A photograph from the Tēvija newspaper, dated 8 July 1941: “The Church of St. Peter burning in Riga after being set on flame by Bolsheviks and Yids.”

A poster from the time when Latvia was under German occupation. The inscription in Latvian: “The Yid is no kin of yours. Throw him out!”
An announcement in the Tēvija newspaper to join the Arajs Commando: “All national-minded Latvians – Perkonkrusts members, students, officers, Aizsargi and any others wishing to take an active part in cleansing our land of harmful elements – are invited to sign up at the headquarters of the security commando, 19 Valdemara Street, 9–11 a.m. and 5–7 p.m.”

The libellous anti-Semitic publication Baigais gads (The Year of Horror) – an typical example of Nazi propaganda created by local collaborators in 1942 and re-printed by their modern-day followers in 1998, as well as in 2003 simultaneously in Latvian, English and Russian.

A photograph from the book Baigais gads, accompanied by the following caption: “Those whose dirty conscience made them feel threatened headed east together with the retreating Bolsheviks. In the course of brisk military operations, Jewish fugitives and Bolshevik collaborators were captured. A crowd of fugitives upon return to Riga.”

A photograph from a German news-reel showing a Jew being beaten on a Riga street by people in civilian clothes.
A column of arrested Jews being escorted by people in civilian clothes. Riga, Brivibas Boulevard, 2 July 1941

The Riga Central Prison – one of the places used to hold arrested Jews. One of its areas following the Nazi retreat from the city

Jews in Riga’s Bikernieki Forest waiting for their execution, July 1941

A railway track laid by the Germans to transport fuel to a site in Bikernieki Forest, where the Nazis burned their victims’ corpses to erase the evidence of their crimes before fleeing the city

Object found during a search of extermination sites in Riga’s Bikernieki Forest
The burning of the Great Choral Synagogue in Riga, 4 July 1941

The ruins of the Great Choral Synagogue in Riga (demolished after the war; a memorial was erected on the site in 1993)
The ruins of a prayer house at the Old Jewish Cemetery in Riga, burned down on 4 July 1941 (demolished after the war).

The building of the Jewish Club in Riga, which housed the German 105th Reserve Police Battalion, August 1941. Later in this building, a work team of Jews from the Riga Ghetto, known as “Rosenberg’s Headquarters”, sorted cultural valuabes looted by the Nazis in Latvia prior to their shipment to Germany.

Jewish men clearing rubble in Old Riga, July 1941.
Jewish women clearing rubble in Old Riga, July 1941

“Since special shops were set up for the Yids in their neighbourhoods, they are forbidden to enter all Riga markets.” A photograph from the Tēvija newspaper for 23 August 1941. The sign in German and Latvian reads: “Entrance to the market is forbidden to Yids.”

“This scene next to a Yid shop shows how they are unable to maintain order in their midst. While some are waiting in line, others are trying to jump the line to get into the shop.” A photograph from the Tēvija newspaper for 23 August 1941

“Marked in black are the blocks designated for housing all the Riga Jews.” A map of the future Riga Ghetto in the Tēvija newspaper for 23 August 1941
The fence around the Riga Ghetto. The sign in German and Latvian reads: “Persons who climb the fence or attempt to communicate with ghetto inhabitants through the fence will be shot on sight.”
A building in the Riga Ghetto at 29 Ludzas Street that housed inmates. Seen in the background is the building of the Jewish maternity home and Linat Ha’Tzedek gynaecological hospital, later converted into an SS field hospital.

A group of Jews returning to the Riga Ghetto after work along the Gogol thoroughfare.

A column of Jews from the Riga Ghetto being taken to forced labour along Valnu Street.

A column of Jews from the Riga Ghetto being taken after forced labour back to the ghetto along Valnu Street.

