

January 29, 1975

To my cousin, Alfred,

I read your brilliant article, "Can Today's Movies Tell the Truth About Fascism" in the Sunday, January 12, 1975, New York Times. Having seen some of the films you described, Black Thursday and Lacombe, Lucien, and having lived through the Holocaust as a resistor, a partisan, I wish to share with you the horrible reality that I experienced as a Jew under Fascism.

In March 17, 1942 at 6:00 a.m. the gestapo surrounded the town of Illysa and captured approximately 2,000 men, women, and children. They took them outside the city, undressed them naked, lined them up against the walls of a warehouse and shot them dead. The bodies fell into a huge burial hole; the injured and the dead. Indiscriminately, the Nazis poured gasoline and lighted the bodies on flame.

At that time I was working as an apprentice in a baking shop. The Nazis walked into the shop and asked if there are any Jews present. A Christian boy who worked with me responded that there weren't any Jews. After the gestapo left the boy directed me to a shabby cold attic where he locked me in from the outside. From the attic I heard the cries and shouts from the people in the city. Among the people who were killed in that crowd was our aunt Shevna and her husband (your mother's sister).

At sundown the gestapo left the city and the boy released me from the attic and said, "You are now free". From the entire city fifteen people, including myself, survived. The Fascist Police constructed a ghetto where we were placed. In that ghetto we got 350 grams of bread and hard labor from morning until night.

