Chapter 3

*Mila 18* and *QB VII*

In Uris’s novel *Exodus*, while telling the story of Dov Landau in a flashback, Uris writes about the Polish lad’s internment in the Warsaw ghetto, his involvement in the activities of the ghetto underground, his transfer to the Auschwitz extermination camp, his employment there as a forger and then as a *Sonderkommando* and his eventual liberation by the Russian Army in January 1945 (120-42). Dov Landau’s story includes a brief summary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising. It is this summary that Uris expands into a full-fledged and powerful novel in *Mila 18*.

Uris’s novel *Mila 18* dramatises the story of the short-lived Jewish uprising in the Warsaw ghetto against the might of the Germans. Torn between opposing attitudes to the German atrocities against the inmates of the ghetto, the Jews fume and fret ineffectually until their suspicions about the Jews being transported out of the ghetto for “labour” is confirmed—they are being taken to an extermination camp. Faced with certain death in the gas chamber, the Jews decide that they should instead go down fighting. They form a resistance force and go on the offensive—a doomed offensive—and, in the process, disprove the myth of Nazi invincibility.

On the eve of World War II, Alexander Brandel, a Jewish historian of Warsaw, is impelled to record what is happening around him. In his first journal entry he records his feeling that war will begin in a few weeks. Fie also records his fear that, with three and a half million Jews in Poland, something awesome will happen if Germany invades the country (Uris, *Mila 18* 3).
Poland is determined to resist the Germans. Every senior citizen has been called into the reserve. Dr. Paul Bronski, Dean of the College of Medicine, takes leave of his colleagues, who give him a moving farewell. Dr. Franz Koenig, one of the colleagues, puts on a show of warmth. However, the moment Bronski leaves, Koenig enters his room to look at Bronski’s desk (Uris, Mila 18 10-12). He muses thus:

My chair . . . dean of Medicine! My chair. Bronski gone! Quick-talking, tearful-voiced Bronski. Ten years he had waited. The board was blinded by Bronski. They were entranced by the fact they could put a graduate of the university as the dean of medicine for the first time in six decades. That’s why they chose Bronski. A whispering campaign against me because I am a German. They were so eager to make Bronski the dean, they even closed their eyes to the fact that he is a Jew. (Uris, Mila 18 12)

Koenig is a typical ethnic German in Poland. He was all right until the office of the Dean of the College of Medicine, properly due to him, was given to Bronski, fifteen years his junior. Kurt Liedendorf, the leader of Warsaw’s ethnics, rubbed it in, calling it an insult to all Germans, a result of Jewish cunning. Koenig attended a talk given by a special guest from Berlin. A few meetings on, Koenig began to feel German nationalism and ethnicity stirring within him. He now impatiently awaits the arrival of his liberators from across the border (Uris, Mila 18 12-16).

Captain Andrei Androfski of the crack Ulany regiment of the Polish army comes home on leave. He detests his brother-in-law Bronski because he has turned
his back on Judaism and his family no longer observes the Sabbath. Andrei deplores the fact that his ten-year old nephew Stephan does not even know he is a Jew and that, when he becomes thirteen, he will not be given a bar mitzvah (Uris, Mila 18 16-30). Andrei warns Bronski that he can never disown his Jewishness: “You are a fool, Paul Bronski. Being a Jew is not a matter of choice. And one sweet day soon, I fear, it will crash down on you and destroy all your logic and smart talk. God, you’re in for a rude awakening, because you are a Jew, whether you want to be or choose to be—or not” (Uris, Mila 18 30). Andrei explains to his new acquaintance Gabriela Rak what his organization, the Bathyrans, does for the Jewish cause:

“We follow certain principles of Zionism, which tells us we must re-establish our ancient homeland in Palestine, and we run an orphanage and have a farm outside Warsaw. On the farm we train youngsters in the rededication to the land. When we are able to raise enough money, we buy a piece of land in Palestine and send off a new group to start a colony.” (Uris, Mila 18 42-43)

Andrei recalls his childhood in the impoverished Stawki Street. His father Israel Androfski sent him to cheder, the Jewish school. There Rabbi Gevirtz told them about the diaspora and how the Jews came to Poland to escape maltreatment. His father told him how the condition of the Jews in Poland deteriorated steadily until they ended up in ghettos, how the cult of the Cabala arose and how the Hassidim emerged. After learning all this Andrei decided that he did not want to be a tailor, a chicken seller like his father or a Hassid who immersed himself in prayer. He did not
wish to become a Talmudic scholar either. He wanted to be a soldier (Uris, *Mila 18* 56-60).

Generations of Jews suffered inhuman privation in the Jewish Pale of Settlement before the ideal of Zionism was engendered and spread by Theodor Herzl. At the end of World War I, Pilsudski re-declared the state of Poland. Poland’s Jews trusted Pilsudski’s words and believed that, after 1900 years, their emancipation was at hand. But Pilsudski abandoned the Jews and their suffering resumed. It was into this world that Andrei was born (Uris, *Mila 18* 60-62).

Andrei rebelled against his father’s advice to run from the *goyim*. Instead he stood his ground. When he proved that he could beat them at their own game of violence, he was accepted outside the Jewish area. However, he knew very well that he would never be accepted by the others. He joined the Zionists. When a commission in the Ulany was offered, his Zionist friends persuaded him to accept it for the sake of the Jewish population, and that was how he came to carry the battle for the Jews on his back (Uris, *Mila 18* 62).

The Germans invade Poland, attacking with planes, tanks and infantry (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.1, ch. 10). The Ulany brigade surrenders and the survivors are incarcerated. But Andrei, battered and bruised, as well as exhausted beyond human endurance, escapes, swims across the Vistula river and decides to go to Warsaw and continue the fight (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt. 1, ch. 11).

Britain and France declare war on Germany. Gabriela tracks down the Bronski family at the Bathyran Orphanage and helps in moving the facilities underground to
cope with the German air raids, Andrei returns to his flat. Gabriela is there. She comforts and soothes him (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.1, ch. 12).

The people of the devastated city of Warsaw dig in and await the German frontal assault. Christopher de Monti of the Swiss News Agency refuses to leave beleaguered Warsaw because of his deep love for Deborah Bronski (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.1, ch. 13).

Andrei asks Gabriela to leave Warsaw the next day with the personnel of the American Embassy and go on to the United States where her mother and sister are. But Gabriela stands her ground and refuses to go (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.1, ch. 14).

Simultaneously with the evacuation of the embassy personnel there is to be a swap of German prisoners and Polish prisoners. In exchange for about 80 German prisoners, the Germans have offered about 400 Polish soldiers. When the contingent comes into view, Andrei perceives the reason for the disproportion: the Germans send back only Polish amputees. Bronski is one of them (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt. 1, ch. 15).

On 27 September 1939, Poland surrenders to the Germans. Hitler visits Warsaw. Koenig is now an important official. He has applied for Nazi membership. He attaches a swastika to his right sleeve. Now that he is a powerful man, he shows a dark side which even his fat Polish wife does not like. Koenig and his wife go to the grand ballroom of the Europa Hotel. Hitler makes a dramatic appearance and the German national anthem is played. As a reward for his fifth columnist services, Koenig is made a special deputy to the new Kommissar of Warsaw, Rudolph Shreiker. In his new official capacity, Koenig sends for Bronski, insults him, orders him about and humiliates him (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.2, ch.1).
The old Jewish Council, a quasi-religious government, is disbanded by the Germans and replaced by the Jewish Civil Authority. Bronski is one of the eight Executive Board members. Goldman the musician is their head. At their very first meeting they defy Shreiker when he asks them to supply women for German brothels, Koenig intervenes and saves face (Uris, Mila 18 123-28).

The Germans issue numerous directives to subdue and discipline the Jews. Each Jew is to register and receive a *kennkarte* stamped with a large J to qualify to receive a ration book. Jewish houses are confiscated without compensation for the use of German officials. Polish hoodlums are paid by the Germans to terrorise the Jews. SS troopers round up people most likely to resist, and march them to Pawiak prison and shoot them. The radio and billboards are used to incite the Polish public against the Jews. The Polish people lap it up (Uris, Mila 18 128-30).

The Bathyrans prepare to go underground. Ana Grinspan plays a major role in setting up a system of underground communications. Susan Geller does a great job in the Bathyan orphanage. Tolek Alterman promises to increase the acreage at the farm to cope with the ration cut. Ervin Rosenblum is still working for Swiss News, but cannot do so for long (Uris, Mila 18 130-32).

Andrei plans to take fifty Jews from Warsaw over the border to Russia, get arms and disrupt the German supply lines. Alex forbids him to do so and taunts him, calling him a coward. Andrei says that he will go alone. Alex accuses Andrei of being selfish. Andrei pleads that he cannot fight Alex’s kind of war (Uris, Mila 18 132-35). Alex reasons with Andrei:
“You have fought your war your way and it was no good. Now the battle is even more unbalanced. This is not strong men against strong men. We are a few people who have in our hands the responsibility of three and a half million helpless people. We have no weapons but faith in each other. Andrei, you’ve always wanted to know what Zionism is. This is Zionism, helping Jews survive. You must give yourself to us. We cannot do without you.” (Uris, Mila 18 135)

Andrei agrees to stay and fight Alex’s war (Uris, Mila 18 136).

As the Bronskis prepare to move to an all-Jewish area as per the German directive, they catch Zoshia, their maidservant of several years, stealing their silver. When questioned, she retorts that it is hers for the years she has cleaned their Jew dirt. She accuses the Jews of having brought the Germans to Poland, as her Christian priest said. She even spits in hatred in their faces and leaves (Uris, Mila 18, pt.2, ch.4).

Horst von Epp, a propaganda man, arrives in Warsaw. He is a Nazi with a difference. He is civilised and even sophisticated. He befriends Chris and discovers that Chris does not want to leave Warsaw because he is probably in love with a Jewess there (Uris, Mila 18, pt.2, ch.7).

The latest arrival from Gestapo capital in Lublin is Sturmbannfuhrer Sieghold Stutze of the SS. He has brought a detachment of SS troopers who are specialists in Jewish affairs. One day Stutze discovers the basement where Rabbi Solomon teaches Jewish religion and law to seven boys, including Stephan Bronski. He lines up the boys against the wall and threatens to shoot them one after the other unless the rabbi
dances on the Torah. As the old rabbi commences his dance in order to save the boys’ lives, the Germans convulse in laughter. Utilising this, Stephan dashes out to freedom (Uris, Mila 18, pt.2, ch. 14). Rabbi Solomon’s synagogue is burned to the ground by the Germans. Stutze and Shreiker vie with each other in unleashing atrocities and attacks on the Jews. Teenage Jewish orphans are forced to donate blood to the German army. Most of the Jews carry a poison capsule for suicide (Uris, Mila 18, pt.2, ch. 15).

