Life under Siege:  
The Jews of Magdeburg under Nazi Rule

Michael E. Abrahams-Sprod  
BA (UNSW), Grad Dip Ed (UNSW), Cert T (NSW DSE), MA (UNSW)

A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies  
The University of Sydney  
June 2006
Table of Contents

Declaration iv
Abstract v
Dedication vii
Abbreviations and Acronyms viii
Glossary x
Acknowledgements xviii

Introduction 1
Aim and Focus 1
The History of the Community until 1933 4
Archival Material and Oral History 11
Historical Approaches and Interpretation 16

Chapter One:
The Structure of the Jewish Community 20
Religious, Social, Cultural and Economic Structures 20
The Dissolution of Communal Organisations 45
The Religious Congregations 54
Strategies of Communal Defence and Survival 65

Chapter Two:
The Destruction of Jewish Livelihoods, 1933–1938 78
From Boycott to Expropriation 78
The Process of Aryanisation 115

Chapter Three:
Daily Life in the Public Domain, 1933–1938 125
Nazi Policy toward the Jews 125
Daily Life and Exclusion 140
Contact with Non-Jews 152
Rassenschande 163
The Destruction of the German-Jewish Symbiosis 176

Chapter Four:
Daily Life in the Private Domain, 1933–1938 182
Jewish Family Life and Social Life 182
The Emigration Quandary 191
| Chapter Five: |  
| Daily Lives of Children and Youth, 1933–1938 | 202 |
| Jewish and Non-Jewish Schools | 202 |
| Youth Movements | 220 |
| Preparation for Emigration | 229 |
| Children and Youth Leaving Home | 241 |

| Chapter Six: |  
| The Reichskristallnacht and Its Aftermath until September 1939 | 252 |
| The Prelude to the Pogrom | 252 |
| The Pogrom in Magdeburg | 256 |
| Reactions of the Victims and the Perpetrators | 271 |
| The Post-Reichskristallnacht and Pre-War Persecutions | 291 |

| Chapter Seven: |  
| The Jewish Community during World War Two | 305 |
| Judenhäuser and Stigmatisation | 305 |
| Die Judenschule and the Daily Lives of Children | 338 |
| Mischehen and Mischlinge | 348 |
| Forced Labour and Deportations | 357 |
| The Destruction and Dispersion of a German-Jewish Community | 370 |

| Conclusion | 378 |

| Bibliography | 398 |
| Archives and Libraries | 398 |
| Private Collections | 402 |
| Individual Interviews by the Author | 403 |
| Books | 403 |
| Articles | 419 |
| Periodicals | 426 |
| Theses and Unpublished Manuscripts | 427 |
Declaration

I certify that the contents of this thesis have not been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution. The extent to which I have availed myself of the work of others is acknowledged in the text of this thesis.
Abstract

This regional study documents the life and the destruction of the Jewish community of Magdeburg, in the Prussian province of Saxony, between 1933 and 1945. As this is the first comprehensive and academic study of this community during the Nazi period, it has contributed to both the regional historiography of German Jewry and the historiography of the Shoah in Germany. In both respects it affords a further understanding of Jewish life in Nazi Germany.

Commencing this study at the beginning of 1933 enables a comprehensive view to emerge of the community as it was on the eve of the Nazi assault. The study then analyses the spiralling events that led to its eventual destruction. The story of the Magdeburg Jewish community in both the public and private domains has been explored from the Nazi accession to power in 1933 up until April 1945, when only a handful of Jews in the city witnessed liberation. This study has combined both archival material and oral history to reconstruct the period. Secondary literature has largely been incorporated and used in a comparative sense and as reference material.

This study has interpreted and viewed the period from an essentially Jewish perspective. That is to say, in documenting the experiences of the Jews of Magdeburg, this study has focused almost exclusively on how this population simultaneously lived and grappled with the deteriorating situation. Much attention has been placed on how it reacted and responded at key junctures in the processes of disenfranchisement, exclusion and finally destruction. This discussion also includes how and why Jews reached decisions to abandon their Heimat and what their experiences with departure were. In the final chapter of the community’s story, an exploration has been made of how the majority of those Jews who
remained endured the final years of humiliation and stigmatisation. All but a few perished once the implementation of the ‘Final Solution’ reached Magdeburg in April 1942. The epilogue of this study charts the experiences of those who remained in the city, some of whom survived to tell their story.
Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to all Jewish Magdeburger, past, present and future.

