzsche had earlier poured scorn on the Germanic aristocracy of the 1880's by labeling them, life's losers and born misfits, bungled, botched and envious creatures, eaten up with neurotic resentment. Nietzsche also attacked the Judaic-Christian morality and his own ideas of the *Urbmensch* [superman] would be fuel for the totalitarian-nihilist agenda of the Nazis. If only the Nazis had read the works of Nietzsche and paid attention to his contempt for the Germans and admiration for the Jews. But an illogical xenophobic racist nationalism and twisted ideological fantasy's were to prove the catalyst for the holocaust.

The identification of Jews with Bolshevism was a political myth to stir the fervent hatred even more.

The Jews of Europe on the eve of the holocaust were caught in a trap of indifference and persecution. Their rights to basic freedoms were withdrawn by the European states to whom they had served loyally in times of War and in times of Peace. [During the First World War, Jews made great efforts to demonstrate their patriotic loyalty on the

battlefield] The Jews were now a race beyond the pale of civilization, and these harsh realities for most were realized too late.

Atrocities on an unimaginable scale would now be unleashed.

Sonderkommando

The tongues of a thousand tiny blue-red flames
Coughing our souls to heaven.
in the heat the dead stir one last time
A foul, filthy death is mine.

You don't have to die to walk in hell,
For here is hell,
You don't have to die to walk in hell,
And hell is now,

You don't have to die to walk in hell
no time to grieve, no time to weep,
You don't have to die to walk in hell
Just time to die, just time to die
You don't have to die to walk in hell

Drag the dead, abomination, Rake the ash, my remains
Pull the teeth, a golden calf, Cut the hair, humiliation
Frail and wasted human forms, Wishing you were never born
Welcome to the roaring gales of gloom

Burn the flesh, cremation , Find the gold, stolen lives
Chains of clay, shrines of sod, we are dead, where was god?
Skin is cold, godless, young and old, forgotten
No more tears, suffering, wasted years, entombed.

Frail and wasted human forms, wishing you were never born
Welcome to the roaring gales of gloom

Ten strokes of filth from the slaughterhouse whip

Death bound we fall in pits of shit
Sacrifice, walking dead, infanticide, abandoned
Open grave, waste away, human plague, abomination.

The smoke rises up into the clouds, Looming above like funeral shrouds
Veiled from the icy moonless night, Are glowing embers of flesh so bright
That stars bedimmed in darkly woe, Enshrining all in hell below.

The title track of the album, and a slow brooding piece of music that crawls along into its ultimate hellish finale. With Christina Poupoutsi backing vocals, and Will Baynard backing vocals.

The track starts with an excerpt of Hitler's Reichstag speech, Sept 1, 1939

Translation is here

00:00-00:10 - How can I come to rest before the Jewish issue is resolved. There's plenty of living space in the world,

00:11-00:20 - but the notion that the Jewish people were chosen by god to live off the productivity of other peoples will finally have to go.

00:21-00:33 - Jews will just have to get used to the idea of performing some respectable, constructive activity as other people do, or sooner or later they'll face trouble they never dreamed of.

00:34-00:50 - Should the international finance Jews inside and outside Europe push people into another world war, the result will not be a victory of Jewry, but the destruction of the Jewish race in Europe

A fuller part of the speech not used is as follows _ "Europe will not have peace until the Jewish question has been disposed of. The world has sufficient capacity for settlement, but we must finally break away from the notion that a certain percentage of the Jewish people are intended, by our dear God, to be the parasitic beneficiary of the body, and of the productive work, of other peoples. Europe will not have peace until the Jewish question has been disposed of. The world has sufficient capacity for settlement, but we must finally break away from the notion that a certain percentage of the Jewish people

are intended, by our dear God, to be the parasitic beneficiary of the body, and of the productive work, of other peoples. If the international finance-Jewry inside and outside Europe should succeed in plunging the nations into a world war yet again, then the outcome will not be the victory of Jewry, but rather the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe”

It’s a prophetic rant of the terror to come, and sets the album in motion.

Sonderkommandos were work units of Nazi death camp prisoners, composed almost entirely of Jews, who were forced, on threat of their own deaths, to aid with the disposal of victims during The Holocaust. The death-camp Sonderkommando, who were always inmates, should not be confused with the *SS-Sonderkommandos* which were units formed from various SS offices between 1938 through 1945. The term itself in German means "special unit",

These pitiful individuals were generally despised by both their captors and their own people. Sonderkommando members did not participate directly in killing; that responsibility was reserved for the guards, while the Sonderkommandos' primary responsibility was disposing of the corpses.

Prior to the ovens the corpses were burned in pits. The pits were arranged with layers of old railway sleepers, wooden beams, planks, and sawdust. Then 400 corpses, face upwards were placed in 4 long rows on top of the fuel. The next layer was again of wood and then a layer of corpses. This was repeated until the pit contained 1,200 dead bodies in three layers. Meanwhile the stokers had soaked pieces of material and rags in oil and stuffed them in-between the fuel in numerous places. Then the whole pyre was set ablaze.

A group of prisoners had to climb down into the pit with spades, shovels, hammers, trowels, bricks and cement to create a drain channel for human fat. This was to catch the human fat that was in turn to be used as fuel. The, sizzling fat was scooped out with buckets and poured all over the hissing flames to reek the air with death. There were the ash men, who had to dig the ashes from the pits and remove them to the ash depot. Here were the men who pulverized the ash.

The Crematoria

Then the corpses were shoved into the ovens, in the heat the dead stirred one last time, writhing as though in some unbearable pain, arms and legs straining in slow motion, to rise and finally succumb to the inevitability of death

When the furnace door opened the shapes of bodies swayed in the heat as if they were coming back to life, a human being is not like wood
From the gas chambers the Sonderkommandos used hooked tip poles to pull the corpses apart. They would stack them on planks, babies like kindling, followed by the adults. One man could pull gold teeth from around 60-70 corpses in ten minutes, in all tons of gold were harvested..

All that becomes of a human being is half a kilogram of ashes.

After the war ended in 1945, those Sonderkommando who managed to somehow survive the death camps were treated with little compassion. They were treated as collaborators and some were executed for their work within the camps. However, the one defence given to them was that they had a simple choice - the gas chambers or working as a Sonderkommando, though that also meant eventual death.

Wishing Well of bones

Death is here, death is there, A Wishing well of bones
All around, within, beneath, A Wishing well of bones
Sin defiled and we reviled, A Wishing well of bones
Gloomy grave, blood we crave, A Wishing well of bones
In the lap of sadism, A Wishing well of bones
Vanish into nothingness, A wishing well of bones
Suffer, bleed and die, Suffer bleed and die..
Death is busy everywhere, A Wishing well of bones..
A Wishing well of bones,
All around, A Wishing well of bones
within, beneath, A Wishing well of bones
Above is death, A Wishing well of bones
and we are death
Suffer bleed, and die
A Wishing well of bones,
In the lap of sadism, A Wishing well of bones
A Wishing well of bones
Vanish into nothingness, A Wishing well of bones
Suffer bleed, and die

A track that was inspired by the broken dreams of the children that would never have a life. Like a wishing well of coins, now full of bones. It is a surreal track with no real relevance to a particular event or specific act, just an overall image of hopelessness and horror.

The song arrangement is simple and does not play too heavily on the mind.

The first lines of the lyrics were inspired by, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and the poem 'Death' They seemed very apt for the whirling maelstrom of despair I had in my head when I was writing the words.

It must have been so unspeakably cruel to watch mother and fathers holding their children's hands as they walked towards their deaths, either by the death pits or the gas chambers. How do you accept death without a struggle as most Jews seemed to do?

Here are some answers

What exactly do you think you would do if prodded by gun point to the edge of a large ditch..? Would you run and get shot in the back..? Fall on your knees and beg..? Whatever you decided, you were covered by a hefty troop of heavily armed killers who were well practised with their sub-machineguns and heavy machine guns. So you went like a lamb to the slaughter.

There was no choice; you dug your grave with a gun to your head. They were starving; they had been kicked and abused on a daily basis, for years some of them, how much spirit would you have inside you in these conditions?

As already stated in the introduction. 'After they had suffered torture, degradation, and humiliation inflicted on them by their tormentors to break them down, to rob them of the last shred of human dignity, and to deprive them of any strength to resist and perhaps of any desire to live, the victims were seized by the agencies of the state and brought from the four corners of Hitlerite Europe to the death camps to be killed, individually or in groups, by the murderers bullets over graves dug by the victims themselves, or in slaughterhouses constructed especially for human beings. For the condemned, there was no judge to whom to appeal for a redress of injustice; no government from which to ask protection and punishment for the murderers; no

neighbour on whose gate to knock and ask for shelter; no God to whom to pray for mercy.'