The latest Nazi arrival in Warsaw is SS Oberführer (Brigadier) Alfred Funk. He proposes the delousing of all the Jews after quarantining them in a designated area. He declares all Jewish property legitimate booty. He orders to register all Jewish property. He imposes a collective fine on the Jews. He wants the Jewish Civil Authority to issue orders for all this dirty work. Goldman convenes a meeting of the Board which votes five to three to protest to Funk. That night Goldman ties up the loose ends of his business and takes them to his friends and leaves them. The next morning he meets Oberführer Funk and reports that he has not drafted the directives to carry out the German proposals. He leaves. That night Goldman is murdered. Boris Presser, an unknown entity, is appointed Chairman of the Jewish Civil Authority (Uris, Mila 18, pt.2, ch. 16). Jewish personal property is stripped and carted away. The Jews are forced to register for slave labour in the many new German factories and enterprises springing up all over the Warsaw area (Uris, Mila18 204).

Thanks to his Aryan appearance, Andrei makes several trips outside Warsaw with false papers as Jan Kowal. But it is getting more dangerous each time. Returning from a particularly difficult and saddening trip, Andrei sees the long lines of Jews
waiting at the quarantine areas. Enraged, he meets Simon Eden of the Federated Zionists and proposes that they should procure arms and launch a resistance movement because he fears that the Germans intend to wipe the Jews off the face of the earth. Simon rejects Andrei’s proposal (Uris, *Mila 18* 205-08).

Max Kleperman, a thief and a bum from his teenage years, becomes a collaborator of the Germans. His organization, known as the Big Seven, becomes the agent for all German-directed moves. Max bribes the German officers as well as Koenig and recoups the loss by collecting more from the Jews. The Germans plan to create a ghetto by building an enclosure surrounded by a ten-foot high wall to be topped by triple strands of barbed wire. Max undertakes to carry out the job using Jewish slave labour (Uris, *Mila 18* 210-15).

On 7 November 1940, the ghetto is complete and it is inaugurated. A Jewish Militia is formed under the Jewish Civil Authority, but actually under the control of Stutze and his henchman Piotr Warsinski, a Jew who has converted. There are half a million Jews in the Warsaw ghetto (Uris, *Mila 18* 217-18).

On 21 June 1941, Germany invades Russia. Many countries have fallen to the Nazis. Some countries have joined the Nazis. London is being bombarded by the Luftwaffe (Uris, *Mila 18* 227).

One day Rabbi Solomon calls on Alex and the latter shows him his journal—three volumes of it—and Rabbi Solomon reacts prophetically:

“Amazing! Your intuition of a holocaust. Your wisdom in putting it all down on paper before the events occurred.”
Alex shrugged. “Time and again Jews have written secret histories from intuition.”

“Intuition? I wonder. The Lord works in His own ways. Moses was a goy, like you. Alex, you must not leave this about. Not even in the safe. Hide it.”

“Rabbi, I have never seen you so excited. Are you certain of its importance?”

“Certain! This will sear the souls of men for centuries to come. This journal is a brand that is to be stamped on the German conscience so that a hundred of their unborn generations will have to live with these words with guilt and shame!”

Alex sighed and nodded with contentment. He knew now that all those hours through the night when he had been drugged from lack of sleep and forced his hand to write out another line had not been in vain.

“May God forgive me for saying this, Alex, but that journal is like a new chapter of the ‘Valley of Tears Chronicle.’” (Uris, Mila 18 233)

At Rabbi Solomon’s suggestion, Alex’s journal is rendered into a treasure and hidden more safely. More contributors are admitted to a Good Fellowship Club. Rabbi Solomon begins to make duplicate copies (Uris, Mila 18 234-35).

Eighteen-year-old Wolf Brandel joins Andrei’s underground unit after defying his parents and impressing Andrei with his ideals and his dedication to do right despite the obvious dangers. He is thoroughly trained and learns fast. One day a
courier codenamed Wanda arrives from Krakow with a package of American dollars from Thompson at the American Embassy. But all the four Bathyran runners are out on the other side of the wall, Alex is desperate. Wolf offers to go. Alex turns him down. Wolf threatens that he will never talk to Alex again. Finally Alex gives in. He leaves the ghetto and spots Wanda. But the Gestapo is also trailing Wanda. Wanda sees Wolf and decides to pass him by. Checking to see if she is being followed, Wanda perceives that she is trapped. Wolf is also hauled in by the Gestapo (Uris, Mila 18, pt.2, ch.22).

At the Gestapo House, the chief Gunther Sauer questions Wolf, but cannot crack his carefully worked out identity or story, according to which he is Hershel Edelman, whose father manufactures popular chessmen. So, the next day, Sauer makes Wolf play chess with him. Wolf is afraid to win but Sauer warns him that he must win. Wolf wins in nine moves. Sauer does not give up. Wolf is sent into the main interrogation room. A badly messed up Wanda is brought in. Neither Wolf nor Wanda recognises the other. Rabbi Solomon calls up Max and Andrei works out a deal with him to arrange the release of Wolf Brandel (Uris, Mila 18 pt.2, ch. 23).

Rachel Bronski spends nine torturous days in Andrei’s flat. On the ninth day, Andrei brings Wolf to his flat. Rachel is relieved to see that Wolf is fine, except for a scar on his cheek. Andrei has to tell Alex that his niece Rachel is Wolf’s girl. Andrei rages that, with the 3000 dollars paid to Max, they could have bought guns and stormed Gestapo House and taken Wolf out like a dignified human being. Andrei presses again for money to buy guns and again Alex refuses. Andrei walks out in a huff. He goes to Gabriela. He says that he will try to contact the Home Army, the

Andrei disappears from the ghetto, bringing down morale. Thompson of the American Embassy is evicted from Poland. But Ana Grinspan has already cultivated a new contact, a man named Fordelli, the second secretary at the Italian Embassy. Ervin Rosenblum’s pass to the Aryan side is revoked while Chris is away on a visit to the Eastern front (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt. 2, ch. 25).

Andrei seeks a meeting with Roman, the Warsaw Commander of the fledgeling underground Home Army of Poland. He has to wait for two weeks. He seeks a fighting command. But Roman rejects the request for the simple reason that Andrei is a Jew. Andrei wants to organize his own unit of the Home Army. Roman rejects that too. So Andrei decides to go to England and join the Free Polish Forces or at least join the British army. He wants Gabriela to go to England and meet him there and marry him (Uris, *Mila 18* 274-78).

Andrei goes back to the ghetto to say farewell. Simon Eden comes to his flat. He says that popular thinking has now changed in favour of resistance. He asks Andrei to contact Roman again and buy guns. He gives Andrei a fat wad of zloty notes. Andrei gives up his plan to go to England (Uris, *Mila 18* 278-81).

With America entering the war after Pearl Harbour, the Jews’ main source of funds, American Aid, is cut off. The Waffen SS raids the Bathyran camp at Wework and deports fifty of the occupants by a cattle train to Germany. Ana Grinspan follows them, enters the lager in Dresden and brings out Tolek A Herman and ten youngsters. The Jews’ star runners, the two Farber girls, and their major contact on the Aryan
side, Romek, are captured by the Gestapo. All the Jewish farms are closed by the Germans. The Jews lose several hundred of their best people and irreplaceable food supplies (Uris, *Mila* 15 281-98).

Andrei slowly builds up an arsenal consisting mainly of bottle bomb grenades invented by Jules Scholsberg, a pre-war chemist of note. Ana Grinspan asks Andrei to recruit Gabriela to work for them on the Aryan side of the wall. Andrei goes to Gabriela’s flat, spins a tale about a new romance between himself and Ana and leaves. He tells Ana that he went to Gabriela’s flat and surprised her and her Polish lover in bed. Some days later Gabriela comes into the ghetto, meets Ana and finds out the truth. She decides to work with Ana (Uris, *Mila* 18 298-305). She explains to Andrei why:

“I’ll tell you I have watched the only man I have ever loved come to me time after time after time with his heart eaten away because of the indifference of the Polish people. I am ashamed and I am humiliated for the way they have turned their backs on this terrible thing. Now you ask me, too, to be indifferent. I am going to carry my share of this. I am going to work with Ana, whether you forbid it or not.” (Uris, *Mila* 18 305)

Gabriela’s induction into the ghetto underground is a shot in their arm. She accomplishes several things for them. She persuades Roman Catholic priests and nuns to help the Jews. She meets the Archbishop of Warsaw and tries to persuade him to officially intervene to help the Jews. But the Archbishop sticks to the Catholic
Church’s “neutral” line. Gabriela questions his Christianness and walks out (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.3, ch. 2).

Dr. Glazer, who has cancer, has chosen to starve to death so that the world’s first comprehensive medical study on starvation can be initiated and become a Jewish gift to posterity. Many other doctors collaborate in the study. Many Jews have started writing diaries because they fear that they will be forgotten (Uris, *Mila 18* 311-12).

The Germans send Paul to seek an end to the underground activities. It is clear that they are getting a bit nervous. Andrei denies the existence of an underground. There are indications of thousands of German casualties on the Eastern front (Uris, *Mila 18* 312-17).

As Stephen Bronski has his bar mitzvah celebrated, Paul sits through the ceremony unwillingly, not even moved by his son’s short oration:

“I realize that becoming a son of the Commandment is just a token of manhood. A lot of people told me how sorry they were that I couldn’t have my bar mitzvah in peace time when the Great Tlomatskie synagogue would have been almost full and relatives would have come from all of Poland and there would have been a large celebration and presents. I thought a lot about all that, but I am really glad to have my bar mitzvah in a place like this room, because in places like this the Jewish faith has been kept alive during other times of oppression. I think, too, it is a special privilege to have your bar mitzvah in bad times. Anyone can live like a Jew when things go well, but to take an oath to be a Jew today is really important. We
know that God needs real Jews to protect His laws. Well... we have survived everyone who has tried to destroy us before because we have kept this kind of faith. Our God will not let us down. I am very proud to be a Jew and I will try hard to uphold my responsibilities. (Uris, Mila 18 321)

After the ceremony, Paul takes it out on Deborah, accusing her of making him look ridiculous. He says that they need to reappraise their friends and associations because of the part played by some in the underground. The Germans are holding the entire family of one of the Board Members of the Jewish Civil Authority as a warning to the others. So the members of the Board have decided that their families have to come to work inside the Civil Authority building and never be out of their sight. He pleads that it is the reality (Uris, Mila 8 322-23). Paul and Deborah have a showdown:

“Reality? My poor man, you are the one who has been hiding from reality. I’m going to tell you what reality is. Your daughter is sleeping with Wolf Brandel, and I sent her to him because her marriage would endanger her father’s precious position as a collaborator.”

“That son of bitch-”

“Good! At least you have the decency to show anger. But he is a fine young man and I thank God she is able to find a few moments of happiness in this hell. Shall I tell you more reality? I am working on manufacturing bombs in the cellar of the orphanage and your son Stephen is delivering the underground newspaper.”
Paul Bronski stood up and grunted like a confused, dying animal.

“Do you know why, Paul? He came to me and pleaded—‘Momma, I am going to be thirteen.... Momma, someone in our family has to be a man.’” (Uris, *Mila* 18 323)

Deborah reveals that she has a chance to leave the ghetto with the children. Paul guesses that Chris is behind the plan. Paul slides to the floor on his knees, doubles up before her feet and begs her not to leave him (Uris, *Mila* 18 323-24).

