

## STARE LIPKI PRESS

*My Soul is Filled with Joy: A Holocaust Story*  
By Karen I. Treiger,

### **TREBLINKA FACT SHEET**

- Treblinka was a German Death Camp established 68 miles North East of Warsaw, Poland's capital.
- It was part of the Nazi's Operation Reinhard – the building of three Death Camps on Polish soil – Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka. These camps were built as part the Final Solution - Hitler's attempt to murder all the Jews of Europe.
- Construction began in early June of 1942 and the first transports (cattle cars) filled with Jews from Warsaw arrived on July 23, 1942. Sam Goldberg was captured in Stoczek early June and brought to Treblinka as a prisoner and forced to build the camp.
- The camp was run by approximately 25 German SS Officers, 100 Ukrainian guards and 800-1,000 Jewish prisoners.
- Initially, three gas chambers were built at Treblinka. Later somewhere between six and ten additional, larger, gas chambers were built to murder the Jews of Europe.
- Zyklon B (made famous at Auschwitz) was not used in these gas chambers. Carbon monoxide from an old Soviet engine was piped into the chamber, causing death by asphyxiation in approximately 25 minutes.
- Unless selected for work, people were dead within 90 minutes of arrival.

- 870,000 people were murdered at Treblinka. Approximately 65 survived. Sam was one of the 65 and was one of two prisoners who were brought to the camp to build it, who survived to the end of the war.
- On August 2, 1943, a group of about 50 men at Treblinka initiated an uprising – an attempt to escape. The 50 were split into cells with different jobs. Sam was part of the cell led by Shmuel Rajzman.
- Of the 800 prisoners at the camp on the day of the uprising, somewhere between 12 and 20 survived until the end of the war. Sam was one of these few survivors.
- After the uprising on August 2, 1943, Treblinka continued to operate as a Death Camp, but starting in September, the Germans dismantled the camp, razing every structure to destroy the evidence of their crime. The remaining Jews working there were murdered and by the end of November 1943, Treblinka ceased to exist.
- Today a memorial stands at the site of Treblinka. Thousands of stones scatter the area. Each stone represents the murder of an entire town.