



לוח
בוכענוואלד

The Camp Calendar
Of Buchenwald

RABBI DR. ISAAC C. AVIGDOR

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WEST HARTFORD, CT 06117

Before World War II, even the poorest Jew bought a *luach* (calendar) from the peddlers. After the Nazi onslaught, one of the greatest ordeals was not having a *luach*. In the camps, no one knew which day of the week it was, besides Sundays. After 1940, no new calendars were printed. My father, Rabbi Dr. Jacob Avigdor, of blessed memory, took upon himself the task of creating, from memory a Hebrew *luach*, synchronized with the English dates. He considered this a holy duty, a mission in his role as a rabbi.

The Nazis drove us out from our home in September of 1939 and we lived on the attic of the "Yishrei Lev Shule." Then we were moved to the ghetto, then to a smaller ghetto, until we were brought to the Zwangslager camp next to the oil refinery in our town of Drohobycz. Later we hid in a bunker on the Aryan side for three months.

We were discovered and sent by cargo train to one camp after another. My father finally reached Buchenwald and I was shipped to the infamous Camp Mathausen the Guzen II branch. We were separated for almost a year. Buchenwald and Mathausen were known as the slaughter-houses, since every month new transports came from Poland, Hungary and Lithuania.

At every stop of these trips, the Nazis stripped us naked and confiscated all our belongings. Books, pictures etc. were burned and therefore one *luach* after another disappeared, and yet, my father always reconstructed a new calendar so that when asked when a *Yom Tov* or Fast day occurred he could answer correctly. Even the *Musulman* on death's door collected strength to continue life, when told in a whisper of an oncoming holiday, like, "tonight is Purim or Kol Nidrei." Only a Holocaust survivor can appreciate what this meant.

The last *luach* that my father made at Buchenwald is a masterpiece written on yellow scraps of paper but clearly legible, each letter like a pearl. When he was freed by the American Army in Buchenwald, the calendar survived along with him. It escaped the gas chambers and crematoria.

Twenty years after his demise, I was searching through his manuscripts and I found the original notes and calculations that he used in recreating each of the calendars.

I believe these originals to be an historical document and testament of the spirituality of my father's unique resistance to the evils of the Holocaust.

Before and After



THE SAME PERSON

op: (L): Rabbi Dr. Jacob Avigdor in 1939. (R): In traditional Rabbinc gear of sable fur at (worn all year round). *Bottom* (L): Upon liberation from Buchenwald, weighing 80 lbs. (R): In uniform as Chief Chaplain of Polish Army (Andrews Legion).

HOW THIS CALENDAR MANUSCRIPT WAS WRITTEN, COMPOSED AND CREATED TOTALLY FROM MEMORY IS A FASCINATING TESTIMONY TO THE GENIUS OF RABBI DR. JACOB AVIGDOR, HIS SENSE OF SPIRITUAL RESISTANCE AND PASSIONATE HOPE, IN SPITE THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL DURESS AND STARVATION, BUCHENWALD INMATES HAD TO ENDURE..

