

The “Jewish Question”
in the Territories Occupied by Italians
1939-1943

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viella

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Some of them were sent from Banjica to Sajmište, while some of them were taken directly from Banjica to some of the execution sites near Belgrade or deported to the camps all over Europe. A closer investigation of the Book of the Banjica Camp Inmates, i.e. of the dates of deportation of larger groups of Jews to the Camp after May 1942, enables us to discover among the deported people the family members of the Jewish people mentioned in this paper for whom there is no evidence of being arrested⁸⁴ or executed.⁸⁵ On the other hand, the identification of runaway Jews mentioned in police documents and of those whose names are in the Book of the Banjica Camp Inmates often reveals the names of Banjica inmates of Jewish origin which cannot be found in police documents.⁸⁶ In several cases, runaway Jews were arrested in the vicinity of Niš, which could indicate that they were sent either to the Concentration Camp on Crveni Krst in Niš or to the Jewish Concentration Camp in Zemun (in the cases of arrests before February 1942), to which a large group of mostly Jewish women and their children from Niš were sent in February 1942. In some cases, it is not possible to establish what happened to some of the arrested Jewish people after the investigation procedure.

Jewish people who were brought to Banjica were taken directly from Banjica to execution sites near Belgrade, where they were shot: Begović, *Logor Banjica 1941-1944*, p. 28.

84. This was the case with Jakov Karaoglanović, for whom there is no evidence that he had been arrested, but there is information in the Book of the Banjica Camp Inmates based on which it can be concluded that at the time when the Special Police of the BCG was looking for Jakov, his entire family was arrested (two young sons and his wife). They were then sent from the Concentration Camp in Niš to the Banjica Concentration Camp, where all three of them were executed on 11 August 1942: 1. Marko, Jakova, Karoglanović (1938, Belgrade); *Logor Banjica. Logoraši*, vol. 1, p. 452; 2. David, Jakova, Karoglanović (1934, Belgrade); *ibid*; 3. Mara, Marka, Karaoglanović (1911, Pirot); *ibid*.

On 10 August 1942, together with Jakov Karaoglanović's family a larger group of Jews, who had apparently been hiding in Niš and surrounding areas, was brought to the Banjica Concentration Camp from the Concentration Camp on Crveni Krst in Niš. They were all shot on 11 August 1942 in Belgrade. There were 17 people in this group. On the same day, i.e. on 10 August 1942, a group of Jews who had been hiding in Belgrade and surrounding areas were brought to the Banjica Concentration Camp. They were shot on 11 August 1942 together with the group of Jews who had been brought from Niš. There were four people in this group. *Logor Banjica. Logoraši*, vol. 1, pp. 449-452.

85. Nisim Alkalaj was hiding in Prokuplje as Nisim Aleksić from Prokuplje, where he was arrested in 1942. In the Book of the Banjica Camp Inmates there are no records of a camp inmate called Nisim Alkalaj or Nisim Aleksić born in Prokuplje. Nisim's two children were in the group which was sent from the Concentration Camp on Crveni Krst in Niš to the Banjica Concentration Camp on 10 August 1942. This group consisted of camp inmates who were runaway Jews: 1. Sokula (Sumhula), Nisima, Alkalaj (1936, Belgrade); *Logor Banjica. Logoraši*, vol. 1, p. 449; 2. Džoja, Nisima, Alkalaj (1935, Belgrade); *ibid.* and wife; 3. Matilda, Avrama, Alkalaj (1912, Skoplje); *ibid*.

86. David, Isaka Mandilović (1899, Prokuplje) was shot in Belgrade on 3 August 1942. Three other Jews were shot with him: 1. Buki, Arona, Baruh (1914, Niš); 2. Jolana, Hajnriha, Rac (1887, Lengen, Mađarska); 3. Rašela, Haskija, Levi (1888, Visoko); *ibid.*, p. 445.

OLGA MANOJLOVIĆ PINTAR

Escaping, Surviving and Telling the Truth about the Holocaust

1. Introduction

During the years 1938 and 1939, numerous official letters and documents were exchanged between the Yugoslav Ministry of the Interior's Department for the Protection of the State, the Consular and Economic Department of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs, several embassies and consular missions and the regional police administrations. Various civil organisations like the Association of the Hotel Managers, tourist organisations of Dalmatia, Dubrovnik and the Drava province (present-day Slovenia) and even some individuals were active in this discussion, which was otherwise relatively invisible to the wider public. The main subject of their dynamic correspondence was the introduction of the visa policy for Jews from the countries that adopted anti-Semitic legislation.¹

The suspicion towards Jewish tourists as possible asylum seekers expressed in this communication and the subsequent adoption of the regulation that almost closed state borders to them, marked the first step in the process of the deprivation of Jewish rights on Yugoslav territories.² It was followed by the introduction of anti-Semitic regulations that denied full civil rights to the Jewish citizens of Yugoslavia in October 1940. The third step in that process began after the dissolution of Yugoslavia, when the racial laws introduced on all the occupied territories and in the Independent State of Croatia led to the almost complete annihilation of the Jewish community.

The article is focused on the decade 1933-1943 and located on the Yugoslav state territory. It follows the life trajectories of the two groups of people who,

1. Archive of Yugoslavia (AY), Fond 14 Ministarstvo unutrašnjih poslova Kraljevine Jugoslavije, Materijali odeljenja za zaštitu države, Migraciona Politika, Turističke vize – izdavanje viza strancima, naročito Jevrejima iz raznih zemalja u godinama koje su prethodile Drugom svetskom ratu 1922-1941, 14-33-101, Generalni konzulat Kraljevine Jugoslavije, Marselj, 1939, F 57, klasacije A1, A2, A4-A11.

2. Professor Milan Ristović wrote extensively on this topic in his book titled *In Search for a Shelter: Yugoslav Jews in their Run from the Holocaust 1941-1945*, which was published for the first time in Belgrade by Službeni glasnik in 1998. Recently the book came out in a second edition. See: Milan Ristović, *U potrazi za utočištem, Jugoslovenski Jevreji u bekstvu od Holokausta 1941-1945*, Belgrade, Čigoja štampa, 2016. Also see Milan Ristović, "Jugoslavija i jevrejske izbeglice 1938-1941", *Istorija 20 veka. Časopis Instituta za savremenu istoriju*, 14/1 (1996), pp. 21-43.