The Germans bring in Latvians, Lithuanians and Ukrainians as Nazi Auxiliaries to harass and torment the Jews in the ghetto. Reports arrive of the Germans building camps in out-of-the-way locations like Majdanek which are not designed for slave labour or for enemies of the Reich. One Friday the Germans announce the commencement of mass deportation of the Jews to the east (Uris, *Mila* 18, pt.3, ch.5).

The underground tries to determine what is behind the deportations, which are shrouded in secrecy. All that they know is that every day a train leaves for the east with 6000 Jews. Rabbi Solomon is prevailed upon to petition the Jewish Civil Authority. He meets Paul, who discounts the tales of the massacres in the east and assures that the deportations will stop. But he has his own apprehensions. So he goes to Koenig. Koenig permits the Jewish Civil Authority to assure the people of the Germans’ good intentions, then he obtains Schreiker’s approval of such a proclamation by the Jewish Civil Authority. Some members of the Board are taken on an “inspection” of some labour camps in the east. On their return they sign documents certifying their satisfaction with the deportations. Yet, by the sixth day, the stream of
volunteers completely dries up. So the Nazi Auxiliaries raid houses and drag the
inmates out violently for deportation. Andrei and Simon work out that the deportation
train travels only 70 or 80 kilometers beyond Warsaw and they know that no labour
camp inside this radius can continue to take 6000 new people every day. Andrei asks
Tolek and Wolf to go to the Aryan side and observe the train’s movement. Andrei
himself is planning to get into the Majdanek camp (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.3, ch.6).

Andrei reaches Lublin. His old sergeant Styka meets him. He has made the
arrangements for Andrei’s visit to the Majdanek camp, but questions the wisdom of
it. Andrei and Styka meet Grabski, the foreman in charge of the bricklayers at
Majdanek and give him an advance on his payment. Grabski callously says that the
only way Jews leave Majdanek is through its chimney (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.3, ch.7).

Andrei meets Chris and gives him a one hundred page report on the daily
murder of thousands of Jews in the extermination camps in Poland and wants him to
carry it out and get it into the world press. Chris refuses to oblige because he says that
it will have no effect. Finally Andrei sinks to his knees and begs Chris to help them.
Gabriela angrily jerks him up and forbids him to kneel before any man. Andrei and
Gabriela take turns taunting and insulting Chris. Then they leave in disgust, leaving
the report behind (Uris, *Mila 18* 348-51).

The underground, under the name of Joint Forces, blows the whistle on the
extermination camps. It calls on the Jews not to report for deportation but to join an
uprising. The Joint Forces unite Jews of all affiliations. They have 560 young men
and women but very few arms along with thousands bottle bombs and water-pipe
grenades (Uris, *Mila 18* 356).
Alex makes a deal with Stutze through Warsinski to buy some of those rounded up for deportation at a price of eleven dollars and fifty cents per head. Every day they snatch someone of value from the train. One day Rabbi Solomon is picked up. Since he is too old, he is sent to the cemetery for execution. Alex buys Rabbit Solomon for one hundred dollars (Uris, *Mila 18* 358-61). Alex feels shattered. He feels that he has utterly failed. He regrets not having listened to Andrei and refusing him guns and bullets, because he was determined to have his way. Now he sees that only Andrei’s guns will deliver them (Uris, *Mila 18* 361-63).

The Jews build an underground city beneath the ghetto of Warsaw with trapdoors, secret entrances, false rooms, attics and other hiding places. The German roundups go on for some more days and then grind to a halt (Uris, *Mila 18* 363-64).

Max is summoned to Koenig’s office. Koenig confronts him with his secret deals and hoards. Max offers him his deposits in some banks abroad as a bribe. But Koenig knows more about Max’s finances than he suspects. He gets Max to sign away his deposits. When he gets back to his car Max finds himself a prisoner of the SS. He is driven to the cemetery where Stutze awaits him with a length of pipe. Stutze smashes Max’s face until he dies. Then his body is flung into the pit. After that the other members of the Big Seven are lined up at the pit and shot dead and their bodies thrown into the lime filled pit. Their trial and execution is publicly announced. The proclamation also says that the deportations have ended (Uris, *Mila 18* 364-69).

Four days later, as Rachel is giving a piano recital in an orphanage, the militia surrounds it. Susan draws Stephan aside and asks him to go upstairs and take the children in an attic classroom over the roof to Mila 19 and asks Alex to get to the
Umschlagplatz quickly. When the song ends, Susan announces to the assembled children that they are all going on a train ride out of the ghetto. As Warsinski enters the building, Susan offers to lead the children out. She also chooses to go with them (Uris, *Mila 18* 369-73).

Meanwhile Stephan prepares to lead the two dozen six-year-olds across the roof to safety. He opens the trap door on the roof and peers around. There is an Ukrainian on the roof. As the guard stoops to look at the street five stories down, Stephan hurtles towards him, throws his body at him and throws him off balance. The guard falls over, dropping his rifle on the roof, and grabs the top of the ridge. Stephan smashes the clinging guard’s hands with the butt of the rifle. The guard falls to the pavement with a shriek. Stephan gets the children on to the roof. Rifle fire cracks from the street as the children are spotted. Stephan flees with the children. Suddenly the line of buildings drops from five stories to four, with a chasm of 4 feet between buildings. Stephan persuades the children to jump down in pairs (Uris, *Mila 18* 373-74).

The Germans net thousands of Jewish babies. But they see a lot of nurses, teachers, doctors and workers arriving with the children. Susan insists that the children will enjoy their picnic if the elders are with them. She is carrying a bag full of chocolates for just such an occasion. Alex tries to enter the Umschlagplatz but is held back by Warsinski’s militia. In the train Susan passes poisoned chocolates to the children. Susan herself swallows the last square of chocolate (Uris, *Mila 18* 374-76).
Deborah fills a suitcase, goes to Paul’s room and announces that she is leaving with her children. But she finds that he has committed suicide. Deborah leaves, without shedding a tear (Uris, *Mila 18* 377-79).

Andrei meets Roman, only to discover that the Home Army will not help the Jews. Gloom descends on the leaders of the underground. Erwin suggests mass suicide. Wolf walks out in protest. On 16 September 1942, there is no deportation. Of the original 600,000 Jews in the ghetto, only 50,000 remain (Uris, *Mila 18* 379-83).

A moderate German propaganda official named Horst von Epp traces Chris as the conduit for the report on the German extermination camps. Now that Germany has started losing the war, he drives Chris to the ghetto and leaves him there with a *kenkarte* and special papers to keep him out of police hands until he finds his friends. Chris and Andrei meet. Chris is accepted as a friend. Deborah comes to Chris (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.3, ch. 13).

The Germans close in on Mila 19, the Jewish headquarters. Andrei, Simon, Wolf and Chris escape by going up and hiding in the roof. They spend 30 hours in their hideout. When they come out they see the Germans taking away all the Jewish leaders. Andrei and Simon waylay the Germans and kill them. The Jewish prisoners escape (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.4, ch.3).

The Joint Forces capture Warsinski, question him for hours and execute him. The Jews urgently need a command post. They suspect that there is a large underground bunker under Mila 18, separated from Mila 19 by a twelve-foot pipe. They decide to cut a hole through the farthest wall of Mila 19 and another one across the *kanal* in the wall of Mila 18. Andrei cuts a hole in the wall and another one in the
twelve-foot sewer pipe. On the other side of the kanal, Andrei discovers a loose cluster of bricks. Removing the bricks easily, he enters a huge underground complex overflowing with stores, particularly food. There is also electricity, a telephone and a radio transmitter. The owner, a smuggler named Moritz, perceives that he cannot go against the Joint Forces. He agrees to share Mila 18 and serve as the quartermaster of the Joint Forces (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.4, ch.85).

A company of Jewish fighters under the command of Wolf captures the dressmaker’s factory, kills the guards and their dogs and takes away the five trucks. They use the trucks to cart off all the food in all the warehouses to a series of small bunkers all over the ghetto. Simon captures half a dozen members of the Jewish Militia and marches them to Mila 18, where Alex gets all the information they can provide on collaborators and illegal operators. Squads of Jewish fighters capture them all. Some are executed and some fined. Rodel, the communist, has ordered the workers in the uniform factory to turn out defective uniforms. The manager of the factory, Ludwig Heinz, an ethnic German, has always been kind to the slave labourers and has even saved a number of Jewish lives. Fie is allowed to leave the ghetto after being roughed up for his own good. Samson Ben Horin leads a party through the sewers to the Aryan side, comes out near the German Exchange Bank, attacks an armoured truck transporting the payroll for the German garrison and raids the bank also. Simon leads a party of Joint Forces into the Jewish Civil Authority building and captures the families of the Board Members at gun point. He then enters the Chairman Boris Presser’s room and demands the treasury. Boris tries to play for time. But Simon threatens to kill three of the hostages every hour. An hour later two
million zlotys are handed over to Simon. The hostages are released. But, the next day, the Joint Forces announce the disbanding of the Jewish Civil Authority (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.4, ch.7).

The Star of David flies over the Warsaw ghetto. On 2 February 1943, the German Sixth Army surrenders at Stalingrad. For the first time in 2000 years a Jewish army controls the first autonomous piece of Jewish land, with its “capital” at Mila 18 (Uris, *Mila 18* 449-52).

News arrives that one thousand Germans and Auxiliaries are massing before their barracks and that they are expected to enter the ghetto. The Germans arrive under Stutze. They enter the Jewish Militia barracks and bring out the militiamen at bayonet point and beat the leaders into the Jewish Civil Authority building. Next the sound of machine pistols is heard. It is expected that the Germans will march the militiamen to the Umschlagplatz. The unit commanders seek instructions from the overall commander Simon. Simon decides to let the Germans pass. The order is obeyed. The Germans march out with the militiamen. Andrei feels confident that the Joint Forces can hold the Germans for a week (Uris, *Mila 18* 452-58).

In Berlin the mood has changed due to the change in the course of the war in almost every theatre. Many occupied countries are protecting their Jews. Himmler himself is for pacifying the Jews in Warsaw. The Germans try various tricks to lure the Jews in the ghetto into the open. However this only gives Simon time to augment his meagre forces. By mid-March, two months into the resistance, the Jews still hold the ghetto. Schreiker is relieved of the duty of liquidating the Jews. The task is turned over to the propaganda wizard Horst von Epp and Koenig (Uris, *Mila 18* 458-61).
On 17 March a single German car enters the ghetto with white flags fluttering. A single soldier alights before the Jewish Civil Authority building holding a white flag. After some time an armed woman leads some men towards him. He says he has come with a message for the Jewish commander from German authorities. He is blindfolded and taken to Simon. He says that Koenig wishes to hold a meeting under truce with guaranteed safety. Simon replies that Koenig should walk alone holding a white flag to the Jewish Civil Authority building between 12 and 12.10 (Uris, *Mila 18* 461-62).

