

As Hitler's troops systematically destroyed Warsaw, it was becoming clear that Stalin also wanted the Poles crushed.

Hiding in cellars, and wherever else they could, Polish freedom fighters continued to push back against the Germans. But nearby Soviet troops did ... nothing.

Even the Germans were surprised that not a single Russian soldier fired a shot.

As the situation for the Poles grew ever-more desperate, they were on their own not just to fight but to figure-out safe escape routes. Members of the resistance knew the end was near, even though they had fought two months to save their capital city.

With not a single ally to help them, the leader of the Polish Underground Army had to negotiate a ceasefire. On the 2nd of October, 1944, the rebels laid-down their arms. The freedom fighters had only one concession - they would be treated as prisoners of war, not bandits.

They had fought for sixty-three days.

As prisoners of war and civilians left the city, Warsaw itself was now at the mercy of unhindered destruction by the Germans.

Then ... with everyone gone, and the city decimated ... Stalin could take over. After he did, many captured Poles were sent to Soviet camps in Siberia.

Few historical events compare to the Warsaw Uprising. Every year the Poles honor those thousands of people who used their all to resist Nazi aggression in their capital.

The Nazi directive, voiced by Himmler - to kill everyone in the city and raze Warsaw to the ground - had not been fully implemented, however, because people still survived.

It is estimated, however, that more than 200,000 Poles died during the resistance.

See, also:

[Warsaw Uprising](#)

[Warsaw Uprising - Poles Abandoned](#)

[Warsaw Uprising - Heroic Resistance](#)

Credits:

Clip from [BBC's "Timewatch"](#) - Season 24, Episode 9 - entitled "Battle for Warsaw," online via BBC's Worldwide Channel at YouTube. Copyright, BBC, all rights reserved. Clip provided as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the series. For more freely available past episodes of "Timewatch," see [Open University's listing](#).

Original air date, BBC, April 28, 2006.

Original air date, BBC, April 28, 2006.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Warsaw-Uprising-Crushed>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Warsaw-Uprising-Crushed>