

## Josl Kantor

He was born in Częstochowa in 1917. When he was still a pupil, he was a member of *Ha'Shomer Ha'Tzair*, where he was educated in the spirit of a pioneer and a sportsman, which was expressed in his conduct, external appearance and the way he dressed. His greatest aspiration was to make it to the Land of Israel but, due to some mishap, his plan was not realised before the War.

When the Nazi war broke out, in the winter of 1939, he attempted to travel to the Soviet territories. However, he was unsuccessful. The Germans captured him along with hundreds of others and flung them into railway wagons, saying that they would transport them to the Soviet territories. But, in reality, everyone was beaten and taken away to Kraków. From there, he returned to Częstochowa, badly beaten and embittered. Predicting imminent destruction and doom, he turned into a raging, restless man and prepared himself and others for the tragic and heroic tomorrow.

In the period of the "Big Ghetto", he placed himself at the service of the pioneering underground movement, conducting scouting-educational activity amidst the pioneering youth.

When the "Small Ghetto" was established, he became one of the main organisers and leaders of the armed resistance movement. The friends, who had known him from before the War and from the "Big Ghetto" could not recognise him. He had reached the highest level of lust for battle and readiness to sacrifice his life for the honour of the Jewish people. On the day of the liquidation of the "Small Ghetto", he fell in the battle of resistance.