

The best-known [Holocaust trial in Estonian SSR](#) was brought in 1961, by the local [Soviet](#) authorities against Estonian [collaborators](#) who had participated in the execution of the [Holocaust](#) during the [Nazi German occupation \(1941-1944\)](#). The Holocaust (from the Greek  $\epsilon\lambda\text{"}\acute{\omicron}\lambda\acute{\omicron}\kappa\alpha\upsilon\sigma\tau\omicron\nu$ " ( $\epsilon\ell$ -Latin  $hol\acute{o}kauston$   $holos$ , "completely" and  $kaustos$ , "burnt" also known as The Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic (Eesti Nõukogude Sotsialistlik Vabariik Эстонская Советская Социалистическая Республика Estonskaya A soviet (совёт, "council" originally was a workers' local council in late Imperial Russia. Collaboration is a recursive process where two or more people or organizations work together toward an intersection of common goals — for example an intellectual The Holocaust (from the Greek  $\epsilon\lambda\text{"}\acute{\omicron}\lambda\acute{\omicron}\kappa\alpha\upsilon\sigma\tau\omicron\nu$ " ( $\epsilon\ell$ -Latin  $hol\acute{o}kauston$   $holos$ , "completely" and  $kaustos$ , "burnt" also known as See also Estonia in World War II After Nazi Germany

invaded the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, the Wehrmacht reached Estonia The accused were charged with **murdering** up to 5000 [German](#) and [Czechoslovakian Jews](#) and [Gypsies](#) near the [Kalevi-Liiva](#) concentration camp in 1942-1943. Jews have lived in Germany, or " Ashkenaz " at least since the early 4th century, through both **periods** of tolerance and spasms of Czechoslovakia may also refer to what is now the Czech Republic and Slovakia. PLEASE TAKE NOTE\*\*\*\*\* The Romani people (singular Rom, plural Roma as a Noun; also known as Romanies or Roma people) are an ethnic group with origins Kalevi-Liiva is a place near Jägala **village** in Jõelähtme Parish in Harju County, Estonia. The [public trial](#) by the Supreme Court of the [Estonian SSR](#) was held in the [Estonia Theatre](#) in [Tallinn](#) and attended by a mass audience. Public trial or open trial is a trial open to public as opposed to the Secret trial. The Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic (Eesti Nõukogude Sotsialistlik Vabariik Эстонская Советская Социалистическая Республика Estonskaya The Estonia Theatre is an Opera house and Concert hall in Tallinn, Estonia. Tallinn (historically known by the German, Swedish and Danish name Reval or the Polish name Rewal, among other names All **three** defendants were convicted and [sentenced to death](#), two of them were executed shortly after. Capital punishment, the death penalty or execution, is the Killing of a person by judicial process as Punishment. The third defendant, [Ain-Ervin Mere](#) was tried [in absentia](#) and was not available for execution. In absentia is Latin for "in the absence" In legal use it usually pertains to a defendant's right to be present in court proceedings

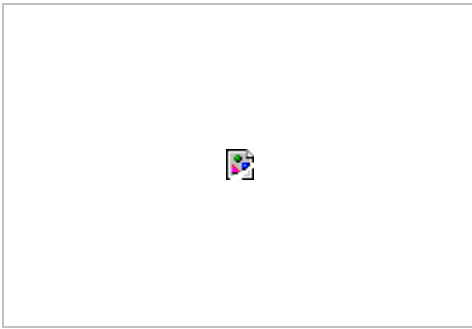
## Contents

- [1 The accused](#)
- [2 The crimes](#)
- [3 Witnesses](#)
- [4 The verdict](#)
- [5 Tartu trials](#)
- [6 References](#)
- [7 External links](#)

