

From the Testimony of Bernard Mayer Describing the First Few Weeks Under Nazi Rule

Q: Do you remember when the war began?

A: I remember distinctly, yes. That was in June in 1941. We heard that the Germans, it was a Sunday morning when the Germans attacked Russia. We were very much surprised. Chaos became in our town. My brother was away on vacation at that time. He had difficulty coming back because all the transportation completely stopped. We just didn't know what to do with ourselves. Within a few days, the Germans came and here we were. We were with the Germans. Within a few days, a couple of days later, they came around our house and they dragged my brother out to do some work, some labor. We didn't know what to think. I was at that time a youngster and I was home. Within a few weeks, they notified us in the Judenrat that we need to wear white armbands and also they notified us that we have to take all the furs, radios and jewelry, all the precious things that anyone had, they had to bring it to the, I think it was the Gestapo or there was a building in town to bring it.

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