



Mordechai Anielewicz

1919 or 1920 - 1943

**Organizer of The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
April 19 to May 16, 1943**

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Nazi Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939.

Poland in 1939 had a Jewish population of 3,000,000.

Warsaw, the capital of Poland, was home to 375,000 Jews.

On October 12, 1940 all Jews had to relocate into the Ghetto and on November 16, 1940 the Ghetto was sealed off. The Ghetto had an area that could hold 50,000 but the Nazis forced as many as 500,000 Jews within the Ghetto Walls.

When word of the atrocities in the camps reached back to the Warsaw Ghetto, a surviving group of mostly young people formed an organization called the Z.O.B. (the Jewish Fighting Organization) led by Mordechai Anielewicz (pronounced Analovich), who at that time was about 23 years old.

In January 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Fighters fired upon German troops as they tried to round up another group of Ghetto inhabitants for deportation. After a few days the troops retreated and this small victory inspired The Ghetto Fighters to prepare for future resistance.

The Warsaw Ghetto uprising started on the first night of Passover April 19, 1943 so please let us not forget the heroes of that momentous day and for the month that followed. Between 1941 and 1943 underground resistance movements formed about 100 Jewish Groups, the most famous being the Warsaw Ghetto. On April 19, 1943 The Warsaw Ghetto uprising began after German troops and police entered the Ghetto to deport its surviving inhabitants. 750 fighters fought the heavily armed and well trained Germans. The Ghetto Fighters were able to hold out for nearly a month but on May 16, 1943 the revolt was ended.

The following is from a letter written by Mordechai Anielewicz to Yitzchak Zuckerman on April 23, 1943:

'Something has happened that is greater than our most daring dreams. The Germans have fled from the Ghetto twice....I can't describe to you the conditions under which the Jews live: only people with special qualities will survive, the rest will die.....we are all doomed.....'

What really matters is that the dream of my life has become true. Jewish self defense in the Warsaw Ghetto has become a fact. Jewish armed resistance and retaliation have become a reality. I was privileged to witness the magnificent Jewish defense in the Ghetto in all its Heroic glory.'

**Taken from the Holocaust encyclopedia from the US
Holocaust Memorial Museum and the archives of the
Ghetto Fighters Museum**