Koenig comes on foot and alone. He waits before the Jewish Civil Authority building for ten minutes asking if anyone is there. Then a voice from the building calls out his name. He climbs the steps and enters the building, calling out for truce. Samson closes the door, frisks Koenig and orders him to march. He is ordered to sit in a room. Samson taunts him, calling him a superman. Simon, Andrei and Rodel arrive. Alex leads Rabbi Solomon in. He and the old man sit before Koenig. Andrei orders Koenig to stand up in the presence of the rabbi and cover his head. Koenig stands up. Simon asks him to talk. He proposes a negotiated settlement. He offers fair resettlement in camps which they are free to examine. He even offers to sign a pact, a treaty. He wants them to abandon the ghetto. He says that their position is impossible (Uris, *Mila 18* 462-64). When no reply comes, he makes the final offer:

“**You men here represent the leadership of what we estimate to be forty to fifty thousand people. To show you we mean business, we are prepared to pay you a handsome indemnity. Several hundred thousand zlotys. We will deposit it in Swiss francs, American dollars, or**
however you desire, and we will give you two thousand visas to Sweden. We guarantee safe conduct under Swedish or Swiss auspices. If you wish, you can leave in lots of one hundred and arrange coded messages to assure each other of safe arrivals. Now, gentlemen, what could be fairer than that?” (Uris, *Mila 18* 464)

At Simon’s prompting, Alex gives the Jewish reply: he spits in Koenig’s face. Simon orders Koenig to get out. Samson wants to kill Koenig, but Rabbi Solomon will not permit it. He pacifies Samson with wise words: “‘Only one side in this war is the Nazis! Let this miserable cur crawl out of here with the memory of honorable men engraved on his wretched soul living in fear of the moment the wrath of God will avenge us!’” Koenig bolts out of the room in mortal fear, crying out for truce (Uris, *Mila 18* 465).

Funk reviews with satisfaction his new plan to annihilate the Jews in the ghetto using 8000 troops. He expects to wind up the drive in three or four days. Horst von Epp arrives and ridicules the German plans, particularly in view of the fact that Germany is losing the war. He proves that Germans will be scorned and abused as intensely as they scorn and abuse the Jews (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.4, ch.1 1).

Stephen and two girls are being sent to a Catholic couple near Lublin. When he learns of it Stephen accuses Andrei of having tricked him by saying that he was being taken on a special mission. Andrei explains to him that the mission is survival in order to tell the world what happened. Stephen half-heartedly agrees to fulfil the mission (Uris, *Mila 18* 479-83).
Funk gives a pep talk to his troops now named Death’s Head Brigade. He informs Stutze that his Reinhard Corps will lead the brigade into the ghetto. Stutze is rattled, despite being promoted. As the Polish Blue Police take up position outside the walls of the ghetto, the Passover Seder is celebrated in a muted fashion inside the ghetto (Uris, Mila 18, pt.4, ch. 13).

The next day the Germans come. Andrei gives Alex the honor of signalling the uprising by throwing down the first bottle bomb. The Reinhard Corps and its commander Stutze are torn to shreds. A hundred of them are killed and an equal number wounded. The Germans flee beyond the wall. Funk cannot believe it when he hears of it. He sends in six medium panzer tanks. Andrei is almost unnerved because they have nothing to fight tanks with. But a girl darts out in front of the lead tank and jams a pipe grenade into its treads. The grenade explodes and the tank is immobilised. The girl is crushed. Soon all the tanks are engulfed in flames started by bottle bombs raining on them. The Germans get out and are picked off by cross fire. Alex announces the victory over the Jews’ clandestine radio (Uris, Mila 18, pt.4, ch. 14).

The Jews celebrate their victory. The next morning the Germans target the Brushmaker’s factory. A huge landmine named the kasha-bowl has been planted under the main gate and Jewish fighters are deployed all round the factory. A battalion of Germans march in. Wolf sets off the kasha-bowl. The Germans are blown sky-high. Utterly confused, they flee from the ghetto (Uris, Mila 18, pt.4, ch. 15).

On the third day the Germans target the uniform factory. But they are beaten back even before they enter the ghetto. Later the Germans attempt four times to penetrate behind heavy machine-gun and mortar barrage. The Jews let the Germans in
and hit them from behind and drive them out. The Jews see the first Russian bombers passing overhead to bomb Germany. The Germans finally admit in a radio broadcast that the Jews in the ghetto are fighting. On the fourth day the Germans try again at the uniform factory and take away some workers. On the fourth night the Germans light up the ghetto using flood lights mounted outside. The Jews, dressed in German uniforms, march out of the ghetto, smash the flood lights and carry out some raids. The Jews’ ammunition is running low. They produce four smaller versions of the kasha-bowl and plant them at intersections. The Jews resort to individual acts of heroism. On the sixth night the Germans send in night patrols. The Jews manage to confuse them in the dark. The Jews are proud that their resistance has lasted one full week. Morale remains high despite shortages (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.4, ch. 16).

The Jews consolidate. The Revisionists decide to leave the ghetto. Rodel is incensed. Simon calms him down by explaining that now it is for each individual to choose. Simon bids farewell to Samson and advises him against using the main sewers right under Warsaw. But Samson says that they cannot change the plans at that stage. The forty-one Revisionists fleeing through the sewers are discovered. The Germans come down ladders and pump poison gas into the kanal. Some of the escapees climb out through a manhole but they are mowed down by German bullets (Uris, *Mila 18* 511-15).

The decimation of the Revisionists on the eighth morning is the long-sought German breakthrough. Inspired by that victory the Germans roar through the ghetto on the eighth day. But the Jews fight like maniacs and throw them out. News of the Jewish resistance spreads and reaches even Berlin. On the ninth day Funk attacks
with 6000 troops, but to no avail. Horst von Epp scans Funk’s report and ridicules him for using words which glorify the Jews. Funk tears up the report. Himmler calls from Berlin and berates Funk. Hitler has heard and has been in a rage all day. Funk decides to burn the ghetto to the ground (Uris, Mila 18 515-18).

German bombers are sent to drop incendiaries on the ghetto, starting fires. The Jews have nothing to fight back with. They are forced to abandon the roofs. On the tenth night, a new artillery battalion goes to work, pouring five thousand shells into the ghetto. The bombers return for a second sortie. On Easter Sunday the ghetto burns at full blast and ruins all the usual celebration in Warsaw. The fire burns on through Easter night. On the thirteenth night the artillery resumes. Jews are burnt dead or boiled to death in the boiling sewers (Uris, Mila 18 518-21).

Though Mila 18 is not directly touched by the fire, the temperature inside is unbearable. The burnt ones cannot be treated. When they die their corpses are floated in the sewer. By the nineteenth day, everything is burnt. On the twentieth day, when the sizzling slows down, the Germans return to probe. Rodel dies in an attempt to save ten of his men. The Germans come with sound detectors, engineers and dogs. The Jews leap at them with vengeance but theirs is a lost cause. Quartering the ghetto block by block, the Germans use dynamite, flame throwers and poison gas to clear each building. They pump poison gas into sewers. By the end of the twenty-third day, 15000 near dead are uncovered and deported. On the twenty-fourth night Andrei organises a foray into the Aryan side for arms and ammunition. Sylvia Brandel is killed while trying to tend a fallen fighter. A German patrol moves above Mila 18 and persists for six hours before leaving. (Uris, Mila 18 521-25).
With communication having nearly broken down, each group is authorised to take its own decisions and fend for itself. Moritz is captured. It becomes imperative to move Chris out of the ghetto. Chris and Deborah part painfully and tearfully. Andrei takes Chris away (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.4, ch. 19).

The Germans are again above Mila 18, trying to locate the entrance. The search goes on till dark. Simon thinks of a suicidal attack. Alex guesses it and begs him not to do it. The Germans know that Mila 18 is the nerve centre and have even found some of the entrances. They are just waiting to locate the other entrances. Then they pinpoint a third entrance and the exact location of Mila 18 itself. Rabbi Solomon dies. As Simon calls up the Fighters for an attack, there is a shriek from the arsenal and Schlosberg’s body is hurtled into the corridor. Simultaneously the Germans enter Mila 18. Machine guns, flame throwers and poison gas are used and Mila 18 is captured (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.4, ch.20).

Andrei reaches Wolfs place with Chris. Everyone there lies listless. Only twenty-odd Fighters are present. Wolf relates that one foolish Fighter opened up on the Germans and they retaliated fiercely and the Jews ran out of ammunition in ten minutes. Andrei shouts life into them and proposes to take them to Mila 18. Just then Tolek arrives with the news that Mila 18 has been taken. Andrei orders Tolek and Wolf to take Chris to the Aryan side early in the morning. Tolek, Wolf and Rachel try to block Andrei, but he makes short work of them. Andrei goes back to Mila 18, only to find almost everyone dead. Deborah is alive, but blind. She asks for his cyanide capsule and he gives it to her (Uris, *Mila 18*, pt.4, ch.21).
Funk has prepared an optimistic report for his superiors. Fforst von Epp arrives. They both listen to the noise of gunfire from the ghetto. An officer arrives to report the flight of the Germans from the ghetto. Funk tears up his report (Uris, Mila 18 545-49).

Wolf leads his party of twenty-three down the sewers after Andrei commences his diversionary attack and after sending a risky radio message to the Aryan side advising of their arrival. Some Fighters drown. They lose their way and have to correct their course. They also have to rest and wait till dark. Gabriela arrives at Kamek’s house. Both of them received beeps but could not understand the message. Kamek is a former journalist who has changed his thinking and sympathises with the ghetto-dwellers now. Fie sends her home to wait for any messages. As soon as it turns dark, Wolf resumes the journey through the sewers. At an intersection of canals, Wolf goes up the iron ladder leading to the street. He darts out, identifies the spot and hastens back, safe because an air raid is going on. Wolf dispatches Tolek to Gabriela’s flat with instructions to bring water and then leads his pack on (Uris, Mila 18 549-56).

Tolek arrives at Gabriela’s flat. She summons Kamek. Kamek arrives and they make plans. Down in the sewers only twelve are left alive. They reach the designated spot and wait. Tolek opens the manhole at the spot and lowers bottles of water, smelling salts and food. Then they wait for Kamek to bring a track. Gabriela and Tolek wait in a nearby cafe. The truck arrives, but the driver does not want to get mixed up in Jewish business. Kamek has to threaten him with a pistol. With Gabriela
standing guard with a shotgun, Tolek lowers a ladder and pulls out the sewer rats. In two minutes the truck drives away (Uris, *Mila 18* pt.4, ch.23).