קב

קב

קב

קב

15	K		6	ו		30	א		18	K			
16	א		7	ז		31	ב		19	א			
17	ב		8	ח	אב	1	ג	אב	20	ב			
18	ג		9	ט		2	ד		21	ג			
19	ד		10	י	אב	3	ה		22	ד			
20	ה	אב	11	יא	אב	4	ו		23	ה			
21	ו		12	יב		5	ז		24	ו			
22	ז		13	יג		6	ח		25	ז			
23	ח		14	יד		7	ט		26	ח			
24	ט		15	טו		8	י		27	ט			
25	י		16	טז	אב	9	יא		28	י			
26	יא					10	יב		29	יא			
27	יב					11	יג		30	יב			
28	יג	אב			אב	12	יד		1	יג	אב	אב	אב
29	יד					13	טו		2	יד			
30	טו					14	טז		3	טו			
31	טז		17	יז		15	יז		4	טז			
1	יז	אב	18	יח	אב	16	יח		5	יז			
2	יח		19	יט			יט		6	יח			
3	יט		20	כ			כ		7	יט			
4	כ		21	כא			כא		8	כ			
5	כא		22	כב			כב		9	כא			
6	כב		23	כג			כג		10	כב			
7	כג		24	כד			כד		11	כג			
8	כד		25	כה			כה		12	כד			
9	כה		26	כו			כו		13	כה			
10	כו	אב	27	כז	אב		כז		14	כו			
11	כז		28	כח			כח		15	כז			
12	כח		29	כט			כט		16	כח			
13	כט		30	ל			ל		17	כט			
			31	א			א						
			1	ב			ב						
			2	ג			ג						
			3	ד			ד						
			4	ה			ה						
			5	ו			ו						
			6	ז			ז						
			7	ח			ח						
			8	ט			ט						
			9	י			י						
			10	יא			יא						
			11	יב			יב						
			12	יג			יג						
			13	יד			יד						
			14	טו			טו						
			15	טז			טז						
			16	יז			יז						
			17	יח			יח						
			18	יט			יט						
			19	כ			כ						
			20	כא			כא						
			21	כב			כב						
			22	כג			כג						
			23	כד			כד						
			24	כה			כה						
			25	כו			כו						
			26	כז			כז						
			27	כח			כח						
			28	כט			כט						
			29	ל			ל						
			30	א			א						
			31	ב			ב						
			1	ג			ג						
			2	ד			ד						
			3	ה			ה						
			4	ו			ו						
			5	ז			ז						
			6	ח			ח						
			7	ט			ט						
			8	י			י						
			9	יא			יא						
			10	יב			יב						
			11	יג			יג						
			12	יד			יד						
			13	טו			טו						
			14	טז			טז						

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P. 6-5600

Item No.	Unit	Price	Quantity	Total	Unit	Price	Quantity	Total
267.	א"י	1	1	252	א"י	1	10	267
276.	"	10	5	250	"	5	14	276
286.	"	20	10	262	"	10	19	286
295.	"	29	20	274	"	20	29	295
296.	א"י	1	30	282	"	31	39	296
305.	"	10	31	283	"	1	40	305
315.	"	20	35	287	"	5	44	315
325.	"	30	40	290	"	5	49	325
326.	א"י	1	50	300	"	10	59	326
335.	"	10	59	312	"	20	71	335
345.	"	20	60	313	"	30	75	345
354.	"	29	69	314	"	1	80	354
			79	317	"	5	90	
			89	322	"	10	100	
			94	332	"	20	101	
			99	333	"	31	105	
			109	344	"	1	110	
			118	348	"	5	120	
			119	353	"	10	131	
			123	359	"	20	132	
			128	363	"	31	136	
			138	374	"	1	146	
			148		"	5	156	
			149		"	10	162	
			154		"	20	163	
			158		"	31	167	
			168		"	1	177	
			177		"	5	187	
			178		"	15	190	
			187		"	25	191	
			197		"	28	195	
			207		"	31	200	
			208		"	1	210	
			217		"	5	221	
			227		"	10	222	
			236		"	20	226	
			237		"	29	231	
			246		"	1	237	
			256		"	5	246	
			266		"	10	247	



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5.	925										
6.	926										
7.	927		7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
1.	928		14	13	12	11	10	9	8		
3.	929										
4.	930		21	20	19	18	17	16	15		
5.	931		28	27	26	25	24	23	22		
6.	932						31	30	29		
1.	933										

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1.

793:18.44

- 2. 934
- 3. 935 " 44-12-29
- 4. 936 " 25 21 6
- 6. 937 " 63 35 11
- 7. 938 "
- 1. 939 " תחת המון .P
- 2. 940 " תחת המון
- 4. 941
- 5. 942
- 6. 943
- 7. 944
- 2. 945

Mad Vashem

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תש"ד	ז' חמ"ג	12.10.60	ה"ק	14.12.60	ה"ק
תש"ה	ה' חמ"ד	30.10.60	ה"ק	3.1.61	ה"ק
תש"ו	ה' חמ"ה	18.10.60	ה"ק	22.9.60	ה"ק

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