It is particularly dedicated, however, to those Jewish Magdeburger, who reached the safe shores of Australia and to their loved ones and friends, who did not and were subsequently consumed by the catastrophe which engulfed European Jewry. The Magdeburg interviewees have all remained a constant source of admiration, inspiration and deep respect throughout the lifespan of this research project and beyond.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AKPS</td>
<td>Archiv des Konsistoriums der Evangelischen Kirche der Kirchenprovinz Sachsen, Magdeburg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALJGSA</td>
<td>Archiv des Landesverbandes Jüdischer Gemeinden Sachsen-Anhalt, Magdeburg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASGM</td>
<td>Archiv der Synagogen-Gemeinde zu Magdeburg, Magdeburg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAB</td>
<td>Bundesarchiv, Berlin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BdM</td>
<td>Bund deutscher Mädel (League of German Girls). The female branch of the Nazi youth movement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLHA</td>
<td>Brandenburgisches Landeshauptharchiv, Potsdam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAHJP</td>
<td>The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Jerusalem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE</td>
<td>Common Era.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV</td>
<td>Centralverein deutscher Staatsbürger jüdischen Glaubens (Central Association of German Citizens of the Jewish Faith).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gestapa</td>
<td>Geheimes Staatspolizeiamt (Office of the Gestapo, the Secret State Police).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HJ</td>
<td>Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth). The male branch of the Nazi youth movement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LBIA NY</td>
<td>Leo Baeck Institute Archives and Library, New York.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LHASA D</td>
<td>Landeshauptharchiv Sachsen-Anhalt – Abteilung Dessau, Dessau.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LHASA MD</td>
<td>Landesarchiv Magdeburg – Landeshauptharchiv Sachsen-Anhalt, Magdeburg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NS-HAGO</td>
<td>Nationalsozialistische Handwerks-, und Gewerbe-Organisation (National Socialist Organisation of Crafts, Commerce and Industry). Main Nazi middle-class interest group and most militant instigator of middle-class boycott activity of Jewish establishments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RM  Reichsmark. Unit of currency in Germany until 1945.
SA  Sturmabteilung (Storm Detachment). The storm troopers or ‘Brownshirts,’ founded in 1921 as a private army of the Nazi Party under Ernst Röhm. Hitler’s first bodyguard, later eclipsed by the SS after the massacre of its leadership in June 1934 in the so-called ‘Röhm Putsch.’
SD  Sicherheitsdienst (Security Service). The intelligence branch of the SS, formed in March 1934. Composed of what was said to be the elite of the elite. The SD was responsible for the security of Hitler, the Nazi hierarchy, the Nazi Party and the Third Reich.
SJMA  Sydney Jewish Museum Archives and Library, Sydney.
SS  Schutzstaffel (Protection Squads). Protection squads formed in 1925, the black-shirted personal bodyguard of Hitler which grew into the most powerful organisation in the Nazi Party and the Nazi State, under the leadership of Heinrich Himmler.
STAM  Stadtarchiv Magdeburg, Magdeburg.
USA  The United States of America.
USHMMA  United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, D. C.
YVA  Yad Vashem Archives, Jerusalem.
Glossary

*Abteilungsleiter* – Section or Department Head.

*Achte Verordnung zum Reichsbürgergesetz* – Eighth Decree of the Reich Citizenship Law. This decree was enacted on 17 January 1939.

*Aliyah* (literally ‘Going up’) – Immigration to Palestine.

*Allgemeine Deutsche Credit-Anstalt, Filiale Magdeburg* – Magdeburg branch of the General German Credit Bank.

*Allgemeiner Rabbinerverband Deutschlands* – General Union of Rabbis of Germany.

*Altreich* (literally ‘Old Reich’) – Germany, with the geographical boundaries of Germany prior to the annexations of foreign territory.