Chris reaches Sweden with the pregnant Gabriela. While all of Poland fought for less than a month against the Germans, the ghetto fighters held out for forty-two days. Making the final entry in the journals of the Good Fellowship Club in December 1943, Chris vows that he will not let the world forget. He will return to Poland, find the Brandel journals and make them a brand on the conscience of man forever (Uris, *Mila 18* 561-63). Chris closes his journal entry with Alex’s last words to him:

“If the Warsaw ghetto marked the lowest point in the history of the Jewish people, it also marked the point where they rose to their greatest heights. Strange, after all the philosophies had been argued, the final decision to fight was basically a religious decision. Rodel would decry my words, Rabbi Solomon would be outraged if I told him this. But those who fought no matter what their individual reasons when massed together obeyed God’s covenant to oppose tyranny. We have kept faith with our ancient traditions to defend ‘the laws.’ In the end we were all Jews”. And Alexander Brandel, always mystified by ways of God and strange ways of men, shook his head in puzzlement. “Isn’t it odd that the epitome of man’s inhumanity to man also produced the epitome of man’s nobility?” Alexander Brandel told me something else. “I die, a man fulfilled. My son shall live to see Israel
reborn. I know this. And what is more we Jews have avenged our
honor as a people.” (Uris, *Mila 18* 563)

The e-article *Mila 18—Uris Tackles the Holocaust* published in the website
http://www99.epinions.com succinctly sums up Uris’s achievement in *Mila 18*. Uris
has shown an ability to weave stark personal tales of love, courage, and survival in
with events as they actually occurred in those periods. With *Mila 18* Uris turned his
attention to the broad expanse of World War II, and specifically focused on one of the
most incredible events of the past century: the Jewish rebellion against the Nazis in
the Warsaw ghetto. As part of the Nazi policy of *lebensraum* ("living space")
Germany's explicit goal was to obtain additional land throughout Europe in an
attempt to gain control over as many natural resources as possible, and unite the
German people with the land (the Blood and Soil idea). The Nazi racial policy went
hand in hand with the land expansion goals. As Germany continued to conquer more
and more of her neighbors, the Nazis also sought to remove the Jews from those
areas. The great strength of Uris is in the description of historical events through the
eyes of ordinary people, and the connection of the larger events with the more
mundane aspects of their lives, for instance, Deborah’s affair with Christopher de
Monti and Andrei’s relationship with Gaby. *Mila 18* uses the details of ordinary
people's lives to describe historic drama. There is, however, a problem with the story.
It is unbelievable that some of the Jews in the ghetto could have learnt as much as
they seem to know about events outside the ghetto. The term *final solution* is used
repeatedly by Brandel and others, though it is not clear how they learnt of it inside the
The Warsaw ghetto uprising is doomed to failure from day one. However, it constitutes a great saga of the human spirit that will not be cowed down by tyranny and will not brook inhumanity. Like so many futile expressions of defiance of naked exercise of power in the annals of history and so many doomed manifestations of the indomitable human spirit, it showcases the courage and the commitment of a handful of outgunned and outnumbered prisoners in the Warsaw ghetto to record their defiance of the German Wehrmacht and the Nazi hordes to annihilate an entire race from the face of the earth. It demonstrated to the free world, then battling for survival, that the Nazi monster could be challenged, checkmated and defeated through guts and commitment.

Uri's novel *QB VII* was inspired by a real court battle he had to fight on account of his earlier writing on the Jewish theme. His earlier novel *Exodus* contained a short paragraph that said,

> Here [Auschwitz concentration camp] in Block X, Nazi doctors Wirthe, Schumann and Clauberg kept the human raw material for their pseudo-scientific experiments. Polish prisoner Dr. Wladislaw Dering performed castrations and ovarectomies ordered by his German masters as part of their insane program to find a way to sterilize the entire Jewish race. (140)
In 1964, as stated earlier, Uris and his British publisher, Bantam, were sued for libel by Dr. Wladislaw Dering. The court ruled against Uris, but ordered Dr. Dering to pay the legal costs of both sides. He was awarded only a halfpenny as damages.

In November 1945, after the end of World War II, a Polish refugee arrives at the Fifteenth Free Polish Fighter Wing of the Royal Air Force at Mouza in Italy. He petitions to be allowed to join the Free Polish Forces. A preliminary interrogation discovers that he is Adam Kelno, MD, born in Poland, educated at the University of Warsaw Medical College, Physician / Surgeon since 1934, a staunch Polish nationalist, who, along with his wife Stella, went into the Nationalist underground when Germany occupied Poland. His wife was caught by the Gestapo and shot by the firing squad. He was sent to the Jadwiga concentration camp where, as a prisoner / doctor, he saved many lives. Towards the end of the war, the Chief German Medical Officer, SS Colonel Adolph Voss, took Kelno, against his will, to help him run an exclusive private clinic in East Prussia. At the end of the war Kelno returned to Warsaw, and was accused by many communist doctors of having collaborated with the Nazis. With a warrant out for his arrest, Kelno fled to Italy. A Commission of Inquiry is constituted and it resolves to admit Kelno to the Free Polish Forces as a captain (Uris, QB F7/[3]-7).

While working at a Polish Hospital at Tunbridge Wells, Kelno wins the admiration of a nurse named Angela Brown. They marry, Kelno becomes head of the hospital. Angela becomes pregnant. One evening Kelno returns home to find two Inspectors from Scotland Yard waiting to arrest him and detain him in prison pending extradition to Poland to stand charges as a war criminal (Uris, QB F7/7-12).
The action has been initiated by Nathan Goldmark, a special investigator for the Polish Secret Police, who has produced a number of sworn statements from ex-inmates of Jadwiga concentration camp making various allegations against Kelno. Count Anatol Czerny of the Free Polish Forces takes charge of the case. They engage a firm of solicitors, Hobbins, Newton and Smiddy to represent Kelno. Smiddy engages Robert Highsmith, a dazzling barrister of extraordinary skill, who is also the head of the British office of Sanctuary International, an organisation devoted to the defence of political prisoners, to defend Kelno. Highsmith writes to the Home Office that Poland has failed to establish a prima facie case since it has not cited any personal witness or victim of Kelno’s alleged misdeeds. He even gains support for Kelno in the House of Commons, of which he is a member. At this stage, Goldmark finds an unexpected witness (Uris, *QB VII* 12-17).

Goldmark goes to the Radcliffe Medical Centre, Oxford. Dr. Mark Tesslar has been expecting him. Both of them are survivors of Hitler’s holocaust. But Tesslar has no love lost for his native Poland because it is “no place for a Jew” (Uris, *QB VII* 18-19). When Goldmark says that it will be different under the Communists, Tesslar is quick to retort:

“Will it, Goldmark? Then why do they have a separate branch of the Communist Party for Jews. I’ll tell you. Because the Poles won’t admit to their guilt and they have to keep what is left of the Jews locked in Poland. See! We have Jews here. They like it here. We are good Poles. And people like you do their dirty work; you have to keep a Jewish community in Poland to justify your own existence. You are being
used. But in the end you will find out the communists are no better for us than the Nationalists before the war. Inside that country we are pigs.” (Uris, *QB VII* 19)

Tesslar says that he saw, with his own eyes, Kelno performing experimental surgery on Jews in Jadwiga. Basing himself on the sworn statement of Tesslar to this effect, the Secretary of State decides to deport Kelno to Poland (Uris, *QB VII* 20-21).

Confronted by his lawyer and his solicitor, Kelno displays deep-rooted prejudice and animosity, harping on a Communist and a Jewish plot against him. He goes into a deep depression. He refuses to see his son in prison. The Secretary of State solicits the opinion of Thomas Bannister, King’s Counsel. Bannister is unable to give a verdict, but suspects that Kelno is guilty of something. The Polish government offers to present a man who was castrated by Kelno in a brutal manner as part of a medical experiment (Uris, *QB VII* 21-21).

A Hungarian Jew named Eli Janos is produced in the Bow Street Magistrate’s court. He recounts how Kelno removed his testicles brutally in the presence of SS Colonel Adolph Voss in Barrack V of Jadwiga concentration camp. However, after the police-identification parade, he says that Kelno was not the man who castrated him. Kelno is freed. He comes out of the jail and sees his son for the first time. But, in no time, he flees to the remotest corner of the world (Uris, *QB VII* 27-34).

Kelno flees to Sarawak in the northern corner of Borneo. They live in the British compound in Fort Bobang. It is a primitive place and the inhabitants are quite primitive, governed by mystic rites and taboos. The locals resist all Kelno’s attempts to modernize. They also sense that Kelno hates them (Uris, *QB VII* 34-43).
Kelno’s only friend in Fort Bobang is Ian Campbell, a widower with four children. Ian’s son Terrence Campbell is an ardent admirer of Kelno and Kelno encourages his interest in medicine. At the end of the monsoon season, Kelno returns to the native Ulus. The community has been devastated by disease, except for the twenty families that took Kelno’s medicines. But Kelno is unable to save Chief Bintang’s son who has been bitten by a crocodile because Pirak, the tribe’s chief, priest, does not permit it (Uris, QB VII 47-56).

Kelno effects tangible progress in Sarawak, his son Stephan goes to Australia for his studies. Kelno tutors Terrence Campbell, who promises to become a skilled physician. Kelno now has more facilities at his command. The locals accept him now, especially when he is accompanied by Stephan or Terrence (Uris, QB VII 59-62).

Kelno publishes a paper on fish ponds, based on his actual experiments. It catches international attention. The United Nations arrives in Sarawak in a big way to look at Kelno’s work. Stephan is to go to Harvard and Terrence to Magdalene. Kelno decides it is safe for him to return to England. On the eve of his departure, he learns that the Queen’s Birthday list has honoured him with the order of Knight’s Bachelor. Sir Kelno is a fulfilled man (Uris, QB VII 63-67).

Kelno opens a small clinic as a National Health Doctor in a working class section of Southwark, as though he wishes to continue his anonymity. Terrence Campbell comes for Christmas and confronts Kelno with a book titled The Holocaust by a Jewish American writer named Abraham Cady, which says that Kelno carried out experimental surgery without the use of anesthetic in Barrack V of Jadwiga concentration camp. Kelno denies the charge. Terrence wants Kelno to fight and clear
his name. After weeks of no communication from Terrence, Kelno approaches his solicitors Hobbins, Newton and Smiddy (Uris, *QB VII* 72-88).

At the turn of the century Morris Cadyzynski emigrated to Palestine as part of the Zionist movement. He was unable to adjust to the severe conditions there. So his uncle Abraham Cadyzynski, a baker in Virginia, sponsored his emigration to America and bequeathed his bakery to him. Morris married Molly Segal. Abraham Cady was their third child. Becoming prosperous, they moved to an all-gentile neighbourhood. The White boys discriminated against them only until Ben established his strength and talent in sports. Ben became a flier. He was attracted to leftist principles and sympathised with the coloured people. He refused to go to college. Instead, he went to Spain, flew with the Lacalle Squadron for Loyalist Spain and was killed (Uris, *QB VII* 83-96).

Abe learnt from Ben. Before learning for Spain, Ben advised Abe to stick to his writing. Abe studied journalism at the University of North Carolina. After a baseball injury Abe lost his scholarship and his faith in the professors’ ability to teach him to write. He quit the university, took up an editorial job and wrote for pulp magazines. One day he gave up the pulps and started writing a novel about Ben (Uris, *QB VII* 96-98). David Shawcross was a careful publisher and a brilliant editor from England. On one of his annual talent searches in America, he discovered Abraham Cady and tutored him. The result was Abe’s first novel, *The Brothers*. It was well received on both sides of the Atlantic (Uris, *QB VII* 98-102).

