

Grossman, Mendel

(1917--1945), Photographer in the Lodz Ghetto of Poland who secretly documented on film the awful situation there during World War II. The Germans made it illegal for Jews to photograph in the ghetto. Grossman, however, worked in the ghetto's statistics department, where he had access to photography equipment and was allowed to keep a camera. He risked his life to shoot more than 10,000 pictures throughout the years that the ghetto existed, from early 1940 to its liquidation in September 1944.

After the ghetto was destroyed, Grossman was deported to the Koenigs Wusterhausen labor camp. Even there, he kept on taking photos in secret, but did not develop and print them. As the Allies approached, the Germans sent the prisoners in the camp on a death march, during which Grossman collapsed and died—with his camera still on him.

Grossman had hid the negatives of his photographs in the ghetto before its liquidation. After the war, they were found and sent to Israel. However, most were lost during the War of Independence in 1948. Those that were saved were put in a book published in 1977, called *With a Camera in the Ghetto*.