*Altstadt* – Old Town Centre.

*Bar Mitzvah* (literally ‘Son of the Law’) – Religious ceremony to mark a Jewish boy’s religious maturity at the age of thirteen.

*Bat Mitzvah* (literally ‘Daughter of the Law’) – Religious ceremony to mark a Jewish girl’s religious maturity at the age of twelve.

*Berufsbeamengesetz* – Law for the Restoration for the Professional Civil Service. This law was enacted on 7 April 1933.


*Beth Din* (literally ‘House of Judgement’) – Rabbinical Court of Law.

*Bezirksstelle Sachsen-Thüringen der Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland Verwaltungsstelle Magdeburg* – Magdeburg Administrative Office of the Regional Bureau of the National Association of Jews in Germany.

*B’nai B’rith* (literally ‘Sons of the Covenant’) – Jewish service organisation.


*‘Brucks höhere Handelsschule’* – Vocational business college in Magdeburg owned by Alfred Bruck and under the directorship of Albert Hirschland. The college was later renamed *‘Kaufmännische Privatschule’* (‘Private Business College’).
**Bund Nationalsozialistischer Deutscher Juristen, Gau Magdeburg-Anhalt** – Union of National Socialist German Members of the Legal Profession for the Magdeburg-Anhalt District.

**Cheder** – Religious school in the Eastern European tradition attached to the *Shtibl*.

**Chevra Kadishah** (literally ‘Holy Society’) – Jewish burial society.

**Chuppah** (literally ‘Canopy’) – Canopy under which a Jewish wedding ceremony takes place.

**Der Schild** (literally ‘The Shield’) – National sporting association of the Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten.

**Einheitsgemeinde** (literally ‘United Religious Community’) – This concept arose out of numerical necessity in smaller communities in Germany. This permitted all acculturated German Jews to practise their Judaism according to their own wishes and respective levels of observance in a unified, culturally German-Jewish ethos, irrespective of their rabbi’s religious affiliation. At the *Synagogen-Gemeinde zu Magdeburg*, this expression and practice ranged from Liberal Judaism to Neo-Orthodoxy.

**Elbstrombauverwaltung** – Municipal Authority for Construction on the River Elbe. This was a governmental agency in the government of the Province of Saxony, based in Magdeburg.


**Erste Verordnung des Herrn Reichspräsidenten zum Schutz von Volk und Staat** – First Decree of the Reich President for the Protection of the People and State. This decree was enacted on 28 February 1933.

**Frauenbund der Mendelssohn-Loge XII 357** – Women’s Association of the Mendelssohn Lodge XII 357.

**Fünfte Verordnung zum Reichsbürgergesetz** – Fifth Decree of the Reich Citizenship Law. This decree was enacted on 27 September 1938.

**Gau Magdeburg-Anhalt** – Nazi Governmental Administrative District of Magdeburg-Anhalt.

**Gauleiter** – District Leader of the Nazi Party.


**Generalgouvernement** (literally ‘General Government’) – Official name for Nazi-occupied Poland.
Gesetz zum Schutze des deutschen Blutes und der deutschen Ehre – Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honour. This law was one of the Nuremberg Laws and was enacted on 15 September 1935.

Haavara (literally ‘Transfer’) – Scheme for the transfer of capital to Palestine.

Habonim (literally ‘The Builders’) – Socialist Zionist youth movement.

Hachsharah (literally ‘Training’) – Agricultural training farm of the Zionist movement for youth.

Haushaltwarengeschäft – Household goods shop.


Israelitische Beerdigungs-Gesellschaft zu Magdeburg (literally Israelites’ Burial Society of Magdeburg) – Jewish Burial Society of Magdeburg.

Israelitischer Frauenverein (literally ‘Israelites’ Women’s Association’) – Jewish Women’s Association.

Israelitischer Friedhof (literally ‘Israelites’ Cemetery’) – Jewish cemetery.


Israelitisches Altersheim (literally ‘Israelites’ Home for the Aged’) – Jewish Home for the Aged.