In 1941 Abe enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in order to get to England and join the Eagle Squadron of American volunteers. On his fifth mission
over Dieppe on the French coast to stall the German counter attack against Canadian and British commandos, Abe’s plane was hit by German machine gun fire. Abe decided to land in England but could manage only a belly-landing, ploughing through trees in the woods. As Abe crawled out of the craft it exploded (Uris, *QB VII*103-05).

Abe lay in hospital covered in bandages and unable to see or move. The doctor told him that he had lost the sight of his right eye. Shawcross met him in the hospital. Abe wrote to his parents through a scribe, assuring them that he was all right (Uris, *QB VII*106-09). Abe’s convalescence was painful and long-drawn. A Red Cross volunteer aide named Samantha came everyday to help him. They fell in love and even made love. But when the bandage on his left eye was removed, Samantha disappeared from Abe’s life. David effected a reunion. Samantha became Abe’s hands, writing the novel he dictated. *The Jug* was a successful novel (Uris, *QB VII*109-20).

Abe married Samantha and they lived in her Linstead Hall. Abe accompanied bombers of both the Royal Air Force and the United States Air Force and produced exciting descriptions of the action. Samantha returned to Linstead Hall and delivered Ben Cady. *The Jug* was made into a film and became a commercial hit. Their daughter Vanessa was born. Abe’s next novel *The Place* was a failure (Uris, *QB VII*120-36).

After nearly ten years Abe sent David a manuscript. David read it eagerly and was thoroughly disappointed. He told Abe so. After protesting a little Abe admitted his mistake. He needed to get away from Samantha. David introduced him to Laura Margarita Alba. She took him to Spain for a holiday. Hollywood pursued him there,
but Laura summoned David for help. David put courage and grit into Abe and Abe turned down Hollywood (Uris, *QB VII* 136-51).

Abe saw Samantha for what she really was—a stumbling block to his writing career. He asked for a divorce. She tried several tactics to stall him, particularly threatening him with his fear of loneliness and stripping him of all the money. But Abe would not budge. When he told his children his plan they sided with him (Uris, *OB VII* 151-54).

Abe’s odyssey of data collection for his book began in the Soviet Union, where he visited the infamous pits of Babi-Yar and held clandestine meetings with Jews and was therefore asked to leave Russia. He went to Warsaw, which insisted on telling him that the Poles were innocent of the genocide of the Jews. He visited the Jadwiga concentration camp, where most of the Cadyzynski family perished, particularly the medical barracks, where experimental surgery was carried out. Since he met too many people, he was detained at the secret police headquarters for three days and then ejected from Poland. It was the same story in East Berlin. Next Abe pursued the immigration route through Vienna, Italy and France and the island of Cyprus. He went to Germany to meet ex-Nazis who pleaded ignorance of everything of the Nazi era. He went to Israel for a reunion with the few remaining relatives and then travelled 20,000 miles in that country, collecting interviews, photographs, books and other documents. Vanessa and Ben arrived during the first summer and elected to remain in Israel. Abe wrote and rewrote for sixteen months, stopping only when exhaustion felled him and he suffered a minor heart seizure. Abe’s son Ben sent the
completed chapters of the manuscript to David. David sent his high appreciation of Abe’s latest book (Uris, *QB VII* 154-58).

Abe’s masterpiece *The Holocaust* was published in the summer of 1965. Abe returned to America and settled down in the San Francisco area. Ben joined the Israeli Air Force. Vanessa planned to enrol in Berkeley when her military training in Israel was over. Abe was a speaker in demand. One day Abe’s Secretary Millie read him a cable from David stating that one Sir Adam Kelno has launched libel proceedings against *The Holocaust* over a reference to him on one page of the book. David wanted Abe to send all his sources of information immediately (Uris, *QB VII* 158-65).

Sir Robert Highsmith is approached by Richard Smiddy on behalf of Sir Adam Kelno. Highsmith is certain that Kelno has been libelled, but warns against opening a Pandora’s Box. Kelno’s solicitors write to Abe, Shawcross Publishers and Humble Limited, the printers, about their proposed writ (Uris, *QB VII* 177-80).

In Sausalito, America, Abe scrutinizes his notes and writes to individuals, historical societies and archives. In London, David converts his conference room into a sort of war room. Digging up the history of the extradition proceedings against Kelno, he discovers that Tesslar is still alive and on the permanent staff of the Radcliff Medical Centre. David turns over his publishing operations to his son-in-law Geoffrey Dodd and his daughter Pam and takes their young son Cecil as his personal staff on the investigation. David tries to contact every one of the two hundred witnesses against Colonel Voss at his war crimes indictment. The response is not encouraging: no one is willing to say that he/she can identify Kelno and almost all state that the surgery in Barrack V was a total secret. Then comes a shock: David’s
printers decide to apologize in open court, settle the dispute and get out. Then
Geoffrey serves notice that he and his son may move to a rival firm because of the
Kelno affair (Uris, *QB VII* 180-86).

Abe arrives in London. David’s solicitor, Allen Lewin, himself a Jew,
explains in detail the risks David is running and advises settlement of the dispute. He
advises Abe also similarly. Abe rejects the advice (Uris, *QB VII* 186-89). Abe gets
dead drunk. He is rescued from the Bengal Club by Lady Sarah Wydman. The
Embassy of Israel has asked her to look after Abe. She hints at the availability of
some new evidence. Sarah takes him to meet the Jewish solicitor Jacob Alexander.
Alexander proposes to take Abe to Paris to meet Pieter Van Damm (Uris, *QB VII*
189-93)

Pieter Van Damm, the world famous violinist, originally named Menno
Donker, tells Abe that he is a eunuch because Adam Kelno removed both his testicles
in Jadwiga. All his relatives perished in extermination camps. After the liberation he
went to Paris and was saved by a saintly doctor. As he was close to insanity, he was
asked to take up the violin again as therapy. The poignant quality of his music flowed
from the pits of tragedy. He and his understanding wife left two times on sabbaticals
of a year’s duration and returned with an adopted child. He mentions a Czech
prisoner-co 11 aborator named Egon Sobotnik, who kept the surgical records. Sobotnik
was alive when Jadwiga was liberated but then disappeared. Van Damm is prepared
to testify in open court (Uris, *QB VII* 193-97).

Shawcross has been advised to pull out of the case. He seems inclined to. In
frustration, Abe declares that he will not apologize to Kelno. Abe’s solicitor
Alexander instructs his clerk Josephson to engage Thomas Bannister through his clerk Wilcox (Uris, *OB VII* 197-200). Lady Sarah Wydman wines and dines Thomas Bannister and he agrees to take Abe’s case. When Abe meets Bannister, he lays down his only condition, namely, that in no circumstances is Pieter Van Damm to testify. Bannister is stunned, but admires Abe’s principle. He offers to do his best (Uris, *QB VII* 200-02). As Abe prepares to leave for Israel, Shawcross arrives and says that he has decided to stay on and fight the case (Uris, *OB VII* 202-03).

Kelno presents a well-received paper before the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh. After the lecture he and Angela drive through the Scottish countryside. On the way they run into a herd of cattle in a village. Kelno is reminded of his native Polish village and his boyhood. He remembers his drunken father beating him up just because his mother loved him most. He remembers seeing his father naked after inflicting a painful intercourse on his mother and wanting to crush or cut off his testicles. He also remembers his nagging wish to run to the city where his father could never find him again. Immersed in memories, Kelno overspeeds and Angela has to caution him (Uris, *QB VII* 204-06).

Terrence Campbell is down from Oxford and helps Kelno in the crowded clinic. Kelno cautions Terrence against getting emotionally involved with his patients. Kelno informs Terry that the printers of Abe’s book *The Holocaust* have sent him an apology to be read in open court along with a cheque for nine hundred pounds. He adds that Shawcross, the publisher, is also negotiating a settlement. Terry, who first asked Kelno to sue those responsible for libelling him, is glad it will soon be over. Kelno vows to take full revenge. Terry protests that to seek revenge for the sake of
revenge is an evil in itself (Uris, *QB VII* 206-08). Sir Robert Highsmith has learnt that Shawcross has done a turnaround and decided to fight the Kelno case alongside Abe. What is puzzling is that Bannister has taken the case. Highsmith doubts if Kelno has told him everything (Uris, *QB VII* 208).

Shimson Aroni, the famed Nazi hunter, meets Dr. Leiberman in Jerusalem. He has located a few victims of Kelno’s surgical butchery in Jadwiga and wants to take them to London to testify in the Kelno trial. Since they have all undergone traumatic experiences, he wants Dr. Leiberman, who has nursed them to a vestige of normalcy, to accompany them as a calming influence. Dr. Leiberman is averse to parading them in public and reopening their psychological wounds but Aroni is adamant (Uris, *QB VII* 208-10).

Nathan Goldmark, an official of the Jewish section of the Polish Communist Party, calls on Dr. Maria Viskova, a highly respected Jewish Polish Communist. He advises her that it is the party’s decision that she should not cooperate with Abe in the Kelno trial. But she announces that that is exactly what she plans to do (Uris, *QB VII* 210-13).

Abraham meets Dr. Susanne Parmentier, a psychiatrist, in Paris. Viskova has written to her already. She pleads that all her knowledge of Kelno’s activities was second hand and not from personal observation. However, Abraham needs her assistance only to strengthen Dr. Mark Tesslar’s testimony. As a Christian, she feels that it is her duty to testify. She also mentions a woman in Antwerp who was a victim of Kelno’s surgical butchery (Uris, *QB FU* 213-15).
Bannister selects Brendon O’Connor as the junior barrister for the case. He also decides upon trial by jury. Alexander prepares a massive document. A jury is selected. The various witnesses prepare to go to London. The manhunt for Egon Sobotnik, the medical clerk of Jadwiga, continues. Meanwhile Dr. Mark Tesslar discovers that he has cancer. He is keen on giving his testimony in the Kelno case before taking any decisive action (Uris, *QB VII* 222-25).

Kelno is called into the witness box at Queen’s Bench Court No. VII. Highsmith establishes Kelno’s history from his graduation from medical school to his imprisonment in Jadwiga concentration camp in the summer of 1940. Kelno says that he was at first a general labourer, but revealed to the Germans that he was a physician in order to save lives amidst the primitive conditions in Jadwiga. In the middle of 1941, when the Germans attacked Russia, conditions at Jadwiga improved because too many days of work were being lost through brutal treatment of prisoners. The Germans had an obsession about keeping meticulous records. Kelno insisted on accurate records of his operations and treatments. Several volumes of surgical records were filled by a Czech medical clerk. Kelno does not know what became of the registers. He wishes that they were there because they would prove his innocence. The judge, Justice Gilray, intervenes to point out to Kelno that he is the plaintiff in the case, not the defendant (Uris, *QB VII* 235-39).