## The accused

- [Ain-Ervin Mere](#), **commander** of the Estonian Security Police (Group B of the [Sicherheitspolizei](#)) under the [Estonian Self-Administration](#), was tried [in absentia](#). Ain-Ervin Mere (from birth to Estification Ain-Ervin Martson, also known as Ain Mere) February 22, 1903 &ndash; April 5, 1969 The Sicherheitspolizei (security police often abbreviated as SiPo, was a term used in Nazi Germany to describe the state political and criminal investigation security See also Estonia in World War II After Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, the Wehrmacht reached Estonia In absentia is Latin for "in the absence" In legal use it usually pertains to a defendant's right to be present in court proceedings Before the trial he was an active member of the Estonian community in England, contributing to Estonian language publications. <sup>[1]</sup> At the time of the trial he was however held in captivity, accused of murder. He was never deported<sup>[2]</sup> and died a free man in England in 1969.
- **Ralf Gerrets**, the deputy commandant at the [Jägala](#) camp
- **Jaan Viik**, (*Jan Wijk*, *Ian Viik*), a guard at the Jägala labor camp was singled out for prosecution out of the hundreds of Estonian camp guards and police for his particular brutality. Jägala is a village in Jõelähtme Commune in Harjumaa, Estonia. <sup>[3]</sup> He was testified as throwing small children into the air and **shooting** them. He did not deny the charge. <sup>[4]</sup>
- A fourth accused, camp commandant, **Aleksander Laak** (*Alexander Laak*) was discovered in Canada but committed suicide.

## The crimes



Corpses of inmates from Klooga concentration camp stacked for burning.

While the accused may have been involved in other [crimes against humanity](#) during the [German occupation of Estonia](#), the trial focused on the events of September 1942. In Public international law, a crime against humanity is an act of Persecution or any large scale atrocities against a body of people and is the highest level of See also Estonia in World War II After Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, the Wehrmacht reached Estonia According to testimony of the survivors, at least two transports with about 2,100-2,150 people<sup>[5]</sup>, arrived at the railway station at [Raasiku](#), one from [Theresienstadt \(Terezín\)](#) with [Czechoslovakian Jews](#) and one from [Berlin](#) with [German citizens](#). Raasiku Parish (Raasiku vald is a rural municipality in northern Estonia. Theresienstadt concentration camp (often referred to as Terezín) was a Nazi Concentration camp during World War II. For the Nazi concentration camp see Theresienstadt concentration camp. Jews in Czech republic are predominately Ashkenazic Jews and the current Jewish population now only a fraction of the First republic 's Jewish Berlin is the capital city and one of sixteen states of Germany. German citizenship is based primarily on the principle of Jus sanguinis. Around 1,700-1,750 people, mainly Jews, not [selected](#) for work at the [Jägala](#) camp were taken to [Kalevi-Liiva](#) and shot. This is a list of [words](#) terms concepts and Slogans that were specifically used in Nazi Germany. Jägala is a village in Jõelähtme Commune in Harjumaa, Estonia. Kalevi-Liiva is a place near Jägala village in Jõelähtme Parish in Harju County, Estonia. <sup>[5]</sup>

Transport **Be 1. 9. 1942** from [Theresienstadt](#) arrived at the Raasiku station on September 5, 1942, after a five day trip. <sup>[6][7]</sup> According to testimony by one of the accused, Gerretts, eight busloads of Estonian [auxiliary police](#) had arrived from [Tallinn](#)<sup>[7]</sup>. Auxiliary police (also [called](#) Special police or Special constables are usually the part-time reserves of a regular Police force Tallinn (historically known by the German, Swedish and Danish name Reval or the Polish name Rewal, among other names A selection process was supervised by Ain-Ervin Mere, chief of [Sicherheitspolizei](#) in Estonia; those not selected for slave labor were sent by bus to an execution site near the camp. The Sicherheitspolizei (security police often abbreviated as SiPo, was a term used in Nazi Germany to describe the state political and criminal investigation security Later the police<sup>[7]</sup> in teams of 6 to 8 men<sup>[5]</sup> would execute the Jews by [machine gun](#) fire, on other hand, during later investigation some guards of camp denied participation of police and said that execution was done by camp personnel<sup>[5]</sup>. For other uses of the phrase see Machine Gun (disambiguation. On the first day a total of 900 people were murdered in this way. <sup>[7][5]</sup> Gerrets told that he had fired a pistol at a victim who was still making noises in the pile of bodies. <sup>[7][4]</sup> The whole operation was directed by [Obersturmführer](#) Heinrich Bergmann and [Oberscharführer](#) J. Obersturmführer was a paramilitary rank of the Nazi party that was used by the Schutzstaffel and also as a rank of the SA. Oberscharführer was a Nazi Party paramilitary rank that existed between the years of 1932 and 1945. Geese. <sup>[5][7]</sup>

