

3. RADICALIZATION

In the process of researching *The Pendulum*, one of the single most pressing questions in my mind was how and why my grandfather joined the Nazi Party and the SS, and became a perpetrator in occupied Poland. How does a person become radicalized?

No one is born evil, but many things can happen along the way that lead to people committing evil deeds. Events in our communities, countries and the world interplay with individual lives and characteristics to produce sometimes frightening outcomes.

This is what I found in Opa's case. From being a young man who had a penchant for horses and the land, he became a brutal perpetrator. Let's examine what that process looked like.

- 3.1 What factors made my grandparents' susceptible to Nazism and brought them into the fold of the Party and the SS?
- 3.2 How did Opa become radicalized after he joined the SS?