

Tuchin

(in Polish, Tuczyn), small town in the Ukraine. When World War II broke out in September 1939, Tuchin was annexed by the Soviet Union. At that point, 3,000 Jews lived there. In mid-1941 Germany invaded the Soviet Union. Soon, the Jews in Tuchin were subjected to heavy anti-Jewish measures.

After hearing about the annihilation of the Jews in nearby Rovno in July 1942, the Jewish leaders of Tuchin decided to resist the Nazis. They came up with a plan to set fire to the houses in the ghetto, shoot at the Germans, and make a mass run for the forest. On September 24, when German and Ukrainian troops moved into the ghetto, the resisters struck. They set fire to the ghetto and began shooting, while the rest of the ghetto population began running. Two-thirds of the Jews made it to the forest, while the rest died in battle, along with several Germans and Ukrainians. The revolt ended on September 26 when the lead resisters turned themselves in to the Germans.

Those who reached the forest found themselves in a terrible situation. About half were caught within three days, while 300 women with babies could not handle being in the forest, so they returned to Tuchin, where they were shot. Many other escapees died or were killed by peasants. When Tuchin was liberated in January 1944, only 20 Jews from the town remained in the region.