Kelno deposes that he saved several thousand people from extermination by substituting dead bodies. He even donated his own blood. He provides details of the ghastly activities in the medical facility at Jadwiga. He adds that he and Dr. Lotaki were forced to help in Voss’s experimental surgery and they did so because Voss
threatened to use SS orderlies if they did not. They agreed to join Voss’s team after
discussing it with all the other prisoner / doctors except Mark Tesslar who personally
hated him from the time they had been students in Warsaw and who worked with
Voss in the experiments at Jadwiga. As Bannister rises to object to this, Kelno shouts,
“‘I will not be silenced! It is Tesslar and his lies who drove me from Poland! It is all a
conspiracy of the Communists to hound me to my grave!’” Bannister sees no need to
raise an objection, as it is quite obvious (Uris, QB VII235-43).

Continuing his evidence, Kelno states that he and Lotaki went to Barrack V
about a dozen times to carry out one or two surgical operations—to remove dead
organs. He avers that Tesslar never saw him operate. He adds that he feared that if the
dead organs were not removed they could cause tumor and cancer. He explains that
he comforted the patients, advised them that the surgery was for their own good and
to save their lives. He used the best of his surgical skill and the best anesthetic
available. He gave them a spinal himself in the operating soon after a pre-injection of
morphia. He provided post-operative care when the patients greeted him warmly and
were cheerful (Uris, QB VII246-49).

Kelno testifies that he was a member of the Polish Nationalist underground in
Jadwiga which risked and did much to save prisoners’ lives and mitigate their
suffering. He tells a tale of heroism, courage and sacrifice on his part. He explains the
proper and sanitary methods he followed in conducting surgery in Jadwiga, including
his procedure for an ovariectomy (Uris, QB VII246-52).

Highsmith leads Kelno through his relations with Tesslar. Kelno’s venom
cannot be suppressed. He denounces Tesslar and his sworn statements. At one stage
the judge advises Kelno to limit his replies to Highsmith’s questions and not volunteer any other information (Uris, *QB VII*, 252-53),

In 1944 Voss took Kelno to Rostock as his assistant to a private clinic. In 1 VoSS evacuated into the centre of Germany, leaving Kelno in the lurch. Kelno made his way to Warsaw, learnt of the charges against him and fled to Italy to join the Free Polish Forces. After an investigation, he went to England and served in the Polish Hospital in Tunbridge Wells till 1946. In 1946 Kelno was arrested and placed in Brixton prison awaiting extradition to Poland, which had become a Communist state. After two years Kelno was released with an apology. He joined the colonial service, went to Sarawak in Boneo in 1949 and served for fifteen years in primitive and difficult conditions out of fear. To sum up, Kelno spent twenty-two years of his life as a prisoner or in exile for crimes he did not commit (Uris, *QB VII*253-54).

Cross-examining Kelno, Bannister establishes that Kelno and Lotaki were the only prisoners / doctors to be released from Jadwiga and to be moved to private clinics. He sows the seeds of doubt in everyone’s mind that Voss’s experiments were scientifically aimless. Fie avers that Kelno’s surgical procedures were unethical and cruel. In fine Bannister more or less creates the impression that Kelno, instead of serving with a high humanitarian motive, merely ensured his survival and worked his passage to freedom (Uris, *QB VII*259-67).

Bannister, through his questioning of Kelno, establishes that anti-semitism was natural and widespread in Polish society even during the war and in concentration camps. He insinuates that Kelno and Lotaki, as the blue-eyed boys of Voss, carried out more surgeries than admitted, that there were humanitarian medical
professionals in Jadwiga who did not cooperate with Voss, that Kelno and Lotaki
described themselves as “associates” of Voss and that the Polish Nationalist
underground was just the old Polish Officers clique while the Communist
underground was the international movement. Kelno vehemently denies that Tesslar
was ever present when he performed surgery. He also denies any knowledge of Dr.
Susanne Parmentier at Jadwiga. He denounces Dr. Sandor, who has recorded a
statement against him, as a Jewish Communist and Bannister has to remind him that
he is a Roman Catholic and not a member of the Communist Party. Bannister
suggests that Kelno fled because several prisoners / doctors from Jadwiga returned to
Poland. Finally Bannister asks if Kelno never struck a patient on the operating table
and called her a damned Jewess. Kelno denies it and avers that it is his word against
Tesslar’s. But Bannister says that it is the word of a woman whom Kelno struck, who
is alive and who is on her way to London (Uris, QB VII 268-79).

Abe’s case is not going too well. Word has arrived from Poland that Lotaki
will not testify for Abe. There is yet no sign of Sobotnik. Van Damm has told his
adopted children everything. Now he wants to testify. But Abe rejects the idea. Van
Damm’s son Anton pleads with Abe, but the writer is adamant (Uris, QB VII 280-81).

The Israeli witnesses arrive with Dr. Leiberman in London—two women and
four men. Sheila Lamb, the Secretary of Jacob Alexander, Abe’s solicitor, takes
charge of them and puts them at ease. Highsmith parades a series of witnesses who
 testify to Kelno’s goodness, kindness and humaneness. Even the judge points out that
no one has questioned it and that all the questions relate to Kelno’s treatment of
Jewish patients. Highsmith’s last witness is to be Lotaki (Uris, QB VII 281-83).
Lotaki takes the witness stand and not only corroborates Kelno’s testimony but also whitewashes him. All that Bannister can do in the cross-examination is to insinuate that Lotaki, like Kelno, worked his passage once by collaborating with Voss and a second time by becoming a Communist upon his return to Poland at the end of the war (Uris, *QB VII* 283-90).

Yolan Shoret is Bannister’s first witness. She reads out her concentration camp number and states that she and her husband have two adopted children. She recounts the cruel treatment meted out to her and to her fellow victims of Voss’s experiments with sterilisation. She clearly states that she was given a spinal without a pre-spinal shot of morphia, that a Polish-speaking doctor protested against the surgery and then soothed with her kind words, that it was Tesslar and that two psychiatrists, Dr. Radnicki and after her Dr. Maria Viskova calmed down the agitated and insane prisoners (Uris, *QB VII* 297-302).

Next comes Yolan’s twin sister Sima Halevy. She virtually repeats Yolan’s account. The only difference is that she never recovered from the X-ray treatment and is now a vegetable, spending most of her time in bed. Highsmith manages to confuse Sima sufficiently to allege that much of her evidence was confusing because it all happened a long time ago. Sima admits it but avers that “there is one thing that no woman can forget and that is the day she knows she is unable to bear her own child” (Uris, *QB VII* 303-06).

Aroni arrives in Prague. A Jewish policeman named Jiri Linka meets him. Aroni tells him that he wants to meet Branik, the head of the secret police in his room that night (Uris, *QB VII* 306-09).
The next witness is Moshe Bar Tow, originally from Holland and now living in a *kibbutz* in Israel. He was seventeen when he was selected from a factory with five other Dutchmen and taken to the medical compound in Jadwiga. Someone shoved a long wooden stick up his rectum forcing him to eject sperm. The sperm was collected on a piece of glass. Then one of his testicles was exposed to x-ray for five to ten minutes. Many other men received the same treatment. They were all ill and were taken care of by Tesslar, assisted by a Dutch prisoner named Menno Donker. Much later the SS took the six irradiated Dutchmen, a Pole and Menno Donker to Barrack V. They were joined by six women from the ground floor. They were all held down and given a single injection in the spine in the waiting room. Moshe’s irradiated testicle was removed by a doctor standing beside Voss. Tesslar was beside him trying to comfort him. Menno Donker had both of his testicles removed. They were taken back to Barrack V and x-rayed again. But Tesslar saved Moshe by substituting a dead man for him. Moshe later married and he now has four children, Bannister says that it appears that the testicle removed from him could have been a healthy and not a dead gland. Moshe answers in the affirmative (*Uris, QB VII*309-15).

Bannister brings on three more male witnesses, with no children of their own. Otherwise their testimony matches Moshe’s. Then Bannister calls Edgar Beets, now Professor Shalom of Hebrew University. He is very articulate. Highsmith asks his junior Chester Dicks to cross-examine Shalom. Dicks does not challenge Shalom on many points. Bannister draws the court’s attention to this. Dicks suggests that Tesslar was not present in the operating room. Shalom softly answers that he was (*Uris, QB VII*317-19).
Neat comes Ida Peretz born Cardozo in Trieste, Since her language of Ladino is known to so few, her own adopted son, Isaac Peretz, who is a student at the London College of Economics, is allowed to translate for her. She is very clear about Tesslar’s presence in the operating room, his protesting to Voss about the instruments not being sterile, about Voss’s insistence on speed, Viskova’s comforting presence, their pain and suffering. Bannister establishes that, when one of her ovaries was removed, it was probably healthy (Uris, QB VII 322-26).

Sir Francis Waddy, a distinguished surgeon, physician and radiologist, takes the witness stand and categorically states that irradiation of the ovary or the testicle will not lead to cancer and that Kelno seems to have been the only doctor to fear it (Uris, QB VII 327-30).

Daniel Dubrowski was married and had a family when he was transported to Jadwiga. He was operated upon once with all the attendant cruelties. When he was to be operated upon a second time, a prisoner died and Tesslar was in a position to save him. But Dubrowski passed on the opportunity to a younger man, Moshe, who was just a boy. Dubrowski is quite sure that the doctor who operated on him in such a cruel fashion was a Pole. Dubrowski is now a depressed man with no desires (Uris, QB VII 330-34).

Flelene Prinz, born Blanc-Imber, testifies to a proper surgery by Dr. Dimshits, with chloroform pre-administered. After that Dimshits was sent to the gas chamber and Radnicki committed suicide. Later the Blanc-Imber sisters were irradiated again and operated upon. This time they became frantic. They were given just a spiral in the waiting room. She was fully conscious through the surgery. When she struggled and
sat up, the doctor hit her in the face and across her breast and called her a damned Jewess. She could survive only because of Tesslar. Later Viskova told her that her twin Tina had died of a hemorrhage. Suddenly, she springs to her feet and, pointing to Kelno, calls him a murderer. At this Abe wades through people, grabs her and takes her out of the court. Highsmith declines a cross-examination and the judge adjourns the trial (Uris, *QB VII* 334-41).

Mr. Basis Marwick, a reputed anesthesiologist, is called to the witness box. His testimony goes against Kelno. O’Connor establishes that Kelno’s plea that he went in for a spinal because he was short of trained assistants is not acceptable because Lotaki testified that he assisted Kelno. Highsmith glares at Kelno (Uris, *QB VII* 341-47).

