

## Nesvizh

(in Polish, Nieswiez), town in Belorussia and site of one of the first ghetto uprisings. In September 1939 Nesvizh was annexed by the soviet union. At that point, 4,500 Jews lived there. In June 1941 Germany invaded the Soviet Union. German troops entered Nesvizh on June 27, and immediately began killing Jews. The Jews responded by establishing an underground organization.

On October 30, 1941 the Germans launched an *aktion* in which 4,000 Nesvizh Jews were murdered and the remaining 585 were locked into a ghetto. The underground began planning an uprising in case of another *aktion* that would completely liquidate the ghetto.

After learning of the liquidation of a nearby ghetto in July 1942, the underground increased their efforts by digging bunkers, preparing homemade weapons, and organizing fighting teams. Their plan was to set fire to the ghetto, and fight their way to the forest. On July 20 the Germans announced that a *selection* would take place. The Jews declared that they would put up an armed defense. Fighting broke out, and some Jews fled to the forest. However, many were killed en route or turned over to the Germans by local collaborators. Some groups did reach the forest where they set up Jewish partisan groups.