

Metalurgia

The *Metalurgia* company's metal smelting plant played a large role in the ironworks branch. For many decades, it belonged to Jews. In the last years, the main shareholders were Szmul Goldsztajn, Rozenberg and Szwarc. After the Germans marched in, the factory was liquidated and the Germans began taking away all the valuable machinery.

During the time of the ghetto, when a directive was issued to the effect that everyone needed to be employed and have a work card, Engineer Goldman, the former authorised signatory of the Gnaszyńska [Jutowa] Manufaktura, under the orders of the *Judenrat*, established in *Metalurgia* an entire array of workshops for different professions.

That is where the Jews, who were left over from the selections, would be barracked - the fit-for-work Jews, who were sent to *Metalurgia* were supposedly safe there. Many Jews, who felt that their status was "unsafe", bought off German guards and also Jewish policemen in order to get inside *Metalurgia*, in the hope that, in this manner, they would be saved. But the disappointment was quick to come. Every couple of days, selections were carried out there and, each time, large groups were led away from there to holding facilities, from whence they were sent on the transports to Treblinka.

Until the "Small Ghetto" was established, the [working] Jews were barracked there. Every day, they went from there to various jobs. Those who were left in the factory were not sure that they would live, because a selection could take place at any time. Those who did not leave for work in the morning found themselves in an incessant wrangle between life and death.

From *Metalurgia*, 1,500 Jews were sent to the HASAG firm, to work in rebuilding the huge Pelcery factory, which had belonged to a French company, into a munitions plant. In October 1942, the Jews of *Metalurgia* were marched into the "Small Ghetto" in tight formation. They numbered 3,000 people.

During the period of the "Small Ghetto", *Metalurgia* had a German trustee and the factory functioned, manufacturing metal products for the German authorities. Jews from the "Small Ghetto" were employed in *Metalurgia*.