It is this ceaseless breakdown of the body and spirit that perpetuates a numbness of the consciousness, hopelessness prevails where death becomes far more inviting than the life offered by their tormentors.

As for the children of the Holocaust, like so many children cast into the unrelenting cruelty of War. In the ghettos, Jewish children died from starvation and exposure as well as lack of adequate clothing and shelter. The German authorities were indifferent to this mass death because they considered most of the younger ghetto children to be unproductive and hence "useless eaters." Because children were generally too young to be deployed at forced labor, German authorities generally selected them, along with the elderly, ill, and disabled, for the first deportations to killing centers, or as the first victims led to mass graves to be shot.

In the death camps, Lucie Adelsberger describes the life of the children:

"Like the adults, the kids were only a mere bag of bones, without muscles or fat, and the thin skin like parchment scrubbed through and through beyond the hard bones of the skeleton and ignited itself to ulcerated wounds. Abscesses covered the underfed body from the top to the bottom and thus deprived it from the last rest of energy. The mouth was deeply gnawed by noma-abscesses, hollowed out the jaw and perforated the cheeks like cancer".

Many decaying bodies were full of water because of the burning hunger, they swelled to shapeless bulks which could not move anymore. Diarrhoea, lasting for weeks, dissolved their irresistible bodies until nothing remained" (Langbein, Hermann: Menschen in Auschwitz.

This savagery can be applied to all regimes in all history that have destroyed the lives of countless innocents for whatever reason deemed necessary to their own world view.

Action t4

**Euthanasia kiss of death, new Germania, nothing left
megalomania, unsound mind, euthanasia, death to freaks**

Action t4

**Half alive, and half fucking dead, a piece of shit, not fit for life
go to sleep, and don't wake up, fucking die, fucking die.**

Action t4

**Half alive, and half fucking dead, a piece of shit, not fit for life
go to sleep, and don't wake up, fucking die, fucking die.**

Euthanasia kiss of death, new Germania, nothing left

Action t4

Not fit for life, A piece of shit

Death to freaks, Kiss of death

Featuring the unnerving vocal hellstorms of Oristalla from UK band Diversis.
And the lead guitar of Gods Tower's Victor Lapitski

This track is about the so called, Euthanasia project Aktion T4, one that gave the initial experience of how to murder efficiently to the later death camp staff, most of whom were recruited due to this passed CV.

In 1939 Adolf Hitler signed a "euthanasia decree" (later known as Action T4), which instituted a forced eugenics program extending the existing laws enabling sterilisation for those deemed genetically or socially unfit. Under this new policy doctors were allowed, in some cases required, to take the lives of those deemed unfit rather than to sterilize them, as had been the law before. The term euthanasia, in this context is a euphemism, as it had the aim not of relieving pain or suffering but rather, for the sake of societal purity, of preventing further 'pollution' of the race by 'inferior' genetics.

In the fall of 1939 the German government established, under the Reich Chancellery, the Euthanasie Programme under the direction of Philip Bouhler and Dr. Karl Brandt. The headquarters of the operation were at Tiergartenstrasse 4, Berlin and the code name for the program was derived from that address—T-4.

The choice of terminology for the program is consistent with the Nazis' penchant for euphemism. Euthanasia typically means "mercy killing" and in the 1990's in the United States and other western nations, it is synonymous with "physician-assisted suicide." The kind of killing carried out through the T-4 program bears little resemblance to contemporary concepts of euthanasia.

Hitler's rise to power produced a completely new set of definitions. Guided by the overriding principles of racial hygiene, racial purity, and national health, the Nazi regime seems fairly consistently committed to the removal of those unfit to live and produce inferior offspring. In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws provided for the forced sterilization of the unfit. Not only did Hitler have in mind such "inferior races" as Jews and Gypsies, he also included unfit Aryans—the mentally defective, severely handicapped, the incurably insane and the incurably sick.

In early 1938, a doctor's wife requested to speak to Hitler regarding having her child killed. The little boy, who came to be known as the Knauer Baby, was missing two limbs, was blind, and may have been mentally retarded. Hitler addressed the issue with his favored general, Karl Brandt. They agreed to kill the child as a test case. After the murder of this child proved to be successful, in the eyes of Karl Brandt, it was then decided to formally design a program of mass murder for children with disabilities, regarded to be life unworthy of life, and who were impediments to the Nazi's drive to world power. Hitler appointed politicians, military leaders, and physicians to oversee and develop what eventually became the T4 Program.

As the T4 Program became increasingly known among the public for what it was, families began to hide their relatives who were elderly or had disabilities. Eventually the T4 Program was "shut down" due to public outcry. However, the T4 Program continued to operate on an underground level during what has come to be known as the wild euthanasia phase, and the murder of human beings who had disabilities, the elderly, the weak, and those with mental illnesses lasted throughout the Holocaust.

To implement the euthanasia program, special carbon-monoxide chambers were constructed. According to Milton Meltzer: Between December 1939 and August 1941, about 50,000 to 60,000 Germans—children and adults—were secretly killed by lethal injections or in gassing installations designed to look like shower stalls. It was a foretaste of Auschwitz. The victims were taken from the medical institution and put to death.

This shows that the steps towards the final solution were never pre scripted, yet took their turn in a sequence of events that started with the Action t4 programme and continued through the mass shootings in the East to the eventual death machine that was Auschwitz..

Silent Ghosts of Babi Yar

Nothing but blood,, Shot in the face, the guts and the neck

Nothing but blood, Shot in the back, the skull and the throat.

Einsatzgruppen a Einsatzgruppen b

Einsatzgruppen c Einsatzgruppen d

The clay is alive with wounds open wide, No funeral bells of last farewells

Stacked like logs, then to be shot, Mothers and sons, let it be done

Buried alive in shit and piss, Waffen ss, drunk on blood.

Iron crosses and yellow stars, The walking dead in babi yar

Einsatzgruppen a Einsatzgruppen b

Einsatzgruppen c Einsatzgruppen d

Nothing but blood, Shot in the face, the guts and the neck

Nothing but blood, ,Shot in the back, the skull and the throat.

Einsatzgruppen a Einsatzgruppen b

Einsatzgruppen c Einsatzgruppen d

We have become the wind bewailed cries, A hollow voice of direful sighs

Spiralling into the frozen gaze, Of deathly faceless souls entwined

Worms writhe in a shapeless tomb, in human gore imbued

Flies bewinged aloft do soar, In twisting sulphurous hue.

If the oceans were filled with ink and all the forests and trees were pens, and even then it would not be possible to record the horrors here.

This hell can exist, as long as no one sees.....

Featuring Will Baynard backing vocals

This track is about the ruthlessly barbaric 'Einsatzgruppen', ('task forces] these were primarily death squads, formed in 1938 under the direction of SS-Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich. Jews were the main focus of their attention, but many other population groups and political categories were singled out for extermination. These death squads were comprised of murderous and sadistic soldiers [if you can call them that] and bemused participants who had a choice to abstain if their consciences spoke thus. It is a myth that these men had no choice and were just obeying orders. They did have a choice and those who followed orders were murderers, of that there is no question.

According to their own records, the Einsatzgruppen, murdered [shot, burned, brutalized and abused] more than one million people, almost all civilians, beginning with poles, and then swiftly progressed (by 1941) to killing Jews, Gypsies and others throughout Eastern Europe.. These units followed in the wake of the German armies. The display of brutality that was unparalleled by anything seen in combat during two world wars, a German soldier commented. Jews were tormented, tortured and shot; dogs become 'fat as rams' from gnawing on the bodies. With the involvement of locals, not always in the murder process itself, but in the looting that accompanied, the whole grisly process continues across the Soviet East.

The local populations, [Ukraine, Latvia, Slovakia etc] it was as if they understood, without much prodding by the Germans, that there were no limits on what they could do to their Jewish neighbours'. From Horyngrad-Krypa in Volhynia, where Ukrainians armed with axes, knives and boards spiked with nails murdered 30 local Jews, to Kaunas in Lithuania, where the famous 'death dealer' of the city was photographed clubbing Jews to death with an iron bar. It had to be shown to the world that the native population itself took the first action by way of natural reaction against the suppression by Jews during several decades and against the terror exercised by the Communists during the preceding period.

Beginning on September 29, 1941 more than 33,000 Jews were marched in small groups to the Babi Yar ravine to the north of Kiev (Ukraine), ordered to strip naked, and

then machine-gunned into the ravine by SD- Einsatzgruppe C, commanded by Dr. Dr. Otto Rasch.

