

## Jew Hunts

Attempts made by the Nazis to search out and kill Jews who had escaped from the ghettos of Eastern Europe. In late fall 1941 a police order was issued in the *Generalgouvernement* which decreed that any Jew found outside the ghetto was to be promptly shot; this order was the premise for the Nazis' attempts to catch Jews who had gone into hiding.

"Jew hunts" were especially prevalent after most of the ghettos of Poland and the former Soviet territories had been liquidated (a process that was carried out mainly during the second half of 1942 and throughout 1943). The Nazis would scour the "Aryan" sides of cities and towns, the forests and countryside in search of hidden Jews. In general, a small group of Nazis would go in search of a specific Jewish hiding place after getting a lead from local inhabitants. As soon as the Jew was found, he would be shot to death. In some cases, entire forests were combed in order to uncover and root out Jews. Often, local collaborators would help the Nazis in their search.

The so-called "Jew hunts" reflect how seriously and thoroughly the Nazis pursued the Jews after formally adopting the "Final Solution" policy.