### Theresienstadt or Terezin? Ghetto or Concentration Camp?

### **Early History**



- 1780 built by Josef II
- 40 miles north of Prague
- Large Fortress was the garrison town
- Small Fortress was political/military prison
- Prisoners included Gavrilo Princeps
- Largest Austrian POW camp of World War I

## Terezin During Interwar Years 1919-1939



Remained a garrison
Housed 3700 Civilians
Housed 3500 Soldiers

### German Takeover of Czechoslovakia



- Spring 1939 Germany takes Czechoslovakia
- German Jewish Refugees endangered
- Repatriation of Germans displaces Czech Jews

#### Prague Jewish Council Spring 1939 – Fall 1941

- Persuaded Germans to use Czech Jewish labor inside Czechoslovakia
- Persuaded Germans to open a Ghetto for Czech Jews at Theresienstadt to "protect" Czech Jews
- Organized work battalions to ready the garrison for moving Czech Jews to Terezin
- September 1941 Reinhold Heydrich appointed acting protector of Bohemia/Moravia

#### Czech Jews Displaced to Terezin



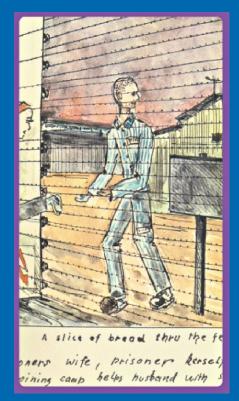


- By end of 1941 7,365
  Czech Jews arrived
- By May 1942, 28,887 Czech Jews lived in Terezin
- Until liberation there was a persistent population of 30-40,000 Jews at Terezin

# Transports to the East January 1942-1945



- 140,000 Jews transported to Terezin
- 15,000 children came to Terezin
- 88,000 deported to Death Camps
- > 33,000 died in Terezin
- 19,000 Jews in Terezin, May 1945
- 3000 survived Death Camps



#### Life in Terezin





