

## Ul. Garibaldiego

One of the streets in Częstochowa, which formed part of the "Big Ghetto", bore the fine name of the Italian national hero and freedom fighter from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Garibaldi.

The Nazi authorities in Częstochowa chose this particular street as storage for all the items which they stole from the Jews. All the Jewish possessions, property and goods, stood freely for the Nazis to rob. The murderers took out, on pallets, all the goods from the Jewish shops and dwellings and drove them away to ul. Garibaldiego, where everything was sorted and stored. Each house stored different things, with each type of goods sorted separately, for example: men's suits, men's coats, men's linen, men's *konfekcja* [ready-made clothing], women's dresses, women's coats, women's linen, women's *konfekcja*, chandeliers, sewing machines, electrical appliances, books, pictures, metal, copper, silver, gold and so on.

Each building, which consisted of several dozen rooms, was a storeroom for one specific type of article. The *Möbellager* workers made all the necessary arrangements there.

Each storeroom held hundreds of thousands of units of that one given article. Once the possessions of the deported Jews had been sorted, the stolen goods were sent off to Germany.

Several hundred people - men and women - worked in the storerooms. It very often occurred that a worker found a gold coin or some other valuable object and took it with him. If the SS men found it on him during a search, they immediately shot him. Such incidents happened frequently. Every day, the workers of Garibaldiego brought different things back with them. Labourers, who worked in other workplaces and factories where Poles also worked, would take these things to sell. With the money, foodstuffs were purchased from these same Poles. This is how the "Small Ghetto" was fed.

Those, who worked on Garibaldiego, were called "*fasownikes*"<sup>1</sup>. Those, who supervised the work, were the arch-murderers of Jews, who were in charge of all the killings - namely: Degenhardt, Ibischer, Rohn, Kulfisch, Dzerzan, Schott, Hantke, Schimmel, Hiller, Passow, Sapport and others.

The chief Jewish foremen were Markowicz and Rotsztajn. Markowicz had great possibilities, having storerooms worth billions at his disposal. He struck huge deals with high-ranking German officials, who made him a false officer's permit allowing him, as a supposed German officer, to cross the Swiss border. Rotsztajn planned something similar, but he did not succeed - he was shot before he could carry out his plan.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: As the author explains in the chapter "Częstochower Folklore" (p.221), the verb used in the Częstochowa Jewish jargon in ref. to the act of carrying away things one found in the storerooms and taking them to sell in the "Small Ghetto" was "*fasewen*" (the origin is unknown to us), thus those engaged in "*fasewen*" were called "*fasownikes*".]