

The Fifth Resettlement

During the period of the deportations, a terrible hunger reigned. In normal ghetto times, a trade in contraband was conducted. Quite a number of Poles did business with the ghetto on a large scale. They purchased various goods from the Jewish dealers and brought in food. All the Jewish groups that went to various workplaces and factories bought food from Poles and, in this manner, the ghetto was supplied with provisions. Once they started liquidating the ghetto, all business connections were severed, because the Jews were not let out to go to work and the ghetto was heavily guarded by the SS. Thus, no Pole had access to the ghetto, and they did not risk entering it.

There was the danger that all the Jews would *en masse* of starvation, as there was nothing to be bought and no rations were distributed. The arch-sadist and murderer of Jews, Degenhardt, issued a directive to the effect that all the surviving Jews were to be given half a kilogram of bread and potatoes as a “gift” for the “resettlement”, in order for them to be able to withstand the “journey”. The following day, the distribution of bread and potatoes was conducted by the Jewish police from the first precinct I Aleja 6. Upon receiving the bread and potatoes, each one was told to report willingly, on the next morning, for the “resettlement”.

It was then *Simchas Torah* and the small number of surviving Umaner Chassidim, the so-called “*dead Chassidim*”¹, celebrated the tragic and last *Simchas Torah* in their *shtiebel* on ul. Garncarska, singing “*Today, today life, tomorrow, tomorrow dead*”². The day following *Simchas Torah*, the fifth and last deportation of Czestochowa Jews to Treblinka took place.

At the same time, selections were also carried out at the assembly points in *Metalurgia* and in the Landau and Ickowicz factories. Roll-calls were made there - everyone was forced to attend and they selected the weak, elderly and children to be sent away to die.

The bitter fate also did not bypass the male and female workers, who had gone from the *Metalurgia* to clear out the [liquidated] dwellings. At lunch time, when no one was thinking that anything bad [was about to happen], the Jewish police called all the workers together (the Polish police and the Ukrainians came to assist the Jewish police). Everyone was concentrated at ul. Nadrzeczna 64. Oberleutnant³ Felix Rohn made a selection in the blink of an eye, sending all the older men and women off to their deaths.

In October, a special operation was carried out, directed at bakers. There were eleven baker families, who numbered forty individuals in total. Only three baker families were allowed to remain: Monowicz, Ajlenberg and Windman. Leon Owieczko, ul. from Narutowicza 3, and his wife Dorota, as well as the sisters Guta and Bruche Secemska, were saved by chance. The master baker Windman was later shot on ul. Garibaldi during the liquidation of the “Small Ghetto”.

¹ [TN: See above, p.30.]

² [TN: In transcribed Hebrew in the original, translated by the author into Yiddish in parentheses. Although this Chassidic group is known for its numerous songs, we have not been able to find any mention of this specific one in any sources.]

³ [TN: Oberleutnant (OF-1a) is the highest lieutenant officer rank in the armed forces of Germany.]

Thus ended the mass-murder of Częstochowa Jewry, which began on the day after *Yom Kippur*, 22nd September 1942, and ended in October. Following the mass-murder, a new tragic chapter begins.