

## Rywka Glanc

Rywka Glanc was born, in 1917, in a small *shtetl* in the Kielce Province. She tore away from the small-*shtetl* environment and joined the Freiheit<sup>1</sup> [Zionist] pioneering youth movement, [where] she and other were educated in the Zionist-Socialist spirit. Having lost her parents, she travelled off to “*hachshara*” [training], to prepare herself for immigration to the Land of Israel. She quickly gained notoriety for her organisational capabilities and devotion to the movement and, as a result, she was kept from travelling away, in order to lead the *kibbutzim* movement in Poland. For five years, Rywka Glanc headed the “*hachshara*” points and, for a long time, she was active in the Borochov *kibbutz* in Łódź until the outbreak of the War.

She settled in Warsaw, where she actively worked along with Cywia Lubetkin, Frumka Plotnicka and others. Having an Aryan appearance, she was entrusted with the duties of courier. She travelled throughout towns and *shtetls*, awakening and encouraging, organising the pioneering movement and taking with her the illegal literature that was being published during wartime. On her journeys, she experienced tragic moments due to the constant searches, but always managed to wriggle out of these perilous situations thanks to her quick thinking.

In 1941, the *Arbeiterrat* organised *kibbutzim* in Częstochowa. The *Ha'Chalutz* Central in Warsaw delegated Rywka Glanc to be in charge of the *Dror kibbutz*. Upon arriving in Częstochowa, she became the one who set the tone of the activities in the *kibbutz*, awakening towards her the warmest sympathies from all the members for her comradely conduct, her guileless manner and, especially, due to her dedicated work for the *kibbutz's* interests. She also put herself in close contact with the *Arbeiterrat*, which she viewed as the workforce's greatest communal power, and the only one who helped solve the *kibbutz's* day-to-day problems. Upon the request of the *Arbeiterrat's* leadership, she became a permanent co-worker of the secretariat.

When the Nazi authorities began the operations to exterminate the Jews, Rywka Glanc received a message from the *Ha'Chalutz* Central to organise an armed resistance movement. She called a whole series of meetings of the active figures of the League [for a Working Land of Israel] at the *kibbutz's* premises at ul. Przemysłowa 2, at which she read Cywia Lubetkin's reports about the annihilation of Jews and the call to resistance.

All these reports made an overwhelming impression on everyone, but the broader masses did not believe the information regarding the exterminations and, due to a lack of weapons, the plans were not put into action during the period of the “Big Ghetto”.

During the time of the *akcje*, when a fierce hunger reigned, Rywka Glanc busied herself with procuring food for the *kibbutz*. In the resettlement *akcja* on ul. Przemysłowa, Rywka Glanc was taken away to the Treblinka transport. Thanks to his selfless efforts, Bernard Kurland managed to have her taken off the railway wagon.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: “Freedom”; this movement is often mentioned by its Hebrew name, “Dror”.]

Following the liquidation of the "Big Ghetto" once more, she began with a group of devoted members to organise the *kibbutz* in the building at ul. Garncarska 72, which became the centre of communal life and the underground movement and influenced the entire population of the "Small Ghetto". Rywka Glanc stood at the head of the *kibbutz* and evoked the greatest affection, admiration and trust. When she showed herself in the little alleyways of the "Small Ghetto", everyone pointed at her, "That is Rywka Glanc!" She always wore a white blouse, a leather jacket and tall brown boots - she was a model of cleanliness and simple elegance.

She had a huge influence on her co-workers in the worst and most desperate of times, due to her unchanging equilibrium and tranquil manner. Her smile, on the outside, had an effect on everyone - even if, in the depths of her heart, she was hurting and bleeding for the tragedy of the Jewish people and roaring for revenge. She, therefore, worked day and night in order to make preparations for the definitive battle with the enemy - the Nazi forces.

At the same time, she [also] carried out the instructions of the Central in Warsaw, travelling about as an "Aryan" and transporting weapons from the Częstochowa "Small Ghetto" to the underground movement in Będzin.

During the liquidation of the "Small Ghetto", she fell in battle along with an entire array of her comrades. Rywka Glanc was one of the most heroic daughters produced by the Jewish people and the pioneering movement.