

JEWISH SOLDIERS IN THE RED ARMY
AND THEIR ENCOUNTER WITH THE HORRORS OF THE HOLOCAUST
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During World War II between three and five hundred thousand Jewish troops were conscripted into the Red Army. The article examines the ways in which their Jewish identity was influenced by their army service. Two major elements are analyzed: their experience with antisemitism in the Red Army and their encounters with the horrors of the Holocaust. The article is based on a wide range of sources including poetry, and soldiers' letters, written by Jews and non-Jews alike.

Although it is difficult to assess if and how these two factors impacted on all of the Jewish soldiers in the Red Army, this research indicates that these two factors engendered, amongst some of them, a sense of otherness, and a deepening of their Jewish identity.