

I. Invasion of Poland

- A. Sept. 1, 1939 – Hitler invaded Poland

II. About Lodz

- A. Sept 8, 1939 – the Nazis occupied Lodz, a city in Central Poland
- B. Jewish population of 230,000 – 2nd largest Jewish community in Europe

III. Litzmann's City

- A. Nov. 7, 1939 – Lodz was annexed to the third Reich
- B. Subsequently, Lodz was renamed *Litzmannstadt* (Litzmann's city)
- C. Litzmann – German general who died in WWI attempting to capture the city
- D. A few days later, Jews were forced to wear armbands to distinguish themselves from Germans
- E. These armbands were the precursor to the Jewish Star of David that were introduced the following month, in December 1939

IV. Plans to Form Ghetto

- A. Soon after incorporating the city into the Reich, the Nazis began secret plans to create a ghetto in Lodz – the armbands were the first step
- B. A ghetto was desired to confine Jews into a small area until the Nazis could figure out what to do with them

V. Difficulties with Forming Ghetto

- A. There were Germans living in the city who would have to be moved out
- B. Jan. 17, 1940 – the Nazis issued a fictitious warning, claiming the Lodz was plagued with communicable diseases
- C. This warning helped to keep Germans from going into Lodz and encouraged many Germans residing in Lodz to seek refuge out of the city

VI. Formation of a Closed Ghetto

- A. Feb. 8, 1940 – official announcement to create a ghetto in Lodz
- B. April 30, 1940 – ghetto was ordered closed, meaning that no one could enter and no one could leave
- C. May 1, 1940 – ghetto was officially sealed
- D. 1.54 sq miles – 164,000 Jews (which increased through the years)

VII. Jewish Life and Conditions in Ghetto

- A. Jews were ruled by the Judenrate (council of Elders)
- B. Specifically, Mordechai Chaim Rumkowski
- C. Since German currency had been devalued within the ghetto, Rumkowski introduced ghetto currency
- D. It was hard to get German Marks within the ghetto
- E. Rumkowski rationed food to the Jews from small amounts of food he bargained w/ the Nazis to receive
- F. Jews produce goods for Nazis in exchange for food
- G. Food was rationed based upon job status
- H. Shortages of food = Blame for Rumkowski
- I. Very Cold Winters
- J. 1/5 of Polish Jews died from ghetto conditions

VIII. Why Didn't Jews Resist?

- A. Initially, Poles and Jews teamed to resist Nazi invasion
- B. Based on historical events, most Jews didn't believe they would be killed – they just thought it would be rough for a while – so they accepted being put into a ghetto
- C. Jews weren't prepared to fight
- D. Having lost their possessions, homes, having no weapons, and the fact that the majority of Jews were starving, were also major factors in their inability to resist