In Kiev, the Nazis murdered approximately 100,000 people in a ravine named Babi Yar. The killing began with a large group on September 29-30, 1941, but continued for months.

After the Nazis attacked the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, they pushed east. By September 19, they had reached Kiev. It was a confusing time for the inhabitants of Kiev. Though a large portion of the population had family either in the Red Army or had evacuated into the interior of the Soviet Union, many inhabitants welcomed the German Army's takeover of Kiev. Many believed the Germans would free them from Stalin's oppressive regime. In only days, they would see the true face of the invaders.

Soon after people passed through the gate into the Jewish cemetery, they reached the front of the mass of people. Here, they were to leave their baggage. Some in the crowd wondered how they would be reunited with their possessions; some believed it would be sent in a luggage van.³

The Germans were counting out only a few people at a time and then letting them move farther on. Machine-gun fire could be heard nearby. For those that realized what was happening and wanted to leave, it was too late. There was a barricade staffed by Germans who were checking identification papers of those wanting out. If the person was Jewish, they were forced to remain.

Taken from the front of the line in groups of ten, they were led to a corridor, about four or five feet wide, formed by rows of soldiers on each side. The soldiers were holding sticks and would hit the Jews as they went by. There was no question of being able to dodge or get away. Brutal blows, immediately drawing blood, descended on their heads, backs and shoulders from left and right. The soldiers kept shouting: "Schnell, schnell!" laughing happily, as if they were watching a circus act; they even found ways of delivering harder blows in the more vulnerable places, the ribs, the stomach and the groin.

Screaming and crying, the Jews exited the corridor of soldiers onto an area overgrown with grass. Here they were ordered to undress. Those who hesitated had their clothes ripped off them by force, and were kicked and struck with knuckledusters or clubs by the Germans, who seemed to be drunk with fury in a sort of sadistic rage. This is but one example of a mass execution. There were many hundreds more that were of equal horror. If you can justify such actions then you are part of this world's problems.

The Einsatzgruppen Trials

Shocked and sickened by the evidence which he heard, Justice Musmanno who presided over the trial wrote: One reads and reads these accounts of which here we can give only a few excerpts and yet there remains the instinct to disbelieve, to question, to doubt. There is less of a mental barrier in accepting the weirdest stories of supernatural phenomena, as for instance, water running up hill and trees with roots reaching toward the sky, than in taking at face value these narratives which go beyond the frontiers of human cruelty and savagery. Only the fact that the reports from which we have quoted came from the pens of men within the accused organizations can the human mind be assured that all this actually happened. The reports and the statements of the defendants themselves verify what otherwise would be dismissed as the product of a disordered imagination.

There have been many incidents of mass brutality in human history, but these death squads were by merit notoriously cruel and completely without compassion.

Children of the sun wheel banner

Under the sign of the sunwheel banner, We will raise the might of Thors hammer

Dripping with hatred from every pore, We are the masters of total war

Nordic heroes from a winters dawn, Speechless shapes all dressed in black

Shadow watchmen of the fatherland, Sadistic kings of a new Deutschland

Teutonic hell , holy books and broken gods,

Teutonic hell, we shoot the fuckers down

Teutonic hell, a human death machine

Teutonic hell , this is no fucking dream

Teutonic hell, With murmuring blood and spitting bile, Teutonic hell In darkest
menace we drown

Teutonic hell, under welkin shade and murdering scowl, Teutonic hell we shoot the
fuckers down

Assassins of a new world order, The name of god seems pointless here

Under the sign of the sunwheel banner, Panzers attack from the halls of Valhalla

Sons of Odin, legions of death, Semite reapers, with Zyclon B

Teutonic hell , Blasphemers of every fragile faith

Teutonic hell , of every hue and race,

Teutonic hell , Holy books and broken gods

Teutonic hell , All to vanish without a trace

A new world order shall be born, from the ashes of racial annihilation, of murder and
starvation. Or mass extermination, this is the final solution...

With Will Baynard backing vocals.

Mirai from Sigh provides the keyboard solo and this is basically to add depth to a track oozes a certain time frame where the Germanic people were emerging from a post war servitude and rediscovering a sense of pride though the prevailing national socialism.

The short intro 'Children of the Sunwheel banner' part 1, was composed by J. M [Wolves of Avalon' and serves as twisted patriotic build up to the main song.

This is a song about the Germanic national pride at the time of the Nazi movement and the racially motivated policies blinded a nation into a Second World War.

National Pride/ cultural pride are something we all have experienced either as being part of, or in opposition to. Jews are notoriously proud and can be seen as a racist people, even giving the term Goyim to a non Jew. They believe the universe was created by their God, and that they are Gods chosen people. Many nations embrace a similar doctrine of self righteousness, from the Vikings to the modern Jihadists. All perceive their own world view to be the correct one, their lives spirituality guided by divine instruction.

This is the Human need for purpose, for reason and hope. As this album deals with the Holocaust, it is the German nation of post Great War turmoil that is relevant, but their creaking racist ideology is by no means unique. To commit such crimes was not that hard to contemplate when set against the predispositions of the German people's radicalisation in a very fervent Anti Semitic milieu.

The Nazi policy of creating a racially pure society was based on a flawed opinion that humanity can be divided in to race, but this can only procure discrimination, exclusion, and ultimately elimination. The Nazi dream was the erosion of alien cultures within Germany to reveal its true nationhood and create the fertile soil for a national socialist utopia to grow, a new world order conceived on racial lines through systematic racial annihilation. It's a quite shocking ideology but one many racists even today would swear by.

Hitler was no doubt influenced by the ludicrous ideology of, Joseph Arthur Comte de Gobineau [who was not anti-Semitic] who developed the theory of the Aryan master race in one of his books. He came to believe that race created culture, arguing that distinctions between the three races - "black", "white", and "yellow" - were natural barriers, and that "race-mixing" breaks those barriers and leads to chaos. He classified Southern Europe, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, and North Africa as racially mixed

Gobineau also questioned the belief that the black and yellow races belong to the same human family as the white race and share a common ancestor. Trained neither as a

theologian nor a naturalist and writing before the popular spread of evolutionary theory, Gobineau took the Bible to be an true telling of human history and accepted in *An Essay on the Inequality of the Human Races* the day's prevailing Christian doctrine that all human beings shared the common ancestors Adam and Eve.

With this kind of flawed ideology surrounding Hitler's rampant self glorification, it is no surprise that a justified implementation of murder under the guise of some twisted racial motivation became a very real experience for both perpetrators and victims.

The NSDAP or Nazi party for short, was formed in 1919, and stood for the uniting of Germany with only persons of German blood being eligible as nationals; The Jews were only allowed to live in Germany as guests. Adolf Hitler was influenced by the nationalist composer, Richard Wagner, whose diatribes against the Jews expanded upon his own, that the Jews represented the evil conscience of modern civilization. His book, *Mein Kampf* [My struggle] badly written as it was, is obsessed with racial purity and the self preservation of the Aryan race. He blamed the defeat of Germany in the Great War. He looked upon Jews as Tuberculosis of peoples, and only their complete removal would ensure the complete purification of the master race. Hitler had a morbid fixation on blood and race which would plunge the world into war and utter devastation.

Nazi anti-Semitic publications such as, *Der Sturmer*, accused Jews of rape, and abductors of German children. The racist author, Arthur Dinter, claimed that German women would transmit Jewish characteristics even to children conceived by German fathers, if she ever had at any time in the past engaged in sexual relations with a Jew.

[What foolish nonsense, and yet that is the blind stupidity of what hatred can do once it eats within your conscience.]

The Nazis had a vision of an Aryan German race that specifically excluded Jews and many other groups of people. Here is an example of Hitler's anti-Semitic racism from a speech given in Munich in July 1922: "His is no master people; he is an exploiter: the Jews are a people of robbers. He has never founded any civilization, though he has destroyed civilizations by the hundred...everything he has stolen. Foreign people, foreign workmen build him his temples, it is foreigners who create and work for him, it is foreigners who shed their blood for him."

This intellectual preparation would probably not have been sufficient for the growth of National Socialism in Germany but for that country's defeat in World War I. The defeat and the resulting disillusionment, pauperization, and frustration—particularly among the lower middle classes—paved the way for the success of the propaganda of Hitler and the Nazis. Germany's defeat of the Great War resulted in, the treaty of Versailles that stripped Germany of its colonies, and reduced its armed capability to virtually nothing.

