

Braland

The Landau brothers' metal factory was on ul. Krótka. It was part of the *Braland* firm¹ and played a similar role as that of *Metalurgia*. As soon as the Germans entered, a trustee was put in charge of the factory, and aluminium spoons and forks were manufactured. In the factory was a large yard, which was sown with potatoes. During the period of the great starvation, the workers alleviated their need with the fruits of the soil, which they themselves had worked.

The workers were billeted there during the period of the "resettlements", and there were a great many children and elderly folk hiding out in various bunkers. Before the barracked Jews were transferred to the "Small Ghetto", a selection was carried out. Degenhardt and the SS took away a large number of Jews to their deaths.

The workers left the "Small Ghetto" for work in the morning and returned in the evening. Work at *Braland* began at nine o'clock, but they would already leave the "Small Ghetto" for work at seven. The workers felt better in the factory, because there was something similar to a communal life there. They prayed every morning with a *minyán* [prayer quorum] and there was a collective kosher kitchen there. Poles would come, bringing products for high prices and buying different clothing items that the workers brought with them from the "Small Ghetto" to sell.

The atmosphere in the factory was not only comradely, but even brotherly. The foremen were the Landau brothers, who comprehended the obligations and duties that lay upon them in taking care of their brethren, who were being tormented by bitter Fate. There was also a Polish foreman, who was a leftist and treated the Jewish workers well. The Landau brothers were not only active in the religious field, organising public prayers and a collective kosher kitchen, but they also supported the underground movement in every possible manner. They spent money, and grenades were manufactured, from the materials that were to be found in the factory from years before, for the underground movement to use in the struggle against the sanguinary foe.

Through the *Braland* factory, there was contact with the outside world. Liaison people from the underground movement would arrive there from different localities and hold secret discussions and give out instructions. If someone wanted to leave the "Small Ghetto", he went to work in the morning with the *Braland* group and, from there, disappeared.

When the "Small Ghetto" was liquidated, the factory, as a Jewish workplace, was also liquidated. The eldest Landau brother was shot. The other brothers were sent away to HASAG-Pelcery, along with all the other workers. One of them died of typhus in the HASAG hospital. The youngest brother worked in the sewage system and the two older ones - unable to live under the regime in HASAG-Pelcery - made use of their connections and were transferred to the Raków ironworks. The conditions were bad there, too, but the fact that there were better possibilities and chances to escape and join the partisans made up for it.

¹ [TN: There were also branches in Kraków, Łódź and Warsaw (source: Virtual Shtetl).]