



Name of Execution Site: Babi Yar

Location of Execution Site: Babi Yar was a ravine located two miles away from Kiev, Ukraine. A ravine is a gorge or a narrow valley with steep sides. The ravine provided a “natural coffin” that the German’s used to bury the bodies.

Brief description of the Execution Site :

Babi Yar was an execution site, not a camp. Under the command of one of the cruelest Nazi murderers, Reinhard Heydrich, the Einsatzgruppe were ordered to execute Jews, political criminals, Polish government officials and gypsies. These people were gathered by the Einsatzgruppe, a group of Nazi killers and taken to a ravine, shot and buried. Jews were ordered to report to Dorogozhitshaya Street next to a Jewish cemetery with all of their belongings at 7:00 am on Monday, September 29. If they did not appear they were to be “punished by death.” After their arrival, the Jews were taken to the ravine where they were stripped and murdered. The ravine was 150 meters long, 30 meters wide and 15 meters deep.

How many people perished at the Execution Site?

Over 34,000 Jews were killed at Babi Yar in only two days. The total number of people killed including the Jews at Babi Yar was approximately 100,000.

What were the dates that the Execution Site was in existence?

The executions began on Monday September 29, 1941 and lasted until Tuesday September 30, 1941. After those two days, Babi Yar served as an execution site for gypsies and criminals for several months.

Who Discovered the Execution Site?

In August 1943, the Red Army or the Soviet Union Army was approaching Babi Yar. In order to remove the evidence of Babi Yar’s existence, Nazi officers rushed to Babi Yar and forced prisoners to dig up the bodies of those who were killed. After they dug up the bodies, the Nazis piled them and burnt them. The workers who dug up the bodies were then killed.

Other interesting facts:

- The Jews were stripped and beaten at the ravine and then ordered to lie faced down. German Nazis then took machine guns and shot them one by one. The next rounds of Jews to be terminated were forced to lie on top of dead corpses. This cycle continued for two days.