

RABBI DR. ISAAC C. AVIGDOR

25 OVERHILL ROAD WEST HARTFORD, CT 06117

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

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 Drohobyez. Later we hid in a bunker on the Arvan 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.

Before World War II. 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I believe these originals to be an historical document and testament of the spirituality of my father's unique resistance to the evils of the Holocaust.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 Rabbinic gear of sable fur at (worn all year round). Bottom (L): Upon liberation from Buchenwald, weighing 80 lbs. ?): 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 INCOMPREHENCIBLE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL DURESS AND STARVATION, BUCHENWALD INMATES HAD TO ENDURE.

	Opl	الع	. Inen	.60% 17en
15 K2 K3	9)6)75		30 di 31 1 1 2 2 3 7 1 3 7 1 3 7 3 7 3 7 3 7 3 7 3 7 3 7	18 K 20 1 Phil self 20 6 3 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
19 7 20 1 21 5 22 6 24 7 25 20 26 20		10 30 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	1 5 5 1	25 0 - Dign 1 2 2
23 G 24 1 25 Ki 26 21			10 30	27 , 200 / 3 28 Ki 29 A, 30 Ki
24 di 28 3, 29 16 30 36	Dlea 3		11 70 12 12 13 42 14 10	1 31 6 6 K 2100 27 K 2 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16
31 31	. @ p 3	18 19 70 JULION TO 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18		5 67 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
4 KD KD KD KD	cla	23 3 8 6 1 3	100	10 40
8 70 10 20 11 PO	6,160 6, 60 GN 3	26 KY 21 20 3	17 K 2 19 [1]	13 12 50 8KC2 13 16 62 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16
12 62	, 27	3 (3') 945-41/1 S	17 K 2 L 19 [15 R 2 L 18] 20 1 1 2 L 18 C 1 L	/ Iren
	Jak	3,200	24 Ki ki	89922 8992 8922 8022 80
142194819 142194819	2 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1	28 27 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30	13 1 3 6 8 8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
18 7 19 7 20 P	あってい	12 30 13 no Koki 3	30 1 30 SB (E) 5 KDC	CO C
		14102 IK		

. /116

										101					
	22 23 24 25	とかんろ	le ve	りろがみ	111/	3243		という	4 6 6 7 8 2 6 7 8 2 6 7 8 2	y God to	3000	23 24 25	となっの	חלוה נפור	おっちゃ
•	26 27 28 29			一日の		8 1 3 P	के विश्वाप	チーの大	8912		なったの	26 27 28 1	36	2131 etcis 2131 etcis 2131 etcis	していい
	30 31 32 3	2365		ととろう	2 2 2 2	12342°		3020	12 65	. 50	(a)	2345	6934	no Kin	コメトト
William Line	4567	a		30-13	27 20 20 30	4 3000	Ke	リンドス		NAME OF THE PARTY	h	6 7 8 9	30		-cac-
	7899	900		事といろ	31	10	بالأيا.	(30)	14 15 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14	Silve	PRUT	10 11 12 13	उद्गात्र	lde yes	2 KBY
Contract of the Contract of th	**		.PK		2345	निया	- Chrys-	うたつ人	30 7	PNK	めいつか		ග්	1017 NJA	3
	1 121314	×220	हें। (प्र	かしつか	67899	- mari	100	300	22 6 23 Ki 24 Ki 25 Pi		なってい	15 16 17 18	トロイタ	Kopil	メトリツ
2	15 16 7 8 19	かりるり		やなくな	10	000	רח ל	Kad	26 27 30	?!K	Jun X	19 20 21 22	いしろり		ひての(-
	19 20 21 22	ではい	· FINKI	7-15K	12	とと	الله الد الماراد	240	30 77 50	,Kn	いてんし	23 24 25 26	ひとなっ	Tue 13	ーろドア
	241	23/16/10		v-5 w. ('	12 13 14 15 167 18 19 20 21	50C)	Mb	136	123454645000	. ก๊อก ล	-UXU-	20 21 22 23 24 28 26 27 28 29 30	43,60	4 604 4 604 6 604	-ca(-
	27 28 29 29	50000	PPY	13KR	18 19 20 21	506,		いていい	10 30		- CO.	31 12 3	かかいつ	. 1. 25 k	アンメント
									1265	· 003 17	5				