The formal settlement of World War I drafted without German participation, alienated many Germans with its imposition of harsh monetary and territorial reparations. It demanded 33 billion dollars in war reparations and the great Germanic spirit was all but broken. Although 1,000,000 Jews served in the German army [12,000 of them who died for Germany], it was never going to stave off the incoming catastrophe.

The significant resentment expressed toward the peace treaty gave Hitler a starting point to create his policies relating to Germany's humiliation. The link between Judaism and Communism was also in the mixing pot of the Nazi party's ruthless propaganda machine. The Nazi party was built on many years of German anti-Semitism and this hatred was not motivated by ignorant prejudice but by scientific fact, as they believed wholeheartedly that the Jews were racial tuberculosis of nations.

Hitler stated: "The war is to be a war of annihilation". His henchman Heinrich Himmler declared: "All Poles will disappear from the world. . . . It is essential that the great German people should consider it as a major task to destroy all Poles."

Posing as a bulwark against communism, Hitler exploited the fears aroused in Germany and worldwide by the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and the consolidation of communist power in the Soviet Union. Thus, he was able to secure the support of many conservative elements that misunderstood the totalitarian character of his movement.

Hitler's most important individual contribution to the theory and practice of National Socialism was his deep understanding of mass psychology and mass propaganda. He stressed the fact that all propaganda must hold its intellectual level at the capacity of the least intelligent of those at whom it is directed and that its truthfulness is much less important than its success. Hitler found this common denominator in the Jews, whom he identified with both Bolshevism and a kind of cosmic evil. The Jews were to be discriminated against not according to their religion but according to their "race." National Socialism declared the Jews—whatever their educational and social development—to be forever fundamentally different from and inimical to Germans. They were no more than subhuman scum.

What chance did they have of survival with all this hatred? The inevitability of one final mass atrocity on their very existence was always waiting to burst forth from the unfolding events in Germany. It was Hitler and his Nazi party that would bring this simmering doctrine of racial cleansing to the boil.

Hitler's accession to power in 1933 marked the beginning of the end for the German [and European] Jews. A whole century of Jewish integration into Germany would be reversed forever. The holocaust had begun and the initial phase was the ostracizing of the Jews and their place in society.

Right after Nazis came to power in 1933, they started to pursue a ruthless policy of isolating and then removing the factors in the German society they found to be "harmful". The primary target of Nazi mass executions was the disabled and people with genetic disorders. Influenced by the thesis of "eugenics" developed by the German biologist Ernst Haeckel, Nazis regarded these people as parasites harmful to the gene structure of the German society and thus employed the most ruthless methods against these miserable people. The handicapped and those with genetic diseases were first rounded up in "sterilization camps", sterilized and then began to be killed by the secret order of Hitler.

The Jewish nation, who were tried to be presented as "the source of all evil on earth" and "parasites that harmed the German blood" by the Nazi ideologists like Hitler and Rosenberg, were subjected to an ever-increasing oppression. The stores owned by Jews were boycotted, feelings of hatred and enmity were instilled in the German people against Jews and the rights of Jews were restricted by laws.

This alienation of minorities also effected Homosexuals. Many nations had anti homosexual laws so the Germans were not unique in this area of prejudice either. Himmler became very active in the suppression of homosexuality. He exclaimed, "We must exterminate these people root and branch... the homosexual must be eliminated. More than one million gay Germans were targeted, of whom at least 100,000 were arrested and 50,000 were serving prison terms as "convicted homosexuals". Hundreds of European gay men living under Nazi occupation were castrated .

Gay men suffered unusually cruel treatment in the concentration camps. They faced persecution not only from German soldiers but also from other prisoners, and many gay men were beaten to death. Additionally, gay men in forced labour camps routinely received more gruelling and dangerous work assignments than other non-Jewish inmates, under the policy of "Extermination through Work". SS soldiers also were known to use gay men for target practice, aiming their weapons at the pink triangles their human targets were forced to wear.

Rhineland African-Germans. Though black entertainers were popular in Germany before Hitler came to power, they were boycotted when the Nazis took over. A book entitled Degenerate Music: An Accounting was published in 1938. The cover shows a black musician with a Jewish star on his lapel. Hitler's hatred of blacks extended to black athletes. When Jesse Owens, the American track star, won three gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Hitler refused to be present when the medals were awarded.

Though there were relatively few blacks in Germany, Hitler discriminated between black and white prisoners of war. Black soldiers captured during World War II were separated from their units and shot.

Hitler in *Mein Kampf* described blacks as 'culture destroyers' (in contrast to Aryan 'culture creators', and Asian 'culture preservers'. When the Nazis came to power they sought to uproot cultural elements of black origin (such as jazz music) that had penetrated German society.

The Nuremberg race laws of 1935, the laws for the protection of German blood and German honour, formally stripped the Jews of their remaining rights as citizens. There could be no sexual relations between Germans and Jews, and a new definition of who was, and who was not a Jew were implemented.

In 1938, Kristallnacht [the night of broken glass] was a series of pogroms set against the Jews. The attacks left the streets covered with broken glass from the windows of Jewish-owned stores, buildings, and synagogues. At least 91 Jews were killed in the attacks, and a further 30,000 arrested and incarcerated in Jewish homes, hospitals, and schools were ransacked, as the attackers demolished buildings with sledgehammers. Over 1,000 synagogues were burned (95 in Vienna alone), and over 7,000 Jewish businesses destroyed or damaged. Although initially blamed for attacks was the assassination of German diplomat Ernst vom Rath by a German-born Polish Jew in Paris, it was instigated by the NSDAP to seize Jewish property and businesses to fund the party's activities.

Jewish existence on German soil was being pulled out by the roots. They were excluded from using public transport, visiting concerts, theaters, cinemas, beaches and park benches, or even owning a dog. By 1939 the German Jews were not merely outcasts, but socially dead. There's no question that whatever tragedy befell the Jews in Germany during the Third Reich, Dr. Goebbels himself was the prime moving force behind it. He wasn't just the person who created the atmosphere of hatred, he was also the one who pulled the levers and started the trains in motion.

Heinrich Himmler was the chief architect of the plan. By November 1941, it was becoming known in the upper reaches of the Nazi leadership and government offices that Hitler intended all the Jews of Europe to be deported to the eastern territories and, by some means, to be executed.

1942 - The Wannsee Conference was a meeting of senior officials of the Nazi German regime, held in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee on 20 January 1942. The purpose of the conference was to inform administrative leaders of Departments responsible for various policies relating to Jews that Reinhard Heydrich had been appointed as the chief executor of the "Final solution to the Jewish question". In the course of the meeting,

Heydrich presented a plan, presumably approved by Adolf Hitler, for the deportation of the Jewish population of Europe for building projects, but ultimately ending in the Annihilation of those concerned.

The Wannsee Conference lasted only about ninety minutes, and for most of its participants it was one meeting among many in a busy week. The enormous importance which has been attached to the conference by postwar writers was not evident to most of its participants at the time. Heydrich did not call the meeting to make fundamental new decisions on the Jewish question. Massive killings of Jews in the conquered territories in the Soviet Union and Poland (e.g., at Chelmno) were ongoing and new extermination camps were in preparation at the time of the conference.

There had been a policy of Jewish elimination on the East but it was sporadic and certain orders were read in different ways. At first only able bodied men were executed, but over time these mass killings enveloped women and children. There were never any direct concrete orders from the beginning to eliminate the Jews of Europe en mass. It was a gradual process of radicalization, greed, and sadistic intent.

Lamenting Weaver of Horror

A surreal moment of the album when death appears to a child who has just been shot. The prelude to this meeting in the other world is a scene [loosely based on, Act IV, Scene 1 from *Macbeth* (1606) by William Shakespeare] that boils the cauldron of hatred and all the ingredients that make up the terror of Auschwitz.

The track features the whistle of Mael Mordha's Riobear O Bogail, and the bewitching Christina Poupoutsi as the Witches/ backing vocals

It is a dreamy sequence where the numbness of death surmounts even the very reality of the place. The smell of death clings to them wherever they roam, these Jews, gypsies and Soviet prisoners.

After the cauldron is full, Death speaks to the child.

The scene is set from a prisoner's point of view as he wanders aimlessly in the confines of his nightmares,

When I visited Auschwitz in November 2011, I wrote the following,

I walk amongst the dead, leaning on a rotting hollow tree trunk. I closed my eyes and was consumed by fucked up images, Sitting amongst the silence like a still beetle in a rotting tree, and the hand of fate reached from the smoking horizon and rips the tree from the ash riven soil and whittles a flute to play a song of death... it was from the notes I made here that this track was basically born.

