

Gepner, Abraham

(1872--1943), Businessman, Warsaw political figure, and member of the Warsaw Ghetto *Judenrat*.

Before World War II, Gepner was a member of the Warsaw city council. He was also active in Jewish affairs and charitable activities. When the Germans invaded Poland in September 1939, Gepner was 67 years old. He and Samuel Zygelbojm were the two Jews among 12 hostages taken by the Nazis when they entered Warsaw.

Gepner served on the city's *Judenrat* from the start and was close to the *Judenrat* chairman, Adam Czerniakow. When the Germans established the Warsaw Ghetto in November 1940, he became head of the supply department, which provided food and other vital items. Although Gepner was not able to prevent hunger and death from starvation, the ghetto's inhabitants trusted him and his department worked as efficiently as possible.

Gepner was also involved in assistance and welfare in the ghetto, especially for children and orphans. He supported the ghetto's underground and secret pioneer movements. When the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising broke out on April 19, 1943, Gepner initially refused to hide in a bunker. However, he finally gave in and entered a bunker on Franciszkanska Street. On May 3 the Germans pulled Gepner and others out of the bunker and murdered them.