	8.5				,	2 00			
		267.	WAS 1		רח תשו	252	·KAI	19	60/01
		276.	1 10	1.5.	, 2° 1	250	11 5	19	1 5
		286.	" 20	10.	" 10	26%	" 20	29	0.20
		295.	,, 29	30.	1 30	282	" 31	39	30 .6ek 1
		296.	PK 1	31.	- INGN 1	383	1.1	44	. sp. 1
		305.	" 10	30. 31. 35.	10	383 287	"5	40 44 49 59	10 120
3		315.	30	59	1 20	299	" 10	70	. 31
T		326.	Title 1	60	11001	309,	. 20	71	1Ks 1
6		335.	16	79.	" 20	309,	1 30	71 75 80	. 5
		345.	20	89.	" 30	3/3	111, 1	90	" 20
0)		354.	29	90.	126 1	3/3/3/3/2	1 5	100.	
C S				89 90 94 99	" 70	720	10	101.	30 Sp. 1
S				109	" 20	3/3	31	105.	15
2			14	118.	" 20	344	60/x/x 1	110.	" 10
0)				119.		344	r 5	120.	20
0 *				123.	510	359	1 10	131.	779,1
	1 Aug. 1885			138	0,20	363	× 20	136	3,5
		A STATE OF THE STA	71	148.	,, 30	2411	n 31	146	11 15
5-3-30 AV				1/10	73/E 1	374	, 01	156	25
		Y	_19	154.				162	" 31
				158.	70			163	mayo 1.
				168.	20			167	" 5
			9	177.	1 29			187	~ 25
				178.	1071			107	" 28
			6.11	187.	10			187 190 191	" gon 1!
				197	,, 20		1	100	" 5
				207.	,, 30			195	" 10
The same	The second			208	חווד 1	3		200	" 10 " 20
			Trees 1	217	N 10	-		201	1 31
				224	1 20			222	Ferr 1
				126.	1 29			226	1.691
				201	100 100 200 30			221 222 226 234 244	- × 10
				246.	20			244	" 20
			2.5	178 187 197 208 217 236 237 246 256	30			2512	" 30

5	. 925				la de		~		野		. 19	45
6.	926	110				ki.	1.					J. 1/12.C
7	. 924		7	6	5	4	3	2	1		. 1.	٦
11	9a8		14	13	12	11	10	9	8		1	
3.	929	1 71 3				100						
4.	930	200	21	20	19	18	17	16	15			
5.	231		28	27	26	25	24	23	122			
6.	932						31	30	24	4		
1.	933	1 200										793:18.44
2.	934	11						10			,	
3.	935	1.4	14 -	12:	29	H	5	43	Sen	5	6)	
4.	936	11					5					
6.	937	. 63	3	K /	5/4	7.0						
7.	938	* -		7	2		, N					
1.	939	CNUT	در	Mic	15	lh.	1 40				A.	
2.	940	1 11	2	SAND	2	100						
-11	61.	(1)	9	200	1							
9:	79/	0.1				1 A 1		V.				
	942					4.113						
	943			Y.A.	4	1 2						
7.	944	in the		Ser .								
2	945					917						

														1		The second second	1
4.						(IK	px	2) 1/2	10	ついべ	[0]	73h	65l	200	169	hen	
250.0					1	31	300	スカイン	K	31	别人.	ar ak	A 3	133	かか	34	Ba in
						17	3	B	K	31	2	34	2	K5	1	D3	10
						Kh		My Kh	1	33 33	3	19	3	40	K	31	p'a
					. 7	34 34	7	12	3	る	AF	的	かか	19	4	5K 5K	24
7			4				N.					6					
	ils			K	px	37	110	201K	ررم	XX MX	530	202	1/2	Info	3	per	
				5	3	C.Y.	K	31	S.	9,1	2	K3	100	34	7	6,5	
7				34	2	K	10	703	7	PK	3	-)	3	34	1	٨٥	•
				10	3	2	P	31	3	34	2	K3	1	न्त्र	. 7	40	
				Kn	10	673	*	PK		10	3	45	K	11		הים	
				S.	ON ON	10	3	75		31	0	31	PK	3)	1	5	
		(3×		Ky Ky	1	42		31	7 5	13	137	2k		182	
			1	x px			Dilk	+=	+	-		-	-	118h	-	rps	The same of
			,K	3	150	1	PK	3	117	34	2	K4	150	34		20	3
				3 1	28	4	SK	34	1/2	34	1 2	K3	131	34		からから	2
•		*	300		2 K					170	さいかり	37 5x		300		F	ed C
			P	K.	1/5) 3	1 87	K	4	1 300	4	2	K	31	. 5.	K	3
					a Ki	1	3)		3,			13		5K	3 111	1	13
																0	031

·60 yo 121, jing 14.IX Ala. 35" jes h 6010 30, 500 : 3eh 3.x 500 xen 3.x 500 xen 3.x 500 xen 3.x 500 xen 3. X 50 A. K'ED 130