The track has a flute weaving its somber melody as the scene unfolds.

1 WITCH. Thrice the gasping Jew hath bawled.

2 WITCH. Thrice and once, the gypsy wailed

3 WITCH. Ss guard cries:—'tis time! 'tis time!

1 WITCH. Round about the caldron go;

Dribble, dribble, , blood and spittle,
Human meat and to gore nibble

Glowing embers and faggot hiss
Bloated belly and boiling piss,
Curdled vomit, a blind man's cane.
Eye of sinti, Slavic bane.

Tail of rat, and teeth of Jew
A piece of skin with ink tattoo
A mouth agape and quivering tongue
The sting of death, the victim stung,

Dribble, dribble, , blood and spittle,
Human meat and to gore nibble

Into this pot we stir a stew
of death, of hate, of death for you.

[Then death speaks to a wandering boy in the realms of the recently murdered]

Boy 'is anybody there, can anybody help me?'

Death 'I am Death'

Boy 'Where am I?'

Death 'You are here'

Boy 'Where is here'

Death 'Here is now, here is darkness '

Boy 'Please sir, what have I done?'

Death 'You were fucking born'

Boy 'I want my mother? Where is she?'

Death 'She is fucking dead'...

Boy 'I don't understand?'

Death 'It is not for you to understand, just to die and be forgotten'

Boy 'I want to go home'

Death 'You are home, you are fucking dead, everybody you know is fucking dead'

Boy 'no'

Death, I take this hollow chimney and whittle a flute from the oak riven ash, and
cinders of men, women and children.
Here is my song of death

I lay in a dreary open grave, chewing on a dandelion root
and the blood from the sod above drips into my mouth,
and the taste was of children dead,

forever death bound we fall
lost in murder, a murdering haze
wrapped in wailing dread
of sackcloth and ash
upon a twilight dawn

The track is a meandering dream sequence that deconstructs the album's middle and serves as a vacuum for the aggressive musical angst issued prior after. My son [who is aged 10] was called upon to authenticate a child's despair, and although he committed his lines to disc, he was not subjected to the answers. Even I have a parental obligation to keep such vociferous obscenities from the ears of the innocent. Maybe when he is older he can hear the full transcript of his contribution.

Sins of the Pharaohs

You saved your people long ago, Sending plagues upon pharaoh
Frogs and flies, and grievous murrain, Rivers of blood, boils and blains,
First born dead hail and thunder, Locust swarms, darkness asunder,
You led your kind from pain and death, To a promised land where mosses said
set my people free

Now is here and here is now, Here our prayers in birkenau
In open graves your people lie, Blood and piss etched in their eyes
Why did you, oh god of creation, Abandon us to death and cremation.?
Moloch lives in Nazi hate, But where is mosses, I hear his cry of
Set my people free

This is the oblivious veil of hate, where men are like worms without eyes,
Just silhouettes in disguise, Wheezy pendulums of times unending night.
I drown amongst the clamorous throes, A climbing tumult upon an empty sky,

Like rats we are, caught in a trap, far from Moab, and the Promised Land
like fish on hooks, skinned alive, block 11, no one survives
A bullet shot, a coffin nail, left to rot, in a potters field
Armageddon has come this hour, but where is Moses, I can hear his cry of
Set my people free

In Babylon long ago, A people lost by dismal woe

We believed in god up high, No chosen race, a race forgotten
Worms are we despised and rotten, Apathy is all we are
Where is Mosses? I can hear his cry of
Set my people free....

A song about the futility of faith and the terrible affliction of the Jews in Auschwitz as to why their God had forsaken them to such misery and brutality?

In aprox 1300 BC God has heard his people's cries and sent Moses to lead the Israelites from the slavery the Pharaoh Ramses., and sent ten plagues to persuade the Pharaoh to let them go. These plagues included, hail and thunder, locusts, boils and sores, darkness, and the deaths of the first born. The events are commemorated as Passover, referring to how the plague "passed over" the houses of the Israelites while smiting the Egyptian Moses then led his people across the red sea [parting it along the way], towards the promised land of Cannan. He received the Ten Commandments and the rest is [depending on your faith] Myth or history.

In the times of the Holocaust, God did not heed his people's cries; he did not free his people from the murderous intent of Adolf Hitler and his jackals. He did not send any plagues, no Moses would come.

The Sins of the pharaohs is about two different ages, one of myth, wonderment and magic, an age of Gods and heroes, of intervening otherworldly entities. The other is the present age of truth, and the cold realization of hopelessness in a Godless world.

A religious man would state of Moses, "This story is another example of God's power, patience, and His justice. The Egyptians worshiped false gods (Exodus 12:12), and through the plagues He brought down these gods. He also used the plagues to bring down Egypt and to show that He is indeed God of all. They were spread out over the course of a year, the Lord gave Pharaoh ample time to let the Israelites go and to come to believe that He was the one true God"

Historically there would have been around 10,000 Israelites who fled Egypt [the bible would have you believe 2-3 million and that's just absurd as the population of the whole of Egypt at the time would have been, 4.5 million.

What I am trying to convey is the spiritual significance of the few that God did save in the times of Moses, and the many he did not during the Holocaust. Now, if the few of the former are significant, then surely the latter are even more so. The faith of the Jews has solidified them as a people and yet how they must have wondered at the validity of their beliefs during the Holocaust. What purpose could such slaughter have in the grand scheme of God?

Why did God allow the Holocaust we might bewail??

In answer a holy man would declare “In dealing with the problem of evil in the world, we run into many problems like this one. Could God have prevented the Holocaust? Yes, He could have. He could also have prevented Stalin’s massacres in the U.S.S.R., the Spanish Inquisition’s torture of dissidents, and Nero’s reign of terror. In each case, God allowed evil men to exercise a certain amount of power for a short period of time.”

Why on earth would a God want to even bother? The universe in its infinite expanse beholden to a creator that is curiously addicted to a biological being incessant on murder and causing as much pain a possible apparently due to the extremely silly fact that a woman ate an apple from a tree...

It is of course nonsense that the modern mind can have any realization with such idiocy, and yet this idiocy is what millions of people embrace as fact.

It is no wonder us human beings are in such a deplorable state if all we are, all we do, and all we can be, is subject to the will of a creator that allows us to murder and destroy to indelibly end in all the murderers and destroyers being condemned to Hell and all the victims arising once more in eternal thanks.

This is complete nonsense, and yet a perplexing reality for the victims of the Holocaust, most being fervent religious individuals.

As Klausenberger Rebbe exclaimed on the question of God’s chosen people, “If it weren’t for the fact that God has chosen us, then I would also be like the Nazis. It’s better for me to be in my situation than to be one of them, God forbid. Happy is my lot!”

Putting it like that I wonder what you would choose to be?, A murdering sadist or a peaceful pacifist?

To my view no creator would be part of such a primitive, violent process of arbitrary slaughter and inconsequential morbid delight. There is no divine purpose for the Holocaust, no pre ordained retribution for what happened in the Garden of Eden.

There is no obvious design or purpose in any part of nature. And this includes biological organisms, except to the extent that they are “designed” by the process of natural selection. What kind of “loving Designer” would rig the urethra right through the prostate? And how do we know what God’s “greatest delight and pleasures” are?

Maybe what God really likes smells animal fat burning on an altar? That's what ancient Jews thought.

Again we can rationalize and dissect the theology and scientific merits of the aforementioned paragraphs until we grow old with dementia and reach no real conclusions apart from the ones we all have in our heads.

Last train to Eden

Right is life. Left is death

You don't have to die to walk in hell, Here is death and know it well
One way ticket, there is no return, Unfit for life, but fit to burn
Breathing like fish cast into the sand, Torn from hope that none can withstand
You know your going to die, Fucking die
Sub human scum, forsaken by god, No where to run, meat for Moloch
No time to grieve, just time to die, Last train to hell x2
Its time to leave, to hells paradise, Cadaver wind storm ash on the breeze
A human cancer, a racial disease,
Poison blood, we beguile, Chants of death, Sieg Heil
Like bird shit on a dead mans head, Its over now, soon we'll be dead.
Last train to hell, x2
Teeth of flame, gnaw the flesh, The smoking dead, a handful of dust
The biting fog, glimmering dread, Crematoria.., wakes infernal
Right is life. Left is death, All that's left is half a kilogram of ash.
zyclon b in a red cross van, hear the call, of the death camp band
a serenade, of endless sleep, in this place, where life is cheap
the air is mouldering flesh, and twisting sulphurous hue

Featuring Mories from Gnaw Their Tongues who adds a brooding deathly atmosphere across the song.