Judendorf – Jewish settlement.

judenfrei – Cleansed of Jews.

Judenhaus (pl. Judenhäuser) – Jew house. Designated, segregated housing for Jews. Commencing in May 1939, Jews were forced out of their homes and crammed into designated apartments. Often such apartments and even rooms were shared.


Jüdische Bezirksdarlehnskasse zu Magdeburg – Jewish Regional Credit Bank of Magdeburg.

Jüdische Kultusvereinigung – Jewish Religious Association. The name given to each Jewish community on 28 March 1938, when all communities lost their legal status as incorporated bodies.


Jüdische Winterhilfe – Jewish Winter Relief.

Jüdischer Hilfsverein zu Magdeburg – Jewish Aid Association of Magdeburg.


Jugend-Alijah (literally ‘Youth Aliyah’) – Organisation for transferring young people to Palestine and caring for them there.

Kashruth – Jewish dietary laws.

Kaufhaus – Department Store.

‘Kaufhaus Gebrüder Barasch’ – ‘Barasch Brothers’ Department Store’. The largest and most modern department store in Magdeburg.

‘Kaufhaus Gebrüder Karfiol’ – ‘Karfiol Brothers’ Department Store’. One of Magdeburg’s many department stores.

Keren Hayesod – Palestine Foundation Fund, which after 1948 became the United Israel Appeal.

Kindertransport (literally ‘Children’s Transport’) – Organised groups of Jewish children and youth, who were unaccompanied emigrants from Germany between 1934 and 1939.

Kleiderhof – Clothing depot in mediaeval times.

Kosher – In compliance with Jewish dietary law.

Kreis- und Abschnittsleiter – Local District and Sector Leader of the Nazi Party.
Kreisamtsleiter – Local District Administrative Leader.

Landesverband Mitteldeutschland des C. V. – Central German State Union of the CV.

Lederwarengeschäft – Leathergoods shop.

Maccabi (also Makkabi [German spelling]) – International Jewish sports organisation.

Mendelssohn-Loge XII 357 – Mendelssohn Lodge XII 357. The B’nai B’rith Lodge in Magdeburg.

Mikvah – Jewish ritual bathhouse.

Minyan – Group of ten adult Jewish males, the quorum required for communal prayer.

Mischehe – Mixed marriage.

Mischling (pl. Mischlinge) – Person of mixed race.

Mizrachi (literally ‘East’) – Religious Zionist movement and political party.

Nebbich (literally ‘a Nobody’) – A non-entity, a pitiable person, a drab person.

Nordfront (literally ‘Northern Front’) – Northern suburbs.

Obermeister – Head of a professional guild.

Oberschullehrer (f. Oberschullehrerin) – Teacher at a Secondary High School.

Ostjuden (literally ‘Eastern Jews’) – Eastern European Jews. Term often used in a derogatory manner.

Palästina-Amt Berlin, Zweigstelle Magdeburg – Magdeburg Branch of the Palestine Office. This organisation operated as a department of the Zionistische Vereinigung für Deutschland under the auspices of the Jewish Agency.


Poale Zion (literally ‘Workers of Zion’) – Socialist Zionist party.

Polenaktion – The deportation of stateless, Polish Jews from Germany from 27–29 October 1938.


Purim – Jewish festival which commemorates the deliverance of the Jews of Persia from Haman, as told in the biblical book of Esther.

Rassenkunde – Race Studies. Subject introduced into the German school curriculum during the Nazi period.

Rassenverseuchung – Race contamination.

Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten, Ortsgruppe Magdeburg (literally ‘National Union of Jewish Front Soldiers, Magdeburg Branch’) – Magdeburg Branch of the National Union of Jewish War Veterans.

Reichsbürgergesetz – Reich Citizenship Law. This law was one of the Nuremberg Laws and was enacted on 15 September 1935.

Reichsflaggengesetz – Reich Flag Law. This law was one of the Nuremberg Laws and was enacted on 15 September 1935.

Reichsflichtssteuer – Reich Flight Tax. Proclaimed in 1931 under the Brüning government to prevent flight of capital from Germany. Implemented by the Nazi government as a means to pilfer the property and assets of emigrating Jews.

