

The Battle for Warsaw

An examination of Poland's proudest battle against Nazi suppression

Hosted by

The Polish Arts Club of Youngstown

Sunday, October 17, 2010

1 PM – 5 PM

St. Casimir Church Hall

Youngstown, Ohio



In 1944, Nazi leader Heinrich Himmler waged what he described as “the hardest battle I ever fought” and it was against civilians.

The [Warsaw Uprising](#) was the greatest and bloodiest military operation undertaken by any civilian resistance movement during World War II. It would last two months and the Germans were soon saying they had seen nothing like it since Stalingrad. But at Stalingrad the Germans had faced a professional army with air support. In Warsaw they were confronted by some 40,000 irregular volunteers led by a handful of professional soldiers, supported by children and civilians.



At its end, more than 2,000 men, women and children of Warsaw were dead and more than 80 percent of the city was destroyed.

Despite being described as the single largest atrocity of the war, the battle was hardly mentioned at the War Crimes Trials in Nuremberg, despite the colossal casualty figures and documented horrors committed by the SS during its course. Instead, the story of Warsaw has been ignored for decades.

In honor of Polish American Heritage Month, the Polish Arts Club Youngstown will help to change that by hosting an afternoon of examining this historic event.

The Club will begin by screening the award-winning BBC documentary ***The Battle for Warsaw***. This 50-minute documentary produced by Wanda Koscia features an interview with her own mother who was a participant at age 16.

Afterward we will have the opportunity to hear from Cleveland resident **Halina Junak**. In 1943, Junak joined the Underground Resistance. For her efforts she was arrested, tortured, taken to a prison camp by the Russian Army and sentenced to death. She was treated like a criminal and her captors tried to break her spirit, but she persevered and was released ten years later. Finally, Junak received her freedom when she immigrated to the United States in 1960. Her story became the subject of the book *Null and Void* in 2008.



*A reception will follow. This event is free and open to the public.
For more information call 330-646-4082.*