

This week in Holocaust History June 14 – 20

1938

June 16, 1938

Hundreds of civilians directed by brownshirts attacked Jews along the Grenadierstrasse and Dragonerstrasse in Berlin, assaulting them and writing anti-Jewish slogans on store windows.

1940

June 14, 1940

German authorities direct the first transport of political prisoners to Auschwitz – 728 Poles, including a small group of Polish Jews. This day is recognized as the day the camp started functioning. From 1940 to 1945 about 405,000 prisoners are registered at the camp, of which 270,000 were men.

June 19, 1940

First relocation of local Oswiecim people in order to prevent them from witnessing the crimes, contacting prisoners and helping them escape. In total, the Germans moved at least 5,000 Poles from Oswiecim and its nearby villages. In addition, they deported to nearby ghettos the entire Jewish population of Oswiecim (approx. 7,000). Eight villages are destroyed and more than a hundred buildings demolished in the direct vicinity of the camp.

1942

June 20, 1942

The first transport of Austrian Jews, between 996 and 1,000 from Vienna, arrives at Theresienstadt.

Adolf Hitler summoned Heinrich Himmler to his mountain retreat at Obersalzberg. According to a memorandum of the secret meeting, which Himmler entitled *Banditenkampf und Sicherheitslage* (The fight against bandits and the security situation), Hitler ordered that the Jewish resistance in Eastern Europe (by "bandits") should be eradicated over the next four months by the mass evacuation of Jews.
