

Rozenberg

At the beginning of the War, Rozenberg, like many other Jewish refugees, came to Częstochowa. He bore a certificate stating that he was deaf and dumb. He had been born in Będzin and was about forty years old. Once the Jewish police had been established, it turned out that he could speak and hear. He became a policeman and, immediately, gained notoriety as a denouncer, bringing information to *Oberleutnant* Roon.

The Jewish population was vigorously terrorised by him. It sufficed for him to report someone to *Oberleutnant* Roon for that person to be dragged out of bed at night and shot.

During the period of the *akcje*, Jews would hide in different hiding places. Directly following the *akcje*, there were searches for those in hiding and those found were shot on the spot. Rozenberg would go about with the SS men, calling out, “*Yidn*, come out of the hideouts! You have already been saved - it is all over now!” In this manner, he would fool the Jews into emerging from the hiding places, whereupon they were beaten murderously and [then] shot.

He would conduct manhunts for children and elderly folk with the greatest cruelty, in order to hand them over to the murderers of Jews to be shot. He also “excelled” in round-ups to capture people to be sent away to different camps and to local workplaces.

He was also the one who reported the existence of an underground movement and gave away the bunkers of munitions and clothes. Rozenberg sensed that he had begun to play with fire and began avoiding the alleyways of the “Small Ghetto”, where he felt like an absolute ruler.

[One day,] a Jewish girl, who worked as a cleaner in the house of Roon, the murderer of Jews, notified the underground movement that Rozenberg had settled with him that he would come over on the following day to give him information.

The underground movement immediately decided to render him harmless. In an artful manner, he was tricked into emerging from his dwelling on ul. Kozia and was taken over to ul. Nadrzečna, to the attic above the premises of the former *Machzikei Ha'Das* religious school.

He was read the indictment, and the execution was carried out by the following ten members of the underground movement, led by Heniek Pejsak: Hari Potaszewicz, Pinek Samsonowicz, Dawid Altman, Ajzyk Diamand, Kuba Kasriel, Benjamin Erenfryd, Zyskind Szmulewicz, Abram Czarny, Lajzer Szydłowski and Josl Kantor.

They made a noose out of bedsheets, wrapped it around Rozenberg's neck and strangled him. In one part of the attic, there were a great many feathers from bedding. They hid him amongst the feathers. Following the execution, two members of the underground movement, Abram Czarny and Zyskind Szmulewicz, stayed there to stand guard and not let anyone into the attic. The others dispersed.

Some of the people living in the building could not understand the reason why they were not being allowed into the attic. They made a commotion, saying that burglars were there. Their

proof was that, a couple of days earlier, one of the tenants had been burgled and now the thieves had returned.

Fortunately, the Jewish policeman who came was connected with the underground movement. He conducted an investigation, as it were, and pacified the tenants with the argument that the two people, who were in the attic, had not gone to work, and that they were hiding because there was to be a round-up directly. The tenants calmed down.

The high command held a deliberation and decided to bury the body during the night. A hole was dug in a bunker in that same courtyard. The indictment and the motives were written on a piece of paper and placed inside a bottle, which was buried along with the traitor.

In order for the event not to cause repressions on part of the German authorities as regards the "Small Ghetto", a rumour was spread to the effect that Rozenberg had fled the "Small Ghetto" and was hiding with a Catholic priest.