Reichsführer SS und Chef der Deutschen Polizei im Reichsministerium des Innern – Reich Leader of the SS and Chief of the German Police of the Reich Ministry for the Interior. This position was occupied by Heinrich Himmler.

Reichstag – German federal parliament established in 1871. It was stripped of its legislative function during the Third Reich and its role was largely decorative.

Reichskristallnacht (literally ‘the Reich’s Night of Broken Glass’) – Pogrom of 9–10 November 1938 throughout Germany, Austria and the Sudetenland, so named by the Nazis.

Reichssicherheitshauptamt – Reich Main Security Office formed in 1939. Its departments included the Intelligence Division, the Gestapo, the Criminal Police and the SD.

Reichsverband der jüdischen Kulturverbände in Deutschland – National Union of Jewish Cultural Associations in Germany.
Reichsvertretung der Juden in Deutschland – National Representative Council of Jews in Germany, established by the Jewish communities of Germany on 17 September 1933 and headed by Rabbi Dr Leo Baeck.

Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland – National Association of Jews in Germany, a compulsory organisation for all Jews in Germany established by the Nazi regime on 4 July 1939, superseding the Reichsvertretung der Juden in Deutschland.

Reichszentrale für jüdische Auswanderung – Reich Central Bureau for Jewish Emigration.

Religionsschule – Religious school in the German tradition attached to the synagogue.


Schutzbrief – Letter of Protection.

Schutzjuden – Protected Jews.

Shoah (literally ‘Catastrophe’) – Hebrew term which is now used to refer to the Holocaust.

Shochet – Ritual slaughterer of animals according to Jewish law.

Shtibl (pl. Shtiblech, Shtibls [English corruption]) – Prayer room in the tradition of Eastern European Jewry.

SS-Untersturmführer – A second lieutenant in the SS.

Staatspolizeistelle für den Regierungsbezirk Merseburg – State Police Bureau for the Administrative Region of Merseburg.

Studienrat (f. Studienrätin) – Teacher at a Secondary High School.

Synagogen-Gemeinde zu Magdeburg – Synagogue Community of Magdeburg.

Tallit – Prayer shawl worn by Jewish males.


Torah (literally ‘Teaching’ or ‘Guidance’) – The five books of Moses and the first third of the Hebrew bible. It is read aloud in the synagogue on the Sabbath and during the festivals.
Union der Zionisten Revisionisten, Ortsgruppe Magdeburg – Magdeburg Branch of the Union of Revisionist Zionists.

Verband der liberalen Rabbiner Deutschlands – Union of Liberal Rabbis of Germany.

Verband Nationaldeutscher Juden – Association of National-German Jews.

Verband ostjüdischer Organisationen Magdeburgs – Union of Eastern European Jewish Organisations of Magdeburg.

Verein der Freunde Israels – Association of the Friends of Israel.

Vierte Verordnung zum Reichsbürgergesetz – Fourth Decree of the Reich Citizenship Law. This decree was enacted on 25 July 1938.

Volksgemeinschaft – The National People’s Community. Nazi slogan expressing the allegedly classless form of national solidarity to which the regime aspired.

Volksgenosse (pl. Volksgenossen) – Member of the German People or German National community.

Winterhilfswerk des Deutschen Volkes – Winter Relief Assistance of the German People.

Yeshivah – Talmudic college.

Yom Kippur – Day of Atonement.

Zehnte Verordnung zum Reichsbürgergesetz – Tenth Decree of the Reich Citizenship Law. This decree was enacted on 4 July 1939.

Zeiri Misrachi für Deutschland (literally ‘Young Mizrachi in Germany’) – Young Mizrachi Movement of Germany.

Zeiri Misrachi-Heim – Young Mizrachi Home.

Zentralstelle für jüdische Wirtschaftshilfe – Central Bureau for Jewish Economic Aid.

Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der deutschen Juden – Central Welfare Agency for German Jews.

