



14 DPA SERIES: THE NAZI HOLOCAUST - SERIES II — The Germans regarded the ghettos as a temporary solution for dealing with the Jews. In reality they were the last stop before extermination. In 1941 top-ranking Nazis were already discussing a final solution. By 1942 rumors about death camps were being circulated by underground movements, but the reports were too fantastic to believe. The deceptive techniques of the Nazis were so convincing, many Jews didn't know what was being done to them until the last few minutes. (The world learned about the horrors in the postwar years through the Nuremberg Trials and numerous books. Even then, with exacting evidence, it was still hard to believe.) The ghetto lasted four years, longer than any other, because its textile products were highly prized by the Germans. In August 1944, the 70,000 Jews left in the ghetto were deported to Auschwitz and gassed. The photo aids above show (top) a street in the Lodz Ghetto (built in Poland's second largest city in 1940), and (bottom) a closeup of the scene under the footbridge in the top photo aid. The sign posted at the entrance of the ghetto reads: "Jewish residential district; entrance forbidden."

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Box 956, Mount Dora, Florida 32757