

Dedicated to the Memory of Each of the 27,800* Who Perished at Rumbula Forest, Latvia

November 30 and December 8, 1941
10th and 18th of Kislev



After 61 years, the mass graves are being respectfully marked and a memorial erected.
Prior to 2002 a series of makeshift markers indicated the general area of the graves.

May the Memory of Each One be for a Blessing.

Prior to WWII, there was a rich Jewish life in Latvia. In 1935-37 there were 93,479 Jews, more than 100 synagogues and prayer houses, 73 Jewish schools and many Jewish organizations. Approximately 84% of all Latvian Jews were murdered in the Holocaust and only 150 were alive in Latvia at the end of the war.

Rumbula Forest near Riga, Latvia became the mass grave of 27,800* Jews in late 1941. After 61 years, and several makeshift markers, a proper memorial was erected on the site and dedicated on the eve of the 61st anniversary in 2002. A separate web memorial with educational material is at www.rumbula.org.

On November 30 and on December 8, 1941, Riga Ghetto residents were told they were being “relocated” and after a hasty departure were marched and driven to Rumbula Forest. There they were funneled into lines that narrowed and descended into pits. They were ordered to disrobe and at the bottom of the pits, were shot. These were among the largest single day actions of the Shoah. Only 3 who arrived at Rumbula escaped death. Family members of some who perished survived the war and live today in Israel, the U.S. and other countries.

Today Latvia has 12,000-15,000 Jews (mostly from Russia), 2 operating synagogues, 2 Jewish schools, a Jewish center, a Jewish museum and a Jewish hospital. Many of these organizations and Jewish families need support from abroad.

* Source: *Latvia's Jewish Community: History, Tragedy, Revival* by Dribins, Gutmanis and Vestermanis (2001). This quotes R. Lange's report to the SD which mentions the number of Rumbula victims as 27,800, including the train-load of 942 German Jews brought to Riga in the early morning of November 30. In his earlier *The Holocaust in Latvia 1941-1944* (1996) Ezergailis calculates a similar number, 25,000.