Usually able bodied men were selected to work on the [oil shale](#) mines in northeastern Estonia. Women, children, and old people would be executed on arrival. In the case *Be 1. 9. 1942* however, the only ones chosen for labor and to survive the war were a small group of young women who were taken through concentration camps in Estonia, Poland and Germany to Bergen- Belsen, where they were liberated. <sup>[8]</sup> Camp commandant Laak used the women as [sex slaves](#), killing at least one who refused to comply. Sexual slavery refers to the organised coercion of persons into various different sexual practices forced Prostitution single-owner sexual slavery <sup>[9]</sup>

According to an article published by the journal "[Contemporary European History](#)" in 2001,

*"In 1942, transports of Jews from other countries arrived, and their murder and incarceration in slave labour camps was organised and supervised by German and Estonian officials (including Mere and the German head of A-IV). Contemporary European History is an international Peer-reviewed academic History journal, published by Cambridge University Press quarterly since The final acts of*

liquidating the camps, such as [Klooga](#), which involved the mass-shooting of roughly 2,000 prisoners, were committed by Estonians under German command, that is by units of the [20.SS-Division](#) and (presumably) the *Schutzmannschaftsbatallion* of the *KdS*. This article deals with the Klooga concentration camp For other meanings of the word Klooga see [Klooga \(disambiguation\)](#). Survivors report that, during this period when Jewish slave labourers were visible, the Estonian population in part attempted to help the Jews by providing food and so on. "[\[10\]](#)

## Witnesses

A number of foreign witnesses were heard at the trial, including five women, who had been transported on *Be 1. 9. 1942* from Theresienstadt. [\[7\]](#)

## The verdict

*"The accused Mere, Gerrets and Viik actively participated in crimes and mass killings that were perpetrated by the Nazi invaders on the territory of the Estonian SSR. In accordance with the Fascist racial theory, the [Sicherheitspolizei](#) and [Sicherheitsdienst](#) were instructed to exterminate the Jews and Gypsies. The [Sicherheitspolizei](#) (security police often abbreviated as SiPo, was a term used in Nazi Germany to describe the state political and criminal investigation security The [Sicherheitsdienst](#) (SD Security Service was primarily the Intelligence service of the SS and the NSDAP. For that end in August-September 1941 Mere and his collaborators set up a death camp at Jägala, 30 km from Tallinn. Mere put Aleksander Laak in charge of the camp; Ralf Gerrets was appointed his deputy. On [5 September 1942](#) a train with approximately 1,500 Czechoslovak citizens arrived to the [Raasiku](#) railway station. Events 1590 - Alexander Farnese 's army forces Henry IV of France to raise the siege of Paris. Year 1942 (MCMXLII) was a Common year starting on Thursday (the link will display the full 1942 calendar of the Gregorian calendar. Raasiku Parish (Raasiku vald is a rural municipality in northern Estonia. Mere, Laak and Gerrets personally selected who of them should be executed and who should be moved to the Jägala death camp. More than 1,000 people, mostly children, the old, and the infirm, were translocated to a wasteland at Kalevi-Liiva where they were monstrously executed in a special pit. In mid-September the second troop train with 1,500 prisoners arrived to the railway station from Germany. Mere, Laak, and Gerrets selected another thousand victims that were condemned by them to extermination. This group of prisoners, which included nursing women and their new-born babies, were transported to Kalevi-Liiva where they were killed. In March 1943 the personnel of the Kalevi-Liiva camp executed about fifty Gypsies, half of which were under 5 years of age. Also were executed 60 Gypsy children of school age. . . "*

Quoted from the verdict passed on 11 March 1961, published in *Немецко-фашистская оккупация в Эстонии. 1941-1944*. Tallinn, 1963. Pages 53-54.

