

### **I search Paper**

It is one of the greatest atrocities in human history, the Holocaust. We were to learn about it in English class. We read night to learn about the experience of one of the survivors, and the author of the book, Elie Wiesel. But the book didn't answer the questions I had of how anybody could possibly preform this horrendous atrocity.

When I started this project I knew about as much as anyone else knows. Germany tried to exterminate the Jewish society in Europe. They did succeed in killing 6 million Jewish people though along with anybody else that they did not approve of. But their plan failed when they were defeated by the allies.

Going into this I didn't have any questions that I wanted to have answered because I don't really care about this project. If I'm being honest I'm only doing this project to get a good grade and be done with it. But if I had to have a question I figured why not answer the one that I had, which was how did they actually accomplish killing that many people?

I made a list of questions that I had. What where the main extermination techniques? What were their histories? How many people died from each technique? Were there any special techniques? Which one was used most? From these questions I got my main question of how did they kill that many people? I went on to research a lot of the different techniques they used which gave me my answer.

First I had to come up with a 3D project. I had no idea what to do at first. But then I talked to my grandma and she was the one who gave me my idea. She described to me an exhibit at the holocaust museum in Washington D.C. and showed me pictures of it in a book. It was a tower with pictures of a whole town that was killed during the holocaust. But I changed it and made it an obelisk instead with pictures inside it and with quotes on top.

I researched for about a week. In the beginning I stuck to using just a computer too look at information in the broad category of death which I was assigned. I was able to find a lot of different websites online. Looking through a few websites I was able to find four categories to focus most of my research on. Two days that is what I used to research going from website to website earning about each method. I then started to use books as well to look up information on these four categories. But I found one called "Hitler's willing executioners" which had a few firsthand accounts that I found to be very helpful so for the next three days I stuck to that book. In it I found a few quotes to use and also some pictures to look up for my project. During this time I also started to look at pictures for my project which turned out to take up most of my time for my project. It was also hard for me to find any quotes to use I had to go through several websites to find enough to use. I then had to build my project. First I made the initial shape. Then I selected my picture printed them and cut them out. Then glued them and put the tower together and added the top. I also re glued the picture that came loose.

My original question remained the same in the end. But now I had four categories under it. These categories were the four different techniques I found for killing. By focusing on them I was able to answer most of my research questions.

Like I said I was able to answer most of my questions but there are two that I couldn't. One was "how many people died from each technique?" I was unable to find an accurate answer for this since there were no extensive records for them. The next one was "Were there any special techniques?" I found an answer for this question though and it was no there were no special techniques used. In the end there were four techniques that were used.

One of the techniques used for killing people was mass shootings. This was the first technique used to carry out the final solution. Squads of soldiers or other government officials know as mobile killing squads would round up people near mass graves and shoot them. Sometimes the squads would have prisoners dig the grave first then when they were finished they would just shoot them while they were in the grave. Some people were not killed by the initial volley in which case they were shoot again or were buried alive under the other corpses or under a pile of earth. In "Hitler's willing executioners", by Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, Kurt Mobius, former German police battalion member said "I would also like to say that it did not at all occur to me that these orders could be unjust. It is true that I know that it is also the duty of the police to protect the innocent, but I was then of the conviction that the Jews were not innocent but guilty. I believed the propaganda that all Jews were criminals and sub humans and that they were the cause of Germany's decline after the First World War." Which is what a lot of the squads thought. But as time went on they started to lose the stomach for it.

To make so that the solders no longer had to shoot people the Germans experimented with new methods. The method they came up with was the gas chamber. In the beginning the gas chamber was only an airtight truck that they would pump the exhaust into to suffocate people. These were usually mobile and were used for the deration of the final solution. Latter most

concentration camps would have gas chambers that used the pesticide Zyklon B instead of exhaust. On <http://en.auschwitz.org/> I found a description of when people went to the gas chambers, “The SS men kept the people fated to die unaware of what awaited them. They were told that they were being sent to the camp, but that they first had to undergo disinfection and bathe. After the victims undressed, they were taken into the gas chamber, locked in, and killed with Zyklon B gas. After they were killed, Sonderkommando prisoners dragged the corpses out of the gas chambers. They cut off the women’s hair and removed all metal dental work and jewelry. Then they burned the corpses in pits, on pyres, or in the crematorium furnaces.” But even this was not enough.

Another method used was the concentration camps and death camps which were the method used most. According to <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/> the camps were used for forced labor and also to exterminate the prisoners. Conditions were bad with prisoners being worked and starved to death as well as being executed. Camps would hang people or send them to gas chambers to execute them. Though many people died of sickness and also died from being overworked.

The last method was the death marches. As described in the book *Night* and other sources the death marches were not an intentional way to kill prisoners but were in fact the Germans trying to evacuate the camps so they would have hostages when they started to lose ground at the end of the war. The SS guards had permission to shoot the prisoners though which coupled with the fact that it was winter and they had no food or proper clothing is the reason so many people died. So even though they were not meant as an execution method they were effective as one none the less.

Once I had done all this research I knew just what I had to look for when I chose my pictures. But I also came upon some quotes that I could use for my project while researching. The rest of the work had to be done online but once I was done I constructed my project. The only difficulty I faced was looking through the thousands of pictures to find the ones I would use.

Doing this research has only solidified my horror at what the Germans attempted to do during World War Two. With all of this finished I had the answers to my questions. The Germans used four different methods to carry out their final solution. The one used the most was the gas chamber and each method had a history of a sort. This answered my question of how they killed so many people.