Zionistische Vereinigung für Deutschland, Ortsgruppe Magdeburg – Magdeburg Branch of the Zionist Federation of Germany.
Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisors, Professor Konrad Kwiet and Associate Professor Suzanne Rutland. Their advice, assistance and guidance, coupled with their constant encouragement and support have been invaluable.

I am also deeply indebted to those members of the Australian Jewish community, formerly of Magdeburg, who gave so much of themselves, when they agreed to be interviewed for this research project. Their inestimable contributions were manifested in so many different ways; from oral history and artefacts to enthusiasm and support. I would particularly like to thank Gerry Levy AM and Inge-Ruth Poppert, who, as a result of this research project, have become dear friends and have provided much moral support.

The story of the Jewish community of Magdeburg during the Nazi era, so far largely untold, could not have been written in such detail without the assistance of a number of particularly important archives. I wish to express my deepest thanks to all the archives and libraries, listed in the bibliography of this thesis, for their efficient and professional assistance throughout the life of this project.

As all of the primary sources necessary for this project were located in foreign archives, this led to the necessity of extensive travel. This required both short- and long-term stays abroad, primarily in Germany, Israel and the USA. For this very reason, there are a number of individuals, archives, institutions and organisations which must be acknowledged by name. Without their efficiency, kindness and generous access to both the source material itself and to reproduction facilities, my research trips abroad would have been neither as effective nor as productive.
In Magdeburg, Peter Ledermann and the entire community of the *Synagogengemeinde zu Magdeburg* welcomed me on all occasions and made me feel a part of their community, in addition to allowing me unlimited access to the congregation’s archive. Werner Täger and the entire office of the Magdeburg branch of *Landesverband Jüdischer Gemeinden Sachsen-Anhalt* also provided me with practical assistance and useful advice. Much gratitude is due to Antje Herfurth of the *Landesarchiv Magdeburg – Landeshauptarchiv Sachsen-Anhalt* and Dr Maren Ballerstedt of the *Stadtarchiv Magdeburg* for their interest, efficiency and expediting reproductions of source material. It was also my very great pleasure and honour to meet a number of historians in Magdeburg who have an active interest in Magdeburg’s Jewish history. Discussions which proved of much value to my research were undertaken with Tobias Bütow of Berlin, Maik Hattenhorst of the *Stadtbibliothek Magdeburg*, Guido Heinrich of the *Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg* and Dr Karlheinz Kärgling of the *Kulturhistorisches Museum Magdeburg*. For their contributions and their hospitality I thank them. Finally, for the German component of my research I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Sabine Hank and Barbara Welker of the *Archiv der Stiftung ’Neue Synagoge Berlin – Centrum Judaicum’* for their cheerful, generous assistance and efficiency.

In Jerusalem, much gratitude is due to the staff at both the Yad Vashem Archives and the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, who provided efficient and valuable assistance. Valuable discussions were also held there, in particular with Dr Stefan Litt, formerly of the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, whose interest in my project emanated from his own research into history of Magdeburg Jewry until 1350.
My short research visit to the USA could never have been as productive had it not been for the dedication and efficiency of the staff at the Leo Baeck Institute in New York City and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D. C. In this capacity I wish to express my deepest thanks to Viola Voss, Deborah Thorne and Michael Simonson of the Leo Baeck Institute and Dr Jürgen Matthäus, Dr Suzanne Brown-Fleming and Ellen Gerstein of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. I would particularly like to thank Dr Matthäus for alerting me to the holdings on Magdeburg Jewry held in Washington.

In Sydney, I was always provided with much advice, support and sustenance from many colleagues and friends at numerous institutions and organisations, including The University of Sydney, The University of New South Wales and The Shalom Institute. Many thanks are due to all of them. I would like to make a very special thank you to the Sydney Jewish Museum family, and, particularly, the Sunday volunteers and staff, who always provided a sympathetic ear and the most profound insights into this most tragic chapter of Jewish history.

Finally, I would like to thank my long-suffering family and friends, who have been of much support and have maintained their patience with me since the commencement of this research project. I wish to particularly thank my parents, Carol and Philip Sprod, who have always supported my academic endeavours and have provided much moral support over many years, as has my best friend, Peter McKenzie-Morris.