

Name of Camp: Warsaw Ghetto

Location of Camp: Warsaw, Poland.

Brief Description of the Camp:

The Warsaw Ghetto was the largest of all the Jewish ghettos in Nazi-occupied Europe during World War II. All of the Jews in Warsaw and its suburbs were forced into the ghetto and were cut off from the rest of the world by a 9 foot wall. The prisoners of the Warsaw ghetto were sent to extermination camps, the most common one being Treblinka. Inside of the walls there was starvation, mass shootings, and forced labor. There were schools, hospitals and businesses in the ghetto. There was an uprising in the ghetto that began on January 18, 1943.

How Many People Were Imprisoned in the Camp? How Many People Perished in the Camp?

It is estimated that there were at least 400,000 people imprisoned in the Warsaw Ghetto. These people were all packed into an area of about 1.3 square miles. Between starvation, mass shootings, disease and deportations to extermination camps, over 300,000 of the ghetto's prisoners died.

What Were the Dates that the Camp was in Existence?

The construction of the ghetto wall began on April 1, 1940. The destruction of the ghetto began on January 18, 1943 and ended on April 19, 1943.

When Was the Camp Liberated? Who Liberated the Camp?

The Warsaw Ghetto uprising began on January 18, 1943 when Germans entered the camp to round up Jews for further deportations to extermination camps. The Jews in the Ghetto resisted. Within hours, over 600 Jews were shot and over 5,000 were rounded up. Over the next two months, Jews and Germans fought in the Ghetto and had small "battles." The final battle began on the eve of Passover: April 19, 1943. Thousands of Germans entered the camp and under the command of Jurgen Stroop, systematically blew up ghetto buildings, block-by-block, rounding up or murdering anyone they could capture.

Other Interesting Facts:

- The children of the Warsaw Ghetto would often sneak into the "Aryan" section of the area and would bring back food and supplies.
- There were underground or secret factories to produce goods sold by children who exited the camp and sold or traded them for food or other goods.

