

The Hebrew poem "Eli, Eli" was written by Hannah Szenes in 1942, and was set to music by David Zehavi in 1945.

THERE was an original Yiddish song called, "Elli, Elli", composed by Jacob Koppel Sandler in 1896, that describes the plight of a Jewish girl singing a song of despair while being crucified for her faith.

In the following decades, it was adopted by African-American artists and singers who were drawn to the tragic melody and images of oppression that its lyrics evoked." Elli, Elli of the 1800's became a symbol of racial equality.

46 years later- Hannah Szenes, writes a poem entitled, "Eli, Eli". Hannah was born in 1921 in Hungary. Hannah was a poet and a playwright and in 1943 joined Special Operations and became a paratrooper. She was one of 37 Jewish parachutists of "Mandate Palestine", who parachuted into Yugoslavia during the Second World War, to assist in the rescue of Hungarian Jews who were about to be deported to German death camps at Auschwitz. Szenes was arrested at the Hungarian border, imprisoned and tortured, but refused to reveal details of her mission. She was eventually tried and executed by a firing squad. She is regarded as a national hero in Israel, where her poetry is widely known. Israeli composer David Zehavi set Hanna Szenes' "Eli, Eli" to music in 1945. Yet again, a Yiddish song entitled, "Elli, Ellie", rises to spotlight the very real plight of those that are tortured and crucified for their beliefs.