A seemingly perverse title yet one that was implemented by Hitler in 1941, with the

rapid German advances in the opening weeks of the invasion of the Soviet Union, On 16 July 1941, Hitler addressed a meeting of ministers, He said that Soviet territories west of the Urals were to become a "German Garden of Eden", and that "naturally this vast area must be pacified as quickly as possible; this will happen best by shooting anyone who even looks sideways at us."

The journey to Auschwitz for the European Jewry was a squalid journey of horror and humiliation. A Germanic Eden, Himmler's grandiloquent vision of a Silesian utopia free from Jews

The first trains carrying Jews arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau in March 1942. Often several trains arrived daily carrying Jews from almost every country in Europe.

Each of the trains carried in excess of a thousand victims. Prisoners had been packed into cattle wagons with no room to sit, no food, a bucket for water and another as a toilet. The journey could last days on end, with the 'passengers' not knowing where they were passing through or where they were going. Many victims died during the journey as a result of suffocation, illness or hunger. . Many children suffocated in the crowded cattle cars on the way to the camps. Those who survived were immediately taken to the gas chambers.

The longest transport of the war took 18 days. When the transport doors were open, everyone was already dead

Initially, arrivals at Auschwitz-Birkenau would be unloaded on a 'ramp' alongside the main railway lines at Oswiecim. The prisoners would then walk the short distance to the camp. However, in preparation for the arrival of 440,000 Hungarian Jews during the spring of 1944, railway tracks were laid right into the camp, through the now infamous gatehouse building.

On arrival at Auschwitz-Birkenau the trains would pull up on the unloading ramp in front of the awaiting SS officers and guards, kapos and the Sonderkommando. The Jews were thrown out of the railway wagons and made to leave their belongings behind them. They were then ordered to form lines ready for the selection process. This was when the Nazis selected which Jews would be sent straight to their deaths in the gas chambers and which Jews would remain alive temporarily.

To avoid panic, they were told they had to undress to be washed and disinfected. The Nazi guards used the Sonderkommando to help keep an air of calm and to assist those who were reluctant to undress. Children often cried, but after members of the

Sonderkommando comforted them, they entered the gas chambers, playing or joking with one another, often still carrying their toys.

Many accounts tell of arriving trainloads being met by Dr. Mengele at the ramp, impeccably dressed, whistling to himself as he gestured to the right (for life) and to the left (for death.) Children, their mothers, the aged, all those too weak to work were sent to the gas at Auschwitz. Those who survived Dr. Josef Mengele's experiments were almost always murdered and dissected. Many children were maimed or paralyzed and hundreds died. He was known by children as "Onkel Mengele" and would bring them candy and toys before personally killing them. Twins fascinated Nazi doctor Josef Mengele (known as the "Angel of Death"). According to one witness, he sewed together a set of twins named Guido and Ina, who were about 4 years old, from the back in an attempt to create Siamese twins. Their parents were able to get some morphine and kill them to end their suffering. He later died in a drowning accident in Brazil in 1979.

More than 80 per cent of those who arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau were murdered at once. The majority of the remainder died as a result of overwork, ill-treatment, disease or lack of food. Once the Jews were unloaded and separated into male and female lines, they were then subjected to a selection process. SS doctors carried out this selection.

Usually, those aged over 14 years of age and deemed 'fit' for work was sent to one side of the unloading ramp; the rest were sent to the other side. The elderly and women with children were sent directly to the line of prisoners who were condemned to death in the gas chambers. Those Jews selected for work were sent to a separate building for registration. Prisoners would be registered, before undressing, placing their clothes on a hook, together with their shoes. They would then be tattooed with a registration number, shaved of all body hair, disinfected and forced through showers that were either extremely cold or painfully hot.

Once showered, prisoners were given the infamous striped pyjamas, hat and a pair of wooden clogs. They were marched to the blocks to begin their life within the camp

The Hour Glass of Ash

Hungry maw, bright dread of flame, scorching flesh, in furnace ablaze

Cadaver fog, up in the night sky, barbed wire, a web of suicide,

Sobibor, mouths forever silent, Majdanek, wreath of smoke

Treblinka, a child's stolen years, Belzec ash, a giant human sieve.

Time stands still, in the hour glass of ash

Time stands still, in the hour glass of ash

Time stands still, in the hour glass of ash

Hungry maw, bright dread of flame, scorching flesh, in furnace ablaze

cadaver fog, up in the night sky, barbed wire, a web of suicide,

Sobibor, mouths forever silent, Majdanek, wreath of smoke

Treblinka, a child's stolen years, Belzec ash, a giant human sieve.

Time stands still, in the hour glass of ash

Time stands still, in the hour glass of ash

spell singers and earth rulers, Grasping at dreams with grinding claws

On death we have fed, by greed we are led

To the sound of the devils applause

Ron 'the baron' Miller guest vocals on this track, Christina Poupoutsi backing vocals, as well as J.D Tait's Father, Malcolm Tait on Saxophone.

A song that deals with the murder factory that was, Auschwitz. A place of total horror.

It was said, the rats were the happiest occupants of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The intro is of the orchestral music played by the Jewish band as the victims were led to their deaths. Men, women and children, serenaded by happy compositions as they were deceived into the depths of the gas chambers.

By the summer of 1942, Operation Reinhard began the systematic extermination of the Jews, although hundreds of thousands had already been killed by death squads, the mass extermination within the death camp facilities would now take precedence. In the beginning of the systematic mass murder of Jews, Nazis used mobile killing squads called Einsatzgruppen. The Einsatzgruppen consisted of four units of between 500 and 900 men each which followed the invading German troops into the Soviet Union. By the time Himmler ordered a halt to the shooting in the fall of 1942, they had murdered approximately 1,500,000 Jews.

The Death Camps ; For the purpose of mass killing specially adapted trucks were deployed. Such trucks had been previously used by the *Einsatzgruppen*, who carried out mass killings in Russia. The vehicles were reinforced to carry heavy loads and equipped with tightly sealed doors. The exhaust pipe was redirected to a vent in the middle of the truck, which would fill the rear compartment completely with gas. The camp at Chelmno had three such vehicles at its disposal.

In January 1942, SS official Reinhard Heydrich held a meeting of Nazi government officials to present the Final Solution. At this meeting, known as the Wannsee Conference the Nazi officials agreed to SS plans for the transport and destruction of all 11 million Jews of Europe. The Nazis would use the latest in twentieth century technology, cost efficient engineering and mass production techniques for the sole purpose of killing off the following racial groups: Jews, Russian prisoners of war, and Gypsies (Sinti-Roma). Their long-range plans, unrealized, included targeting some 30 million Slavs for death. Starting early in 1942, the Jewish genocide (sometimes called the Judeocide) went into full operation. Auschwitz 2 (Birkenau), Treblinka, Belzec, and Sobibór began operations as death camps. There was no selection process; Jews were destroyed upon arrival.

Six death or extermination camps were constructed in Poland. These so-called death factories were Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Belzec, Sobibór, Lublin (also called Majdanek], and Chelmno

In four weeks in August 1942, 312,500 people were murdered at Treblinka. A killing rate of 10,000 a day. The small Reinhard camps of Belzec, Sobibór and Treblinka, along with Chelmno (where Jews were first murdered using gas vans), were responsible for the deaths of more than 1.5 million Jews. These were 'pure' death camps, serving no purpose other than murder. Camps were an essential part of the Nazis' systematic oppression and mass murder of Jews, political adversaries, and others considered socially and racially undesirable. This was not a new form of human brutality, and yet its sinister framework became the foundations to the unspeakably ludicrous decimation of a race of people.

Signs on the entrance to the gas chambers read: "Baths and disinfecting rooms." Other notices read: "Cleanliness brings freedom"

Inside the gas chambers everything was blue and hectic. The prisoners had no clue what was going on. There were shower heads inside of the gas chambers to make the prisoners think that they were just taking a shower. Then they would see a bright light come through the roof and blue pellets raining down on them. Most of the pellets would dissolve while falling creating what looked like a blue rain. They would scream as they realized they would all die. As they all fell to their demise the gas would start to vent out through small cracks in the chambers.

Gas in the chambers during the Holocaust entered the lower layers of air first and then rose slowly toward the ceiling, which forced victims to trample one another in an attempt to breathe. Stronger victims were often found on top of the pile of bodies. Fifteen minutes later SS guards would open the air-tight locked door wearing gas masks because they well understood the dangers of the gas. Left behind would be a blue residue on the dead prisoners and the walls.

