

Created by the Germans in the Old Town and Bałuty in February 1940, the ghetto lasted until August 1944. More than 200 thousand Jews from Łódź and neighboring cities and towns were imprisoned there, as well as from various places in Europe, including Prague, Vienna, Luxembourg and Berlin. For five years, almost 45 thousand people died in the ghetto from hunger and exhaustion. In January 1942, the Germans began sending residents of the ghetto to the extermination camp at Chełmno on the Ner (Kulmhof). By September, more than 55 thousand Jews were killed there as well as nearly five thousand Gypsies from Burgenland. In September 1942, the so-called "Wielka Szpera" began. The Germans ordered the elderly and sick to be deported from the ghetto, along with all children under 10 years of age, since they were not capable of working. Transports took children from orphanages, shelters and hospitals, children were torn away from their mothers and loved ones. There is probably not a single person who went through the Łódź ghetto and was not personally affected by these events. The history of the Litzmannstadt ghetto is divided into the period before and after the Szpera...

The word "Szpera" derives from the German expression *Allgemeine Gehsperr*, meaning: „general curfew” - a strict ban on leaving the house. It was introduced on 5 September 1942 and lasted until 12 September. Every house was searched for children and the elderly. During the *Allgemeine Gehsperr*, the Germans deported nearly 20 thousand Jews.