Professor Oliver Lighthall, the famed gynecologist, takes the stand and states that x-ray does not cause cancer of the ovary / testicle, but is, on the contrary, used to treat cancer, that there is need to remove a dead testicle / ovary, that, in an ovariectomy, it is standard practice to cover the stump with a very thin membrane called peritoneum, which is invariably there, though Kelno denied its existence. He says that two of the victims died soon after the surgery because the stump was not properly tied up. His testimony leaves no doubt that the suffering and the deaths of the Jadwiga victims could be attributed to negligence, indifference, undue hurry and intentional cruelty. He bluntly says that the surgeries in question were nothing short of butchery. He tells the judge that the doctor who performed these surgeries violated the Hippocratic oath (Uris *QB VII*, 351-62).
Viskova arrives in London and is surprised to meet Susanne Parmentier after a lapse of twenty years. Imprisoned in Jadwiga, Viskova was sent to Barrack III in the place of a Polish woman doctor who had committed suicide. She was to take care of two to three hundred women prisoners who were being experimented on. Soon after, Tesslar arrived to take care of the men prisoners on the upper floor. She refutes Kelno’s statement that Tesslar cooperated with Voss in his experiments and that he performed abortions on camp prostitutes. She says that, initially, Dimshits carried out proper surgeries, but, as he grew much older, his performance became incompetent and, ultimately, Voss sent him to the gas chamber. She asserts that Dimshits was the only doctor to be sent to the gas chamber and that too only because he had become incompetent. She reveals that when Kelno and Lotaki consulted “all prisoner / doctors” regarding Voss’s threat to use SS orderlies, Kelno never spoke to her about it. She never heard of any other doctor having been consulted by Kelno, who ran things in an arrogant manner, asking advice from no one. She reveals that Voss himself knew that his experiments had no scientific value. After the death of Dimshits the quality of the surgery degenerated and there was a lot of pain all round. One day Voss summoned her and told her that she was assigned to surgery to give anesthetic and assist Kelno and Lotaki, who were having trouble with unwilling patients. She refused. Voss screamed and ordered her to report to Barrack V the next day. She returned to her room and decided to commit suicide by swallowing a cyanide tablet. (She still wears it round her neck as a reminder and now she shows it to the court). But Parmentier came, saw the tablet and counselled Viskova against suicide. When she did not report to Barrack V the next day, Voss did nothing about it (Uris, QB VII
Viskova’s testimony corroborates what has already been offered as testimony. When Bannister asks who performed those operations, I lighsmith objects. The judge sustains the objection, but Viskova’s eyes on Kelno are answer enough (Uris, QB VII370-74)

Having found out that Sobotnik has changed his name to Gustav Tukla and is now one of the directors of the Lenin Factories in Brno, Aroni and Linka rush there. Aroni meets Sobotnik and asks him to come to London to testify. However, since it will be an embarrassment to the Czech Government, he is to defect. He is to fly from the Brno Flying Club to Vienna. Aroni states that he will fly out with Sobotnik’s family. He also explains what will happen to Sobotnik if he does not cooperate, particularly in view of certain statements made against him at the end of the war and the fact that, unlike Menno Donker, he was not punished by Kelno. Sobotnik blurts out that he assisted Kelno only a few times. Aroni assures him that, if he comes to London, he will leave the courtroom a free man. After Aroni leaves, Sobotnik pulls a tattered yellowed book from a secret compartment in his desk. It is the Medical Register of Jadwiga concentration camp for the period August 1943 to December 1943 (Uris, OB VII374-78).

Susanne Parmentier takes the witness stand. She was sent to Jadwiga in early 1943 and sent to work in the medical compound assisting Kelno. Kelno and Lotaki never consulted her on the ethical problems of Voss’s experiments. Nor were other doctors consulted. She is surprised to be told that Kelno has testified that he does not remember her. She reports that he recognized her in the corridor of the court just that morning and said to her, “Well, here is the friend of the Jews again. What lies are
you going to tell?" Kelno’s solicitor Smiddy chides Kelno for this in a note sent across (Uris, *QB VII* 7/379-81).

Parmentier praises the humanitarian service of Tesslar. She denies that any abortions were carried out in Jadwiga. She categorically denies Kelno’s testimony that Tesslar performed abortions. She explains the bizarre experiments on obedience carried on by Otto Flensberg with the aim of transforming conquered non-German people into robots to assist in controlling the whole of Europe. Flensberg wanted Parmentier to assist him in these experiments. She refused. Flensberg did nothing (Uris, *QB VII* 381-86).

Flighsmith still believes that Kelno is not guilty. It all hinges on Mark Tesslar, the single alleged eye witness. Highsmith still believes that he is going to win the case. Meanwhile Kelno is irritable. He drinks excessively. Terrence arrives drank. He wants a showdown—a straight answer from Kelno. Kelno flies into a rage and beats up Terrence (Uris, *QB VII* 386-88).

The next day Tesslar is to appear in court in the afternoon. As the judge nods to Bannister, word arrives that Tesslar has dropped dead of a heart attack on the street outside his hotel. The court adjourns for the day (Uris, *QB VII*, 387-89).

Pieter Van Damm has arrived in London with his family. He insists on taking the stand the next day. But Abe is determined that he will not be responsible for taking the music of Pieter Van Damm from the world. He refuses to murder Pieter Van Damm by parading him as a eunuch. He rejects every counter argument and suggestion (Uris, *QB VII* 390-93).
The court convenes the next day. Kelno wears a smile. Bannister springs a surprise by dispensing with any evidence from Tesslar. Instead he wishes to present a witness, a high official from a Communist country, who defected recently and was granted political asylum a few hours earlier. He merely seeks the court’s indulgence to have armed officers from Scotland Yard guarding the witness. Kelno cannot recall the name Gustav Tukla. But, as Sobotnik is led in, he desperately wants him stopped, but that is not possible. Sobotnik says that he changed his name after liberation because he was afraid to be found out after some things he was made to do in Jadwiga. In Jadwiga he worked under Kelno, keeping clinical and surgical records. He was recruited by the underground. He and Menno Donker copied from the surgical records what operations had taken place in Barrack V and turned it over to a contact. Memo Donker was discovered and castrated as punishment. Sobotnik kept records from 1942 till the liberation in 1945, spread over six volumes (Uris, QB VII 394-97).

Sobotnik reveals that Kelno made him hold patients while they were being given spinals, and also give spinals after being shown how for a few minutes, restrain patients who were having sperm tests administered by Kelno or Lotaki shoving a wooden handle up their rectums. He says that they were healthy men not yet irradiated. Sobotnik saw Kelno operating in Barrack V at least a few hundred times as part of Voss’s experiments. Kelno treated his Jewish patients in Barrack V brutally, in his own regular clinic in Barrack XX he was different (Uris, QB VII 398-99).

Sobotnik clearly remembers the November 1943 series of operations in which eight men had their testicles removed and three pairs of twin sisters had their ovaries
removed. It was also the night Menno Donker was castrated. The victims were shaved and given spinais by untrained personnel in the anteroom. Viskova and Tesslar complained on several occasions that a pre-injection of morphia was humane. To this Kelno replied that morphia could not be wasted on pigs. He also said that he could not waste time on putting them under. The victims were in great pain. Kelno went to work on Menno Donker with Lotaki assisting him. Menno Donker protested that he was healthy and then pleaded with Kelno to leave him one testicle. Kelno merely spat on him, Kelno performed all the fifteen surgeries without cleaning himself or sterilizing the instruments between operations. Because of the commotion created, Voss asked Sobotnik to get Tesslar. When Tesslar arrived, there was mayhem outside Barrack V. Kelno had carried out a massacre like a butcher. It was so awful that, when Tesslar asked Sobotnik to get Kelno, he just fled in horror (Uris, QB VII 399-401).

The next morning Sobotnik was asked to fill out death certificates for one man and one woman giving typhus as the cause of death. When the Russians liberated Jadwiga there was utter confusion. So Sobotnik does not know what happened to five of the medical registers. He kept the sixth one, covering the second half of 1943. Bannister offers in evidence the medical register of Jadwiga concentration camp (Uris, QB VII 401).

Highsmith objects. Bannister explains that the register came into their hands at three that morning, that what is essential runs to only two pages and that he will furnish photocopies of any pages he refers to. But Highsmith objects because Bannister will have to amend the Particulars in his claim of justification. Bannister
presents a one-page request. Highsmith quotes several precedents for rejecting the application. But Bannister argues that he is not changing the nature of the case at all. Highsmith cites the impossibility of recalling the witnesses. Bannister says that all that he asks for is for Kelno to take the witness stand for an hour or so. Highsmith is hardly persuaded (Uris, *QB VII* 402-04).

Bannister points out that the medical register of Jadwiga has been in the courtroom in spirit ever since the beginning of the trial and that it is the heart of the matter. He also points out that Kelno himself referred three times in the course of his testimony to the medical register. Highsmith attempts to counter it. Bannister bluntly says that, as long as the medical register was missing, Kelno used it as implied evidence in his behalf and is now singing a different tune because one of the volumes has turned up in court. At this the judge admits the medical register as evidence. He calls a recess of two hours for the plaintiff to study the document and prepare “a proper defense.” Highsmith is stunned because the judge has used the word “defense,” as if Kelno is now the accused in the eyes of the court (Uris, *QB VII* 404-06).

Kelno takes the witness stand again. He admits that the defence exhibit is indeed the medical register of Jadwiga. The register reveals that Kelno always had a qualified doctor or anesthetist to assist him. He admits it. So Bannister accuses him of lying in court when he said that he did not have a qualified anesthetist present. Bannister points out that, according to the medical register, Tesslar did not perform a single surgery in Jadwiga. Kelno has all along claimed to have performed a few operations involving testicles and ovaries, but, according to this one volume of the
medical register alone, he performed or assisted in three hundred and fifty operations. Kelno has all along maintained that he never operated on a healthy person or in a court order case. However, the medical register contradicts this. Kelno’s claim that general aesthetic was not available is disproved by the register. In fact, according to the register, he used spinals sparingly outside Barrack V and that too always with a pre-injection of morphia. Bannister also establishes that eighteen years ago, at Brixton prison, a victim named Eli Janos was not able to identify Kelno because the doctor who performed the surgery was Lotaki. Finally Bannister corners Kelno with the record of surgeries on 10 November 1943. The evidence of the register is so damning that Kelno has no answer at all. When Bannister presses him for an answer, Kelno loses his self-control and blabbers about a plot to hound him forever. Bannister calmly reminds him that it was he who brought the action in court (Uris, QB VII407-15).

Highsmith knows he has lost the case. But, as a British barrister, he fights on for his client until the last breath. He sums up his case eloquently and calls for substantial damages and an honourable return to the world for Kelno. Thomas Bannister sums up his arguments equally eloquently and urges that Kelno should not be rewarded with anything but contempt and the lowest coin of the realm (Uris, QB VII, ch.36; ch.37).

The judge instructs the jury to withdraw, deliberate and give a verdict. They have to decide whether they hold for the plaintiff or the defendants. If they hold for Kelno, they have to determine how much they will award him in damages (Uris, QBVII, ch.38). The jury returns at one-thirty in the afternoon. The foreman reports
that they unanimously hold in favour of the plaintiff, Sir Adam Kelno and that they
award him one halfpenny (Uris, *QB VII* 420-21).

The verdict, of the jury is a tacit acknowledgement that the Nazis were guilty
of horrendous crimes against humanity, particularly the Jews. *QB FI* also proves that
Nazi anti-semitism was not an isolated instance of ethnic madness, but the cumulative
result of centuries of ant-semitism built up in Europe. Above all, in *QB VII*, Uris
posits and proves that anti-semitism is evil, whoever practises it.