



Tunisia, North Africa Holocaust

YouTube.Cohen/ShaharText Tunis



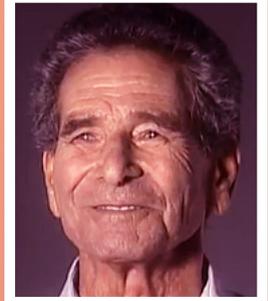
Contrary to common perceptions, the Holocaust was not a strictly European tragedy; the Jews living under colonial rule in North Africa were also victims of the Nazis. Although the Jews suffered from anti-Semitic Nazi-inspired legislation across North Africa, Tunisia was the only Arab country to come under full Nazi control during the Holocaust era. Over 5,000 Jews were sent to forced labor camps, where some of the prisoners were tortured and/or murdered, while others were forced to build the Trans-Sahara Railway.



Gad Shahar

"There were notices addressing the Jews alone. We were assembled at the Alliance school and Jewish doctors were asked to separate those able to work from those whose health made them unfit for work. We were taken from the school to the train station. On the way something happened that changed my whole life. We passed through the street where I grew up and had my friends - I was 19 by that time and suddenly the neighborhood I thought was open, loving, encouraging, was overjoyed and cheered the Germans for taking us. Here and there one could hear: "Dirty Jew", etc.

My world was shattered."



Shushan Cohen

"The next day we were taken by foot all the way to Safsaf, a farm owned by some farmer. There the Germans put us up in a place where we slept on straw, in those stables, that from which the dung had not been removed. We were taken for digging chores, mainly digging ditches and the like from dawn to dusk. In the evening we'd come to eat whatever there was, worms or no worms, we'd eat what we were given. The can we used for eating also served for drinking and urinating at night. The same can. It's hard to imagine that human beings can do such things. The lice started to plague us. All over the body, like ants."