Original documents related to the Mere-Gerrets-Viik trial are to be found in Estonian State Archives - Party Archives Branch - ERA PA, Collection 129, boxes 63-70. [\[3\]](#)

## Tartu trials

In January 1962 another trial was held in [Tartu](#). Tartu is the second largest City of Estonia. In contrast to Estonia's political and financial capital Tallinn, Tartu is often considered the intellectual Juhan Jüriste, [Karl Linnas](#) and Ervin Viks were accused of murdering 12,000 civilians in the Tartu concentration camp. Karl Linnas was an Estonian who was sentenced to capital punishment during the Holocaust trials in Soviet Estonia. They were sentenced to death. According to the official Soviet record of the trials, "the main culprit, Ervin Viks, fled the ire of the people and now lives in Australia, whereas Linnas found shelter in the USA". [\[11\]](#) The Soviet authorities demanded both be put on trial, but were flatly refused. [\[11\]](#) In 1986 Linnas was finally deported to the USSR, after a federal appeals court had deemed evidence against him "overwhelming and largely uncontroverted." [\[12\]](#) The American judge remarked that his crimes "were such as to offend the decency of any civilized society." [\[12\]](#) Linnas died in a Soviet prison hospital of old age.

During the trials in Tallinn and Tartu quite a few witnesses pointed out Heinrich Bergmann as the key figure behind the extermination of Estonian gypsies. <sup>[3]</sup>

## References

### Inline

1. ^ [Estonian State Archives of the Former Estonian KGB \(State Security Committee\) records relating to war crime investigations and trials in Estonia, 1940-1987](#) (manuscript RG-06. 026) - [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#) - document available on-line through [this query page](#) using document id RG-06. *The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is a national institution located adjacent to The National Mall in Washington D 026* - Also available at [Axis History Forum](#) - This list includes the evidence presented at the trial. It list as evidence several articles by Mere in Estonian language newspapers published in London
2. ^ [Masses and Mainstream, 1963](#)
3. ^ [a b c](#) Weiss-Wendt, Anton (2003). [Extermination of the Gypsies in Estonia during World War II: Popular Images and Official Policies](#). *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 17. Holocaust and Genocide Studies is the leading international Peer-reviewed Academic journal addressing the issue of the Holocaust and other Genocides 1, 31-61.
4. ^ [a b](#) [Estonian policemen stand trial for war crimes](#) - Video footage at the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)
5. ^ [a b c d e f](#) [Jägala laager ja juutide hukkamine Kalevi-Liival](#) - [Eesti Päevaleht](#) March 30, 2006 (Estonian)
6. ^ [The Genocide of the Czech Jews](#)
7. ^ [a b c d e f g](#) [De dödsdömda vittnar \(Transport Be 1.9.1942\)](#) (Swedish)
8. ^ [From Ghetto Terezin to Lithuania and Estonia](#)
9. ^ [Omakaitse omakohus](#) - JERUSALEMMA SÕNUMID (Estonian)
10. ^ Birn, Ruth Bettina (2001), [Collaboration with Nazi Germany in Eastern Europe: the Case of the Estonian Security Police](#). The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is a national institution located adjacent to The National Mall in Washington D Eesti Päevaleht is a major daily Estonian newspaper [Contemporary European History](#) 10. Contemporary European History is an international Peer-reviewed academic History journal, published by Cambridge University Press quarterly since 2, 181-198. P. 190-191.
11. ^ [a b](#) [Немецко-фашистская оккупация в Эстонии. 1941-1944](#). Tallinn, 1963. Page 57.
12. ^ [a b](#) Charles R. Allen, Jr. *Patrick J. Buchanan: Master Holocaust Denier* ([online](#))

### General

- [Conclusions of the Estonian International Commission for the Investigation of Crimes Against Humanity - Phase II: The German occupation of Estonia in 1941–1944](#)

## External links

- [The Holocaust and the concentration camps in Estonia](#) (German) - [English translation](#)
- [Kalevi-Liiva](#) on German Wikipedia (German) - [English translation](#)

Kalevi-Liiva is a place near Jägala village in Jõelähtme Parish in Harju County, Estonia.