

Author's note: This calculation, as with any numbers concerning losses during the Second World War, is only approximate; but in this case it is rather straightforward: German losses in Poland during the September campaign in 1939 – the bulk of all Germans killed in Poland by the Poles during the war – is approximately 16,000. Assume that another 8,000 were killed during the occupation by the Polish underground. This is an overestimate made for simplicity of calculation. To play it even safer, let us assume that 30,000 Germans were killed in Poland during the war by the Poles.

The number of Jews killed by the Poles during the war is vastly larger. The first killing spree, in pogroms that accompanied the German attack against the Soviet Union and its aftermath in the summer and early autumn of 1941, amounts to several thousand victims. The killings in the town of Jedwabne, the subject of my book *Neighbors*, was only one of many such episodes, as research by the Polish Institute of National Memory, published in two thick volumes, subsequently documented (Pawel Machcewicz and Krzysztof Persak, eds., *Wokół Jedwabnego*, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej, Warszawa, 2002, 2 vols).

And then comes the most bloody period of killings of Jews by Poles: what is known in Polish historiography as the third phase of the Holocaust, after the bulk of Jewish population was killed through German *Aktionen*, i.e., deportations to extermination camps. According to estimates by Polish historians, about 10% of the Jewish ghetto population in Poland – some 200,000-250,000 people – tried to save themselves by running away from the ghettos and hiding on the so-called Aryan side. Out of this population, about 40,000 Jews survived the war. The bulk of the Jewish population killed during this period perished either directly, killed by the Poles (or Ukrainians) among whom they were hiding, or by being betrayed and delivered to German police outposts by the local population. Publications of the Polish historians associated with the research group on the Holocaust of the Polish Academy of Science in Warsaw – Jan Grabowski, Barbara Engelking, Dariusz Libionka,

Alina Skibinska, Jakub Petelewicz, or Jacek Leociak – offer rigorous documentation of this phenomenon.

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