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Bozo Svarc, an engineering students from a middle class Jewish family was in the first group of 175 Jewish youth elite from Zagreb, capital of Croatia, whom the fascist Ustase regime incarcerated already on 27 May 1941 only 47 days after the Germans and Italians entrusted them the government in Croatia.

The group of young Jews together with several thousand Serbs mostly intellectuals from Zagreb were first held without any shelter in the improvised camp Jadovno in the Region of Lika. Soon afterwards they were led to a pit on the mountain Velebit and by turns hit on their heads and thrown into the pit. Bozo and nine other young Jews were the only ones to avoid such a cruel death. They were lucky enough to come across their Croat class mate from Zagreb who was an Ustasa officer in the near by town of Gospic and who took them out of the camp Jadovno and assigned the task of sweeping the streets of Gospic.

Of the group of ten provisory saved only Bozo Svarc survived the death camp Jasenovac where they were deported in August 1941. With a small group of other Jews and a Croat communist veterinary doctor he escaped in Autumn 1942 from a cattle farm to which he was sent from Jasenovac. They all joined Tito's partisans in the mountains of Slavonia.

Of the killings about which he learnt witnessed in Jasenovac the most gruesome was the liquidation of the inmates of the camp Krapje which in the initial period was one of the two camps of the Jasenovac complex. One night in the winter of 1941 several thousand inmates of Krapje, Serbs and Jews, were taken out of the barracks, lined up and fired at with machine guns. Many were killed and the rest were ordered to take off their shoes and run in a column

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surrounded by Ustasa guards to Jasenovac, which was about 10 kilometers away. Whoever was at the end of the running column was killed. They were not allowed to use a bridge over a small river, they had to run beneath it barefoot over ice and stones. When the exhausted and reduced column arrived at Jasenovac they were not let into the barracks but put into sheds without walls where bricks are dried so that during the night many froze to death. When Bozo Svarc in the morning went to inspect an electromotor, which was his routine duty, somebody from the crowd under the shed called him. He approached but could not recognize the man who said: I am Pavel Lev, your friend from the Maccabee (sport club) in Zagreb. Bozo smuggled Pavel into his barrack where he was fed and nurtured by the "capo" who was also a Jew and member of Maccabee. Bozo learnt about the whole ordeal of the Krapje inmates from Lev and from Zlatko Vajler, also a former member of Maccabee, who as sportsmen endured the death-run from Krapje to Jasenovac. Next year the two of them escaped together from Jasenovac by swimming across the river Sava to the Bosnian side where they joined the partisans. In addition to learning the story from Lev and Vajler Bozo Svarc has seen frozen cadavers collected from the Krapje-Jasenovac road and stacked like logs over 80 meters in length. When the Ustasa guards noticed that some were giving signs of life they would finish them sometimes by carving their hearts out.

Bozo denied Tudjman's allegation that Jasenovac was a working rather than liquidation camp. He said that almost daily transports were arriving but the number of inmates in Jasenovac stayed stable around several thousand. The majority of newcomers never passed through the gates of the camp. They were taken across the river Sava to the Bosnian bank and slaughtered in the destroyed Serbian village Gradina.

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After joining the partisans in 1942 Bozo fought very bravely and was badly wounded. After the liberation he remained in the Yugoslav Army and retired as colonel.