The killing capacity of the ovens of Birkenau could murder approx 3000 people every day, that amounts to approx 150,000 people a month. Five furnaces each with three doors. 15 ovens working non stop. Four bodies in each burning for half an hour. In total 60 bodies burnt in half hour, 120 in an hour. 2880 in a day working round the clock as was the case. That is the capacity of all four crematoria in Auschwitz-Birkenau. A smooth continuous flow of death passing through the death mills.

400,000 Hungarian Jews perished in a few weeks, it took 100 railway carriages to take 100,000 Jews to the camp, it needed only a few to take their ashes to the Vistula river.

From time to time SS doctors visited the crematorium as if it was a normal slaughterhouse. They would feel the calves and thighs of the living and selected the best pieces before execution. After the execution, the chosen bodies were laid on a table where the doctors proceeded to cut pieces of still warm flesh from thighs and calves and threw them into waiting receptacles. The muscles of those who had been shot were still contracting, making the bucket jump about. It was thought the Nazis used the flesh for plastic operations on wounded soldiers, but in fact it was taken to the institute of hygiene at Rajsko where it was used in laboratories for the growing of bacterial cultures. A German remarked, "horseflesh would do, but in war time it is too valuable for that sort of thing."

The Nazis would process Holocaust victims' hair into felt and thread. Hair was also used to make socks for submarine crews, ignition mechanisms in bombs, ropes and cords for ships, and stuffing for mattresses

By the end of 1943 the Germans closed down the death camps built specifically to exterminate Jews. The death tolls for the camps are as follows: Treblinka, (750,000 Jews); Belzec, (550,000 Jews); Sobibór, (200,000 Jews); Chelmno, (150,000 Jews) and Lublin (also called Majdanek, 50,000 Jews). Auschwitz continued to operate through the summer of 1944; its final death total was about 1 million Jews and 1 million non-Jews. Allied encirclement of Germany was nearly complete in the fall of 1944. The Nazis began dismantling the camps, hoping to cover up their crimes. By the late winter/early spring of 1945, they sent prisoners walking to camps in central Germany. Thousands died in what became known as death marches.

On the opposite coin of life's credulous realities we have a movement known as "Holocaust revisionism" (known to its opponents as "Holocaust denial") has developed and grown amid much controversy. This theory suggests that the Holocaust - that is, the murder of approximately six million Jews as an intentional policy of genocide on the part of the Nazi regime - is, in fact, an elaborate hoax. Further, that the evidence historians use to study this event was fabricated by a powerful Jewish conspiracy for political and financial gain.

This is an entirely separate level of thought and really does depend on your own mind view as to what you perceive as facts and what you perceive as fiction.

We are at the mercy of what we are told, of what we can readily explore and of what information is at our disposal. If you were to ask me, I would say the Holocaust certainly existed, but as in all past events there is no doubt some details can be exaggerated or misconstrued from the original source. What is undeniable is the wanton slaughter, frivolous political motives, and senseless violence the Holocaust embraces. But this is nothing new in the history of human kind, as the past is splattered in the

blood of many and wanton slaughter by dubious tyrannical regimes. It seems to be what we humans do, and if lessons are ever learned, they never seem to be remembered.

The horrors of this wretched place are well documented in numerous books and web pages, far too numerous to list here in detail. The cruelty Human beings are capable of is never easy to comprehend, but it is also never surprising considering such cruelty has been perpetrated since the dawn of Man.

The Mussulmans wander through the infernal whorling fires amongst silent shadows to be fed into the thirsting jaws of a godless death machine to cough up their souls to the Nazi Moloch who sits within a ring of smoking infant skulls.

Many Gods and many voices
pest control, we have no choices
we will fight and we will die
shot to pieces you and I,
apathy upon our knees
around your necks our hands will squeeze
so dim the spark of human mercy
we wont die in vain this time.

Sonderkommando 12 we fight
Sonderkommando 12 we die
Sonderkommando 12 we rise
Sonderkommando 12 we

Take us down you fucking scum
today we die with heads held high
you may spit as we all crawl
but in the end you will all fall
we fight a beast so unforgiving
making lives not worth living
but when we die and waste away
let all who know stand up and say

Sonderkommando 12
Sonderkommando 12
Sonderkommando 12
Sonderkommando 12

Walking dead and hopelessness, rabid dogs and rotting flesh
Nazi hate and gods as one, ignorance for every one
faith is blind and so are we, in the dark eternally
never learning the shit we do, life is shit for me and you

Crawl in piss against the wall, die in shit die in filth
suicide we embrace, now its time we must die
all together no surrender, fucking kill fucking die
its the end for you and I, let all who know stand up, and say

Bruce Hamilton plays harmonica and Christina Poupoutsi backing vocals

This song is about the Sonderkommando revolt at Auschwitz.

Muselmann (German for “Muslim”) was slang for concentration camp victims who gave up any hope of survival. They would squat with their legs tucked in an “Oriental” fashion, with their shoulders curved and their head dropped and overcome by despair. Jewish writer and Holocaust survivor Primo Levi stated that if he could “enclose all the evil of our time in one image, I would choose this image.

As the time of their execution grew nearer, the members of the 12th Sonderkommando decided to revolt and escape. Besides the gunpowder being smuggled by the women, which the men fashioned into crude grenades using sardine tins, there were some small arms that had been slipped through the fence by local partisans. In addition, knives and small axes had been made and hidden throughout the crematoria. Much of the gunpowder was used in creating demolition charges. There was talk of a general uprising that would coincide with the arrival of the approaching Soviet armies, but some sonderkommando were certain that they would not live until that day.

On October 7, 1944, at about 3 in the afternoon, the Poles in Crematorium 1 begin the revolt. Hungarians in Crematoria 3 and 4 join in while the sonderkommando of Crematorium 2 break through the wires of the camp. An especially sadistic Nazi guard in Crematorium 1 is disarmed and stuffed into an oven to be burned alive. Small arms fire rattles from the second floor of the crematoria until the Germans bring in heavy machine guns and riddle the wooden roof.

The guards counterattack and penetrate the buildings, indiscriminately shooting at all

prisoners they encounter. The sonderkommando in Crematorium 4 drag their demolition charges into the oven rooms and detonate them in a defiant suicide. The revolt is quickly suppressed and the escaped men recaptured with the help of local citizens. Approximately 200 sonderkommando are forced to lie face down outside the crematoria where they are executed with single shots to the back of the head. Some of the men are spared for interrogation, but the bodies of the 12th Sonderkommando are soon disposed of by the 13th Sonderkommando.

The men give up names, including those of some women who were engaged in smuggling gunpowder. Despite months of beatings and rape and electric shocks to their genitals, the only names given up by the women are those of already dead sonderkommando.

Crematorium 4 was damaged beyond repair and never used again. On November 7th, 1944, the Nazis destroyed the gas chambers to hide their crimes. Twelve days after the hanging of the four women, the camp personnel forced 56000 prisoners on a Death March into what remained of the Third Reich; 7500 prisoners left behind were liberated by advancing Soviet armies on January 27th.

This is one of those rare occasions when total fear did not subdue the human will to fight back against oppression. The event is documented quite well in the movie, *The Grey Zone*, which is one of the finest Holocaust films I have ever seen.

Send my love to Maher-shalal-hash-baz

4 Crematoria with 5 furnaces, each with 3 doors

4 bodies in each, burning for 30 minutes.

In total 60 bodies burnt in half an hour, 120 bodies in an hour, 2880 a day, 86,000 corpses a month, and you look at the countless rows of barbed wire

Crematoria's chimneys rising into the sky, guards, the snapping dogs

There was no hope, stripped naked and sent to death

The above lyrics were recorded on site at Birkenau .

Malcolm Tait plays saxophone , and Will Baynard backing vocals

This is a short instrumental that closes the album and if the title is to be dissected then the following is my interpretation.

Maher-shalal-hash-baz is symbolic name in the Old Testament, given to Isaiah's second son that is part of a prophetic indication that Damascus and Samaria were soon to be plundered by the king of Assyria. Maher-shalal-hash-baz, means "Swift to the booty, speedy to the prey" [Isaiah 8]

The final track on the album is about this mysterious quote and is basically an allegory in itself regarding the close bond the Jews had with their God.

The Old Testament is riddled with God's wrath and his vengeful fury over the Israelites, especially when they strayed from his covenant. It makes you wonder what the Jews could possibly have done to deserve the Holocaust.

The Old Testament has the following acts of violence vented upon the Jews by God for various reasons of apparent misbehaviour. Old Testament The wrath of God appears in the Old Testament as a divine response to human sin and injustice. The Israelites were destined to drink deeply from the cup of God's wrath.

