

## From the Diary of Yarden (Member of the Ha-shomer ha-Tsa'ir in Lodz) on the German Occupation of Poland

Lodz, September 7, 1939

“The sounds of artillery have ceased. The rumor spread by word of mouth: “They’re coming.” The whole city was in a fever - an overt fear tempered by restrained curiosity: what will the morrow bring? Everyone has heard by now about the horrendous slaughter on the road to Brzeziny. Hundreds of corpses...strewn at the intersection. Thousands of helpless wounded are rotting hopeless in the fields, while on the city walls the slogans of the municipal militia are being painted: “Give the army a warm welcome!” ... As I went to my room tonight, I found my father in tears. He quickly wiped his palm across his face to brush away the tears without my noticing. My heart faltered; I had never seen my father cry. He never showed his pain to others...”

**Source: Michal Unger, *The Last Ghetto: Life in the Lodz Ghetto*, Yad Vashem, 1992 p. 41.**