AWESOME stories

DESTROY THE GHETTO

- 0. DESTROY THE GHETTO Story Preface
- 1. JEWS IN WARSAW
- 2. THE LAST BROADCAST
- 3. GERMANY INVADES POLAND
- 4. WARSAW GHETTO
- 5. EVACUATION of the WARSAW GHETTO

6. DESTROY THE GHETTO

- 7. WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING
- 8. THE WARSAW GHETTO IS NO MORE
- 9. DEATH OF WARSAW
- 10. ALONE IN WARSAW
- 11. WILM HOSENFELD
- 12. HOSENFELD'S DIARY
- 13. THE REST OF THE STORY



Heinrich Himmler was one of Adolf Hitler's key enforcers. Ordering many atrocities against innocent people, Himmler also ordered the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto. In this image, <u>online via the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</u>, we see Himmler (in 1942) addressing "a group of soldiers in a cavalry regiment of the Waffen SS in the eastern territories."

On February 16, 1943 Himmler issued a <u>secret order</u> to <u>destroy the Warsaw ghetto</u>. According to Himmler:

An overall plan for the razing of the ghetto is to be submitted to me. In any case we must achieve the disappearance from sight of the living-space for 500,000 sub-humans (Untermenschen) that has existed up to now, but could never be suitable for Germans, and reduce the size of this city of millions – Warsaw – which has always been a center of corruption and revolt.

The Nazis earmarked April 19, 1943 as the day they would close the Warsaw Jewish Quarter. As the ghetto burned, Jews were rounded up and sent to their deaths.

But people inside the ghetto - who sensed total annihilation was about to happen - planned to resist. As <u>Goebbels noted</u> in his diary:

The Jews have actually succeeded in putting the ghetto in a condition to defend itself.

And that resistance would prove to be much more costly - and deadly - to the Nazis than Himmler could have ever imagined.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/DESTROY-THE-GHETTO-Pianist-The

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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