An alley in the Riga Ghetto.
Inmates of the Riga Ghetto brought work at the Luftwaffe warehouses and taken back to the ghetto

Views of the Riga Ghetto

A prison for law-breakers in the Riga Ghetto
The arrival of Lithuanian Jews at the Riga Ghetto

Inhabitants of the Riga Ghetto

Inmates of the Riga Ghetto on the way to an extermination site in the Rumbula Forest on 8 December 1941

A room in the Riga Ghetto after an extermination action. December 1941
An apartment in the Riga Ghetto after an extermination action. An illustration by a former Riga Ghetto inmate, the artist Arthur (Alter) Ritov, for Elmar Rivosh’s Memoirs.

A team of Riga Ghetto inmates burying inmates killed in the streets of the ghetto during the extermination action of 8 December 1941, at the Old Jewish Cemetery. An illustration by Arthur Ritov for Rivosh’s Memoirs.

The Old Jewish Cemetery in Riga, destroyed by the Nazis. Later the cemetery tombstones were demolished, and in 1960 it was converted into a park.

Exhumation of Jewish victims of Nazi terror at the Old Jewish Cemetery in Riga, following the Nazi retreat from the city.
A view of the Small Ghetto in Riga

Ludzas – the main street of the Riga Ghetto. Seen in the photograph are the fences of the Small Ghetto and the German Jews’ Ghetto

Arrival of foreign Jews at the Shkirotava Station in Riga. December 1941

Suitcases confiscated from foreign Jews deported to Riga for extermination

A view of the Small Ghetto in Riga

The “Large Ghetto” in Riga before the foreign Jews moved in
Foreign Jewish women in the streets of the Riga Ghetto.

Deportation of inmates from the Riga Ghetto to the Kaiserwald concentration camp in Riga.

The territory of the former Riga Ghetto during the settlement of displaced persons from Pskov. February 1944.

The fence of the Kaiserwald camp in Riga. The sign in German reads: “Trespassers of the neutral zone will be shot on sight”

General view of the Kaiserwald concentration camp in Riga.
Barracks of the Kaiserwald camp in Riga.
The interior after the German retreat from Riga. Autumn of 1944

The Salaspils concentration camp
Jewish men from Germany, Austria and Czechia in the Salaspils camp. In the foreground is the camp commandant, SS officer Otto Tekkemeyer. Early 1942. The inhuman conditions in the camp earned it the nickname “White Hell” (Weiße Hölle).

The Salaspils camp, burned down by the Germans during their retreat.

Jews arrested and guarded by people in civilian clothes. Liepaja, July 1941.

Jewish men wearing the yellow identifying patches, facing the wall and guarded by people in civilian clothes. Liepaja, summer of 1941.

Jews wearing yellow identifying patches in the destroyed Liepaja. Summer of 1941.
The extermination of Liepaja Jews in the dunes of Shkede. December 1941

Liepaja resident Mia Epstein before execution in the dunes of Shkede. December 1941

The extermination of Liepaja Jews in the dunes of Shkede. December 1941
The extermination of Liepaja Jews in the dunes of Shkede. December 1941
Exhumation of the victims at a site of mass extermination of Jews on the outskirts of Liepaja

The Liepaja ghetto

Robert Sedols in the shelter together with the Jewish women he saved: Riva Zivtson (bottom left), Henni Zivtson (top left), and Hilda Skutelski (bottom right), as well as his girlfriend Tonya Pluksha (top right)

Liepaja Jews saved by Robert Sedols in their shelter, next to a radio set. From left to right: Shmerl Skutelski, Josif Mandelstam, and Michail Libauer
The Daugavpils ghetto at the bridge fortification on the left bank of the Daugava, and its inmates. August – September 1941

Inmates of the Daugavpils ghetto who found no room in the building of the bridge fortification, settled with their belongings under the open sky on the embankment that encircled the inside of the ghetto. July – August 1941

Women inmates of the Daugavpils ghetto. Summer of
Inmates of the Daugavpils ghetto herded onto the Daugava bank to bathe. Summer of 1941

The Extermination of the Jews in Daugavpils. Autumn of 1941
Photographs and personal belongings of inmates, found at the site of the Kaiserwald camp in Riga