

On the Persecution of the Jews of Lodz

[The following is a part from the diary of a Jewish youth named Yarden, a member of the *Ha-Shomer Ha-Tsa'ir* in Lodz]

September 13, 1939

It is hard to get bread; Jews are driven away from all the "queues." They are seized, hauled off to labor, and beaten to a pulp. Hell has caught fire. Gangs of hooligans pounce on Jewish shops; looters plunder with impunity. Fewer Jews are visible in the streets; my father and brothers never venture out. Every knock on the door is terrifying; the slightest noise freezes the blood in our veins. Violent feelings rage within me... What more will this day bring? Shrieks, terror, blows, abductions, imprisonment, messengers, humiliation and disgrace, posters with laws - a sea of posters, white, green, red, yellow, new ones each day, but always with the same message: Jews are forbidden... to buy, sell, study, pray, gather, eat, etc., a string of prohibitions with no end! Would that the night would never end, that we could have some peace, some balm for the tumult in our hearts...

Source: Michal Unger, *The Last Ghetto: Life in the Lodz Ghetto*, Yad Vashem, 1992, p. 40