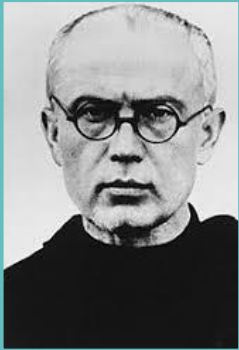


# STORIES OF POLISH RESISTANCE



Irena  
Sendler



Maximilian  
Kolbe



Emanuel  
Ringelblum



Mordechai  
Anielewicz



Witold  
Pilecki



Janusz  
Korczak



Jan  
Karski



Zofia  
Kossak-  
Szczucka



Father  
Marceli  
Godlewski



Jan &  
Antonina  
Zabinski



Józef &  
Wiktoria  
Ulma

About half of the six million European Jews killed in the Holocaust were Polish. In 1939 a third of the capital city Warsaw, and 10% of the entire country was Jewish. By 1945 97% of Poland's Jews were dead.

These eleven examples of Polish resistance *do not* purport to give an overview of what happened in Poland during The Holocaust. They have been chosen to reflect the unimaginably difficult choices made by both Jews and non-Jews under German occupation – where every Jew was marked for death and all non-Jews who assisted their Jewish neighbours were subject to the same fate.

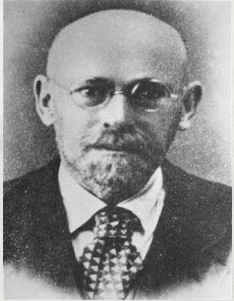
These individuals *were not* typical; they were exceptional, reflecting the relatively small proportion of the population who refused to be bystanders. But neither were they super-human. They would recoil from being labelled as heroes. They symbolise the power of the human spirit – their actions show that in even the darkest of times, good can shine through...

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Learning from the Righteous  
Inspiring children with the courage of the few

# STORIES OF POLISH RESISTANCE



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Maximilian Kolbe

Emanuel Ringelblum

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Zofia Kossak-Szczucka

Father Marcelli Godlewski

Jan and Antonina Zabinski

Józef & Wiktoria Ulma

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# JAN (1897-1974) & ANTONINA (1908-1971) ZABINSKI



*The first victims of the German occupation that Jan and Antonina Zabinski helped were physically disabled Poles, who were the first vulnerable group targeted by the Nazis.*

By the mid-1930's the Warsaw Zoo had become one of Europe's largest zoos and when war broke out in 1939 Jan Zabinski was the zoo director. Over the course of the German occupation of the city Jan, along with his wife Antonina, provided refuge for many Jews in the bombed out cages and the empty basement rooms in their villa. During the bombardment many animals were killed and lions and tigers that had escaped from their cages had to be shot as they roamed the streets. After the Germans entered Warsaw many of the surviving animals were taken to zoos in Austria and Germany by German zoologists. .



*The Zabinski villa, where many Jews were hidden from the Nazis. It is now a museum that tells the story of the events that took place there.*



# THE LOCATION OF THE WARSAW ZOO



## The Warsaw Zoo

The zoo was situated on the east bank of the Vistula river in the Praga district of Warsaw. By the time the Warsaw Ghetto was established, in late 1940, it was no longer a functioning zoo.



*This illustration made by Jan Zabinski in 1940 shows that much of the zoo, by then, was used to grow vegetables and breed pigs for local consumption.*



# GAINING ENTRY TO THE GHETTO

Szymon Tenenbaum was a fellow zoologist and close friend of Jan Zabinski who specialised in the study of insects. His beetle collection was being stored in the zoo for safety when, to his complete surprise, one of the occupying German officers asked Szymon to show it to him. When he took the officer to the zoo to view the collection, Jan immediately befriended him and exploited this contact to obtain permission to enter the ghetto.



*The Warsaw Ghetto, which covered 1.3 square miles and held over 400,000 Jews, was the most populace of the many ghettos created in Poland by the Germans.*



*Szymon Tenenbaum and part of his huge collection of beetles.*

To begin with Jan would smuggle food and supplies into the ghetto, but as conditions worsened he decided to offer shelter to Jews who were willing to risk escaping. On several occasions he personally smuggled Jews out where, because of the friendly relationships he had cultivated with German guards, he was able to casually walk Jews out of the ghetto without raising suspicion.

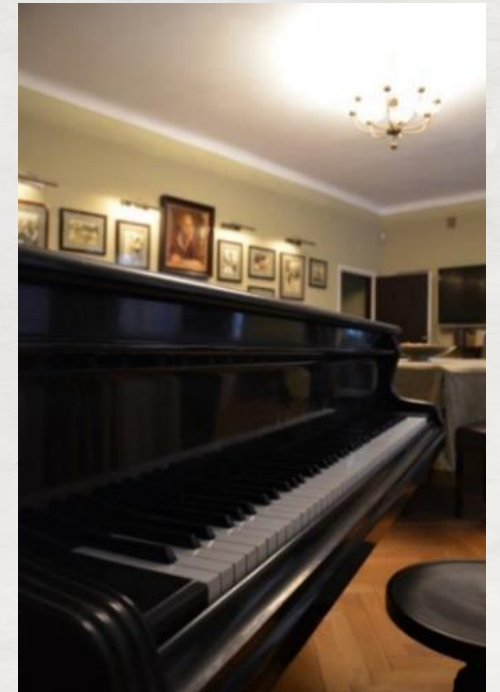
# IN HIDING



*Ryszard on the zoo's baby  
elephant, Tuzinka*

As part of the Polish Underground Jan and Antonina decided to provide temporary shelter at the zoo for escapees from the ghetto until a more permanent place of refuge could be found and forged identity documents could be produced. They were helped in this dangerous undertaking by their young son, Ryszard, who supplied food and looked after the needs of the many “guests”.

The Zabinskis bred pigs on the zoo grounds and supplied them to local Nazi officers. It wasn't uncommon for these Germans to visit the villa to negotiate their sale. When this happened a special code-tune was played on the piano to warn the Jews hidden in the basement below that there was a Nazi in the building and not to make a sound.





# RECOGNITION



Jan Zabinski was injured during in the Warsaw Uprising in August and September 1944 and was taken as a prisoner to Germany. His wife continued his work, looking after the needs of some of the Jews left behind in the ruins of the city. The Zabinskis were honoured by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations in 1965.

