

CHRONOLOGY

1939

- Sept 27** Poland surrenders to Germany.
- Oct 4** Adam Czerniakow is ordered by Gestapo to set up Jewish Council to replace Jewish Community Council within twenty-four hours.
- Nov 27** Hans Frank, Governor General, issued an order to set up a 'Judenrat' in each Jewish community.
- Nov** Census shows 359,827 Jews in Warsaw.

1940

- Jan 21** Gestapo ordered registration of Jewish property.
- Jan 26** Congregational worship forbidden; ritual slaughter prohibited.
- June** Jewish Council reorganized; limited to carrying out order of German authorities.
- July** Last orders permitting Jews from the General government to leave the country were cancelled.
- Sept** Quarantine area, later to be the Ghetto, contains 240,000 Jews and 80,000 Christians.
- Oct 16** Decree gives Christians two weeks to move out of quarantine area, and Jews to move in.
- Nov 15** Warsaw Ghetto sealed off.

1941

- Feb 18** Jewish Council is allowed to raise a loan from German banks on the security of blocked Jewish accounts.
- Feb-Mar** 66,000 Jews from the Warsaw District were transferred to the ghetto.
- March** Population of ghetto reaches a peak at 445,000 people.



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F I L M
EDUCATION

- April** Schools licensed for 5,000 of the 50,000 children in the Ghetto. American Joint Distribution Committee allowed to have offices in the Ghetto.
- Dec 16** Hans Frank, Governor General, reports about 2,500,000 Jews in Government Central. These Jews must 'gotten rid of'.
- Dec** Jewish cemetery walled off; coffins used for smuggling. Free soup kitchens supporting 100,000 people are set up.

1942

- Jan** Visits and tours of Ghetto abolished for soldiers on leave but continue, nevertheless.
- Apr 12** Rumored arrival of extermination brigade.
- Apr 14** News of deportations and massacre in Lubin Ghetto printed in the paper 'Oneg Shabbat'.
- Apr 18** 'Night of Blood'- execution of printers and distributors of Ghetto underground press.
- May** 'The Thirteen' gang are killed.
- June** News of massacres in Pabianice and Biala Podloska. 110 Jews incarcerated in the ghetto prison were executed as a retaliation for Jewish resistance movements.
- July 22** 380,000 in Warsaw Ghetto. Jewish Council publishes notice of deportations to East regardless of sex or age. From July 22 to September 12, 1942 265,000 Jews were uprooted from Warsaw, transported to the Treblinka death camp, and murdered in the gas chambers.
- July 23** Adam Czernikow, chairman of the Judenrat, committed suicide.
- July** The Bunds sends Zigmunt Friedrich to follow rail of deportees. He returned with verified news of the extermination camp at Treblinka.
- July 28** Representatives of three pioneering youth movements - Hashomer Hatzair, Dror HeHalutz, and Akiva - met at the Dror He - Halutz commune on Dzielna St. and found the Jewish Fighting Organisation called Zydowska Organizacja Bojowa (ZOB).
- Aug 5** Extermination squad descends on Ghetto. Operation lasts a week.
- Aug 15** Blockade of every street and house begins.



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- Sept 21** Yom Kippur. Ghetto size is reduced by more than half. More than three-quarters of the population already evacuated. The final act of deportation took place - two thousand people consisting of Jewish Police and their families were deported.
- Sept 22** S.S. and S.D. take over formal administration of Jewish affairs in Warsaw.
- Oct 20** Co-ordinating Committee of resistance movement formed.

1943

- Jan** Only 40,000 Jews left in the Ghetto.
- Jan 18** Second mass deportation begins. First armed resistance by ZOB members led by Mordechai Anielewicz.
- Jan 21** About 1,000 Jews were murdered in the Ghetto streets.
- Apr 19** Planned and organised Jewish Resistance begins in Warsaw on the eve of Passover. Lightly armed and poorly trained, some 8000 Jews, some only ten years of age, effectively chased German soldiers from the Ghetto. The first battle on Nalewki Street, led by ZOB members Zecharia Arsein and Lolek Potblatt, ended with a German retreat. In the Central Ghetto, ZOB fighters were also successful. On this day, one member of the ZOB died in addition to a few others from the other fighting group, the ZZQ According to S.S. General Stroop, six S.S. men and six Ukrainian auxiliaries were killed and twenty-four were wounded on this first day of battle.
- Apr 20** After crossing a ZOB mine which exploded, and being forced to retreat, three German officers with strips of white cloth attached to their lapels appeared in the street and called for a fifteen minute truce and negotiations with the command of the area. Only twenty-eight Jews responded to their order, while the rest continued to fight for their freedom. Stunned by the Jewish resistance, over 2,000 highly trained Nazi soldiers and their helpers attacked Jews in the Ghetto in force, under S.S. General Stroop. The battle raged from roof tops, windows, and from the sewers. Command bunkers are set up under Mordechai Anielewicz who operated out of Mila 18.
- Apr 21** Germans used both aircraft and tanks to subdue revolting Jews. Fierce battles raged, street by street, building by building.
- Apr 22** Germans begin burning ghetto buildings block by block to limit Jewish resistance.



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F I L M
E D U C A T I O N

- Apr 23** 'Battle of the Bunkers' begins. Chlorine gas was used to annihilate Jews fighting in the bunkers, utilising their limited ammunition and weapons.
- Apr 26** General Stroop reported that underground resistance was still continuing despite the fact that the Germans were blowing out the bunkers.
- May 3** Nazis broke into the Czyste hospital on Gesia Street in the Warsaw Ghetto and shot all the patients. The building was then set on fire by the S.S. soldiers.
- May 16** The liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto was declared officially over by S.S. General Stroop at 8.15 p.m. with the demolition of the Warsaw synagogue.
- Summer** Jewish resistance continued into the summer, 1943.

1944

- Mar 7** Emmanuel Ringelblum executed on ruins of the Ghetto, together with wife and child.
- Aug** Note: the Polish Army revolted against Nazi authority in Warsaw - a heroic episode.

1946

- Sept** Ten cases of Ringelblum Archives dug up.

*According to S.S. General Stroop's report from April 19-May 15, 1943:

German Losses:

16 Killed
85 Wounded
17 Unspecified losses

Jewish Losses:

56,065 Caught and Killed

*These figures are suspect since General Stroop was conscious of what Adolf Hitler would think about German losses.

Many of the Jews who resisted in Warsaw and were captured also aided the resistance organisations in the Treblinka and Sobibor revolts.

Sources:

Martin Gilbert. The Holocaust. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1985.

