

## Chapter four

# The Supposed Camp

### A. The Three Who Were One

As mentioned in the introduction, there is uncertainty regarding the date of establishment and duration of the Jewish camp at the HASAG-Apparatebau factory.

In the Polish *Encyclopaedic Informer*, under the entry for “Częstochowa”, five HASAG camps are listed near the factories:

- Apparatebau,
- Raków,
- Pelcery,
- Warta and
- Częstochowianka.<sup>1</sup>

This error has been repeated many times in books, various records, etc. It also appears in Irmgard Seidel’s article on “Recruitment of Concentration Camp Prisoners in HASAG Factories 1944-1945”.<sup>2</sup> The error was corrected in the book *Death in Yellow*, where the list of armament factories in the Radom District on 30<sup>th</sup> June 30 1943 lists two HASAG factories in Częstochowa where Jews worked: Apparatebau and the Raków Foundry.<sup>3</sup> There is no mention of Pelcery. The “Warthe-Werk” factory was in the construction stages and the “Częstochowianka” factory had not yet partially become a HASAG factory.

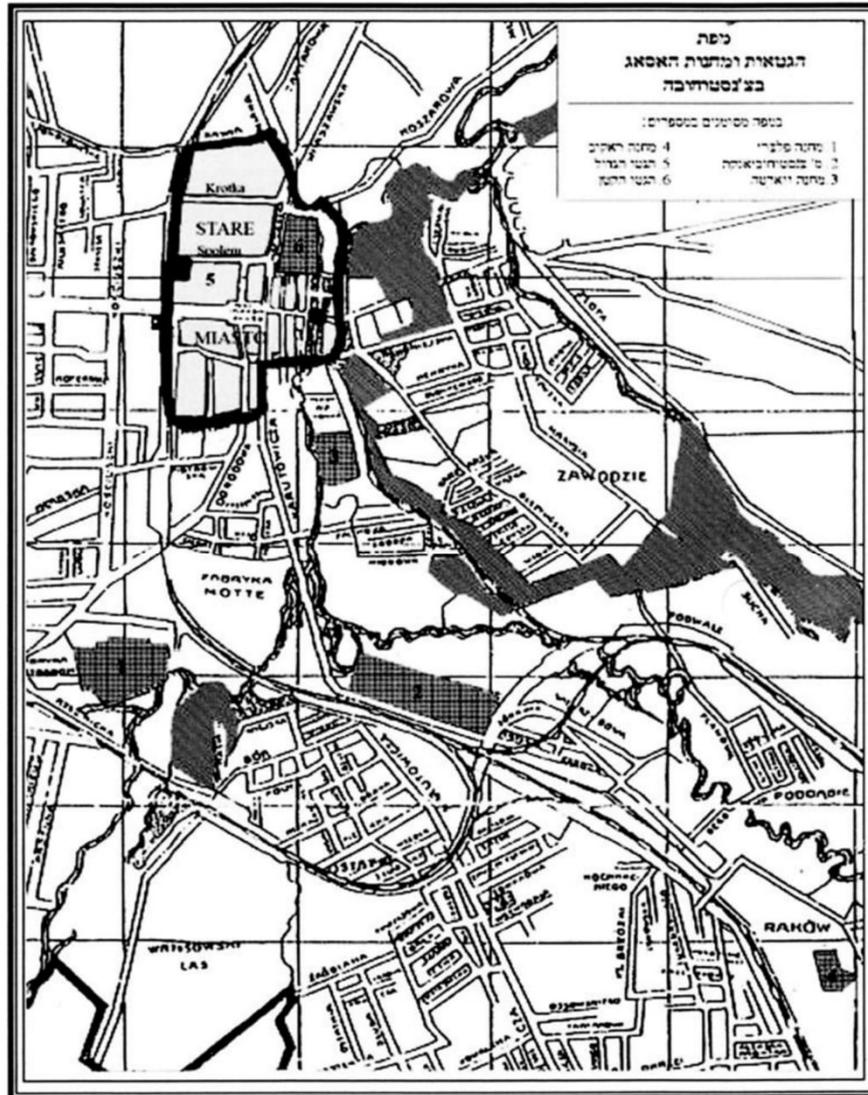
Already in the second chapter, the process of the transformation of the “Pelcery” factory into an *Apparatebau* is described, meaning that the reference is to the same place, on whose territory one camp was established, the HASAG-Apparatebau camp. This name was not familiar to many Jews, and they continued to call the factory and the camp Pelcery or HASAG-Pelcery.

---

<sup>1</sup> Obozy hitlerowskie na ziemiach polskich 1939-1945, (Warsaw: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1979)

<sup>2</sup> Irmgard Seidel, Der Einsatz von KZ-Haeftlingen in den Werken der Hasag 1944/45, in: Leipzig Permoserstrasse, p. 86

<sup>3</sup> Felicja Karay: *Death Comes in Yellow, Skarżysko-Kamienna Slave Labor Camp*, (Amsterdam: Harwood Academic Publishers, 1996) p. 53. Polish researcher Józef Marszałek also does not refer to the “storage” period between September and December 1942 as a separate camp; see: Józef Marszałek: *Obozy pracy w Generalnym Gubernatorstwie w latach 1939-1945*, (Lublin, Państwowe Muzeum na Majdanku, 1998), pp. 97, 141



Map of the Ghettos and HASAG Camps in Częstochowa

Why then was the mistake made and perpetuated with two camps?

The reason lies in three stages of housing the Jewish workers of the factory:

**First stage: “The warehouse” at the Apparatebau factory,**

- from September to the end of December 1942.

At this stage, more than a thousand Jews, mostly men, were brought to the factory premises and held in the factory halls under temporary “warehouse” conditions. Among them was a group that worked at the Raków foundry and returned to sleep in Apparatebau in the evening. This “storage” ended in December 1942 and did not last until January 1945, as was written in the *Informer* and other sources.

**Second stage: Living in the “Small Ghetto”,**

- which officially appeared as a forced labour camp for Jews in Częstochowa.

All the Jewish workers of Apparatebau and Raków were transferred there in December 1942. Every day, they went to work in their factories and, after work, they returned to the “Small Ghetto” to spend the night.

**Stage Three: Establishment of the HASAG-Apparatebau Labour Camp.**

- following the liquidation of the “Small Ghetto” in June 1943,

A permanent labour camp was established on the grounds of the Apparatebau factory, to which the workers, who had previously lived in the ghetto, were transferred. This camp existed until its liberation in January 1945. However, since it concerns the same people who worked at the same workplace, its history began in September 1942.