The Warsaw Ghetto
1940-1943

The City of Warsaw
- Poland was invaded September 1, 1939
- Great Britain and France Declare War September 3
- German troops entered Warsaw on September 29, shortly after its surrender.

- Jews were forced to wear white armbands with a blue Star of David.
- Closed Jewish schools
- Confiscated Jewish-owned property
- Conscription Jewish men into forced labor
- They dissolved prewar Jewish organizations
- A Judenrat was formed at the command of the Germans

The Ghetto
- October 12, 1940, Germans announced a decree ordering establishment of a ghetto in Warsaw
- Sealed off from the rest of the city in November 1940
- Enclosed by a wall that was over 10 feet high, topped with barbed wire
- Guarded to prevent Jews from escape
Jews stand in line with the possessions they can carry during their relocation to the Warsaw ghetto in late 1940. They will be searched by the German police before entry into the ghetto.

Polish Jews arrive by passenger train to the Warsaw ghetto

In 1940, this brick wall was built sealing the Warsaw ghetto off from the rest of the city. Approximately 138,000 Jews were herded into this ghetto while 113,000 Poles were evacuated from this section of the city.

Jewish youth peer over the wall overlooking Mirowski Plac (Square) that divided the Warsaw ghetto into the small and large ghettos

View of the wall surrounding the ruins of the Warsaw ghetto a few months after the ghetto's destruction
Entrance number 2 to the Warsaw ghetto guarded by German soldiers and policemen.

A sign in German and Polish posted at entrance 2 to the Warsaw ghetto reads, "Area closed because of epidemic. Only through traffic permitted."

Last remaining section of Warsaw Ghetto wall.

Map of Ghetto on the wall.

This means in English 'Here was the wall of the Ghetto.'
Ghetto residents make purchases from street vendors in the Warsaw ghetto

A woman purchases kindling from a street vendor in the Warsaw ghetto

Jewish vendors sell vegetables at an open air market in the Warsaw ghetto

A teenage vendor sells newspapers and armbands in the Warsaw ghetto possibly on Muranowski Square

Life in the Ghetto

Ration card
Ghetto Money

Rickshaws and streetcars move through a major street in the Warsaw ghetto

Struggling for Survival
Welfare Organizations active in the Ghetto
• Jewish Mutual Aid Society
• The Federation of Associations in Poland for the Care of Orphans
• The Organization for Rehabilitation through Training.

A young woman performs in a nightclub in the Warsaw ghetto

Children washing before a meal in the communal kitchen that was under the auspices of the welfare organization, Centos, on 29 Panksa St.

Toddlers in a shelter for abandoned children at 127 Leszno St.
Preparing to pass out clothing for the needy from the main warehouse of the ZSN at 13 Leszno St.

**Smuggling**

- Smuggling began from the very beginning
- Rations = 180 grams [6½ oz.] of bread a day, 220 grams of sugar a month, 1 kg. [2.2 lbs.] jam and ½ kg. of honey, etc.
- Rations did not cover even 10 percent of normal requirements
- The entire population of the ghetto would have had to die of hunger in a very short time

Young boy caught smuggling in the Warsaw ghetto by a German policeman.

Jewish smugglers pose on a ladder at the top of the Warsaw ghetto wall near Plac Mirowski 9.

Young boys caught smuggling by a German soldier in the Warsaw Ghetto.
Mojsie Goldman holds the barbed wire fence on Krochmalna Street for Jan Kostanski so that he can enter the ghetto from the Aryan side.

Jewish children smuggling food over and through the Ghetto wall.

A destitute young man lies on the street in the Warsaw ghetto with a collection cup.

A body on the street in the Warsaw ghetto.
Pedestrians in the Warsaw ghetto walk past corpses lying on the pavement on Rynkowa Street, near the ghetto wall.

A corpse slides down a shoot into a mass grave in the Warsaw ghetto.

Mass Grave in the Warsaw Ghetto

Work permit issued on April 1, 1941 to Chana (Hanka) Granek authorizing her employment at the Leopold Michatz garment factory in the Bélinz ghetto.

Working in the ghetto
Work permit used by Leo Kulka, during his years in hiding in occupied Warsaw. Leo Kulka and his family lived in Poland as Czechoslovakian citizens.

Shop producing wooden shoes.

Deportation
Deportations

- Begin July 1942
- Sent to Treblinka
- By September 6, the Germans had deported about 300,000 Jews
- Second deportation in January 1943
  - 5,000 Jews were deported
- Some 50,000 survivors of the Warsaw ghetto were deported in April-May 1943
  - Treblinka, the Poniatowa and Trawniki forced-labor camps, and Majdanek

Jews who have been rounded-up in the Warsaw ghetto are seated on the ground in the Umschlagplatz awaiting deportation

Jews assemble at Umschlagplatz for deportation
A Jewish man walks with three young children alongside a deportation train in the Warsaw ghetto.

Jews from the Warsaw ghetto board a deportation train with the assistance of Jewish police.

The railway track in Treblinka; the death camp was to the left of the rails.

The road sign in Treblinka.

The End of the Ghetto

- Remaining Jews stage a resistance for 1 month
- Germans put down resistance and burn down the Ghetto
- May 1943 Ghetto is liquidated
The bodies of Jewish policemen executed by the SS during the Warsaw ghetto uprising. The Warsaw ghetto uprising (April 19–May 16, 1943) was the

Warsaw

• August 1944
• Polish Home Army rose against the German occupiers
• Germans crushed the revolt and razed the center of the city
• Soviet troops liberated a devastated Warsaw in January 1945.

‘Oneg Shabbat’ (‘In Celebration of Sabbath,’ also known as the Ringelblum Archive)

• Founded by Emanuel Ringelblum,
  - a historian prominent in Jewish self-aid efforts
• A clandestine organization that aimed to provide an accurate record of events taking place in the country throughout the ghetto’s existence
• Only partly recovered after the war

Portrait of Rabbi Shimon Hoberband, who was involved in the activities of Emanuel Ringelblum’s Oneg Shabbat archives in the Warsaw ghetto
One of the two milk cans in which portions of the Ringelblum Oneg Shabbat archives were hidden and buried in the Warsaw ghetto.

The holdings of the archives were buried in three parts. The first set of documents was placed in 10 tin boxes by the teacher Izrael Lichtensztajn and two of his former students, David Graber and Nachman Grynwez. On August 3, 1942, the boxes were buried in a bunker beneath the former public school building where Lichtensztajn had taught at 68 Nowolipki Street. In February 1943 Ringelblum and Lichtensztajn placed the second part of the archives in two large milk cans and buried them beneath the same building. On April 18, 1943, just one day before the start of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, the third and final part of the archives was placed in a cylindrical metal box and buried beneath a building located at 34 Świętojerska Street. After the war two of the three caches of documents were recovered. Two surviving members of the Oneg Shabbat staff, Rachela Auerbach and Hersz Wasser, led members of the Jewish Historical Commission of Poland to the first burial site. The 10 metal boxes were recovered on September 18, 1946. The second portion of the archives was uncovered on December 1, 1950. The final cache was never found.