From the time of their leaving Egypt until they were about to cross over into the Promised Land, the Israelites provoked God to anger (Deuteronomy 9:7-8). After the Israelites had destroyed the city of Jericho, the anger of the Lord burned against them

because Achan had taken some of the spoils of the city for himself (Joshua 7:1; see also Joshua 22:20). When the Law was given at Mt. Sinai, God commanded that the priests carry the Ark of the Covenant by hand, but when the Ark was later moved on an ox cart and seemed about to fall off, it was steadied by Uzzah who was not a priest. Because Uzzah's action angered the Lord, God struck Uzzah dead (2 Samuel 6:5-7). Isaiah declared that God was angry with Israel because they rejected the law of the Lord and rejected the Holy One of Israel. God would therefore reject his people (Isaiah 5:24-26). In his fury, God gave Israel over to robbers for plundering because they were not obedient to his law (Isaiah 42:24-25). Because in great wickedness Judah turned to worship idols, God was provoked to anger. Although he sent prophets among them to admonish them not to do terrible things, they would not listen. Therefore, God's anger was poured out upon the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem so that they became wasted and desolate (Jeremiah 44:2-6). Nations who go against God are subject to his wrath (Psalms 2:1-6). The prophet Zephaniah spoke of a day of wrath, meaning a future time when God would bring his judgment against the Israelites for their wickedness (Zephaniah 1:12-18). The prophet Isaiah referred to the day of the Lord as a day of anger against the Babylonians for their great evil (Isaiah 13:1-22). God's wrath is aroused by such things as unbelief and disobedience (Hebrews 3:18, 19), idolatry (Deuteronomy 32:19-22; 2 Kings 22:17; Jeremiah 44:3), apostasy (Hebrews 10:26-27), and refusal to repent (Romans 2:5). The Old Testament often speaks of a "day" coming in the future which will be "The great day of the Lord... a day of wrath" (Zephaniah 1:14-15 NRSV). Isaiah spoke of "the day of the Lord" as "cruel, with wrath and fierce anger" (Isaiah 13:9 NRSV) This day referred to the present day of judgment in history, as when the Assyrians conquered Israel; but it also calls to mind a future day of final judgment at the end time when all will be called to give account to God.

I am sure the Holocaust was seen by many as this day, and I cannot fathom what a god fearing person could possibly do to deserve such a judgement. Of course its total nonsense, but that's just my opinion. Looking in from the outside is always an easy option.

This finality and seemingly pre-ordained fate of a people is a sufficient end to the album, a passing thought of a vicious God and the passive people beholden to his or its name...

The reality of the Holocaust is far more frightening than the mythical eccentricities of a Deity ushering forth total terror on innocents, Of course this is my own interpretation of what I see and have learned. I am not a follower of Judaism and no doubt a Rabbi would have a different perspective on the Holocaust, as will the old Nazi, or the numerous other religious institutions and political establishments. We are all entitled to our own evaluation of whatever subject matter we choose to dissect.

Conclusion

Nazis were not only the most notorious murderers in history but also the greatest thieves'. At all levels, individual, institutional, state-led and Europe-wide, the killing process was accompanied by plunder on a fantastic scale. Jews simply had no place in the Nazi universe

In 1882, the early Zionist pioneer Judah Leib Pinsker wrote that anti-Semitism was an inherited predisposition: Judeophobia is a psychic aberration. As a psychic aberration it is hereditary, and as a disease transmitted for two thousand years it is incurable.' ... 'In this way have Judaism and Anti-Semitism passed for centuries through history as inseparable companions.' ...'Having analyzed Judeophobia as an hereditary form of demonopathy, peculiar to the human race, and having represented Anti-Semitism as proceeding from an inherited aberration of the human mind, we must draw the important conclusion that we must give' up contending against these hostile impulses as we must against every other inherited predisposition'

You have to be far removed from the realm of intelligence not to agree with the aforementioned supposition. We are not born to hate, we are made to hate. Through successive generations we are raised to be of a certain religious denomination, or of none. We are taught to hate other races, homosexuals, gypsies, anything that is different or alien to our environment.

As the centuries have passed we have a more liberal society in many countries that embrace tolerance, and minorities are generally accepted for what they are and not what they are painted to be.

Of course we can get into the valid arguments of minorities not willing to assimilate into the cultures they have chosen to become part of, thus creating the divisions that agitate racial imbalances, in turn poisoning communities at the core.

The bigotry and hypocrisy in many lands that serve the salivating jaws of hatred never cease to amaze me. Since the end of World War Two [and if that wasn't the ultimate learning curve for human folly] we as a race of living beings seem to have no grasp of real communal togetherness, of complete humanitarian ethics .

What we have is the do gooders who mean well, that generate charity that amasses aid to help those lands who are abandoned by their own greed fuelled governments.

The world today is no better than the world of the Ancients or the middle ages.

We may have better health care, but the pollution we spill into the atmosphere equates to the extended longevity we so cherish.

Wars have never ceased, cruelty and murder have grown with the times. Hitler may not have been as cruel or hands on as Caligula, Genghis Khan or the Ottomans, but he had twentieth century mechanics to streamline his intended ill will to others.

Our modern age and all of its progressive scientific wonders have detached us from the simplicity and ethical beauty of our very existence.

Religion has evolved from a tribal necessity to a corrupt and rotten reflection of our inability to truly grasp what is plainly in front of our eyes.

The plight of the Jew is no more or less the plight of us all, for we are all part of one world, and yet we separate ourselves from each other by our territorial boundaries where the flags flutter and the symbolism of idealist nationalism separates rather than unites. Only when we evolve beyond our self indulgence can we ever hope to live in relative peace.

I doubt we will ever be rid of the urge to hate,, but a perfect world cannot exist unless we can compare it to an imperfect one. Like good and evil, how can we know one from the other unless we experience both? It is a question of understanding and choosing the right path, the righteous path.

The Holocaust is a most despicable event in history, one that is unique in its deployment of industrialized murders, and yet it is no less horrific, no less inhumane than mass killings carried out in almost every nation, in every century since mankind appeared upon this earth as thinking, conscience holding being.

The aftermath of the Holocaust has seen international courts held in the wake of the World War II convict many [but not the majority] of Nazis of the crimes committed against Jews and charged them to pay huge amounts of compensation to them. For decades, Germany has been paying this compensation, which is expressed in billions of dollars, to Israel and other Jews living in different countries. Not only Germany but also other European countries, Switzerland for instance, and even the Eastern European countries that failed to help Jews during the Nazi occupation were several times charged with paying compensation to Jews oppressed by the Nazis.

Jews were subjected to a terrible genocide during the World War II by the Nazis. Millions of Jews -together with other people of different nations- became the target of Nazi brutality.

Genocide is not resigned for Jews alone and to attempt to exist under its umbrella as many Jews choose to do today is both disrespectful and dangerous.

A Religious Jew stated,

While nothing can justify the Holocaust, we do see at least one good thing which came from World War II: Israel now exists as a nation. The Holocaust was a primary reason the White Paper of 1939 was rescinded, freeing Jews to immigrate to Palestine. The fact that, as of 1948, the Jews have a restored national identity helps to fulfil such biblical prophecies as Ezekiel 37 and Matthew 24. Defeating Nazism and giving the land of Israel back to the Jews is a classic example of God's thwarting Satan's plan and bringing about good in spite of the evil.

It seems all is God ordained, God fearing and God made [nonsense of course, but what can we do??]

Another point to evaluate is the following,

Following the Holocaust there has been a near irreversible rupture in Jewish-Christian relations. In previous anti-Semitic regimes, the Jew could convert, assimilate, or flee his persecutors, but during the Holocaust there was no escaping the executioner. The world's silence smashed any Jewish belief that Gentiles could and would restrain themselves from a total expression of hate. "Some Christian theologians have written that in order for any true dialogue and reconciliation to occur between Jew and Gentile, there first must be a ruthless self-scrutiny on the part of the Christian world regarding its behaviour during the Holocaust, which includes a severe challenge to 'Christian theology

As a parting though I would like to quote George Carlin,

“Religion has actually convinced people that there's an invisible man living in the sky who watches everything you do, every minute of every day. And the invisible man has a special list of ten things he does not want you to do. And if you do any of these ten things, he has a special place, full of fire and smoke and burning and torture and anguish, where he will send you to live and suffer and burn and choke and scream and cry forever and ever 'til the end of time! But He loves you”

Indeed he does.....doesn't he?

I bid you well

Metatron 2013.