

Selections in HASAG-Pelcery

On 20th July 1943, the foremen were ordered to provide lists of the workers without whom the factory could manage. In the afternoon, the foremen went about holding the lists and writing down names. Those listed were later to be called to be taken away to be shot - that is how the selection was to be carried out. This plan did not work out and, as a result, the "normal" procedure of selection was employed. At nine in the evening, commotion and turmoil broke out. The Jewish policemen, with their wives and children, were summoned to the "colony" for a rollcall. It immediately became known that there would be a general rollcall of all the Jewish workers. People ran to Bernard Kurland to ask him what it meant. He responded, "It is not good. The bloodthirsty Nazi authorities demand further victims. They want to spill more blood." At ten in the night, the general selection began.

The foremen and *kapos* prepared their groups for the tragic march-past. The parade ground, which was in the street by the recalibration department, was intensely lit. The selection was conducted by the factory's operations managers and the chief foremen. Eng. Franzke participated in a particularly active manner. Political director Lüth, the *Werkschutz* leader Klemm, his deputy Stieglitz and many *Werkschutz* men were present during the selection. Those, who had been picked out to die, were taken by the *Werkschutz* into the hall, where the toolmaking department was later situated. Those, who were to remain at work, were taken to the alleyway leading to the infantry department. The inmates gave this alley the name "Selekcyjna".

Following the selection of the day-shift, the turn of the night-shift came. The selection of the night-shift was held in the work halls.

All those selected were transferred from the hall to a bunker, which was called "the death bunker". On the following morning, Bernard Kurland was also taken out of the factory.

On that same day, on 20th July, under the pretext of transferring them to HASAG-Pelcery, there was a selection on ul. Garibaldiego and they were, in fact, brought on 21st July to HASAG. They were not let inside the factory, but were held in the "colony".

The Nazi authorities employed the most terrifying cruelties in relation to those selected. Those, who engaged in these sadistic deeds, were the *Werkschutz* leader Klemm, the foreman Opel (known as "Morsz") and an entire array of *Werkschutz* men. The selection cost the lives of 400 Jewish victims - 300 from HASAG-Pelcery and 100 from ul. Garibaldiego.

The reason for the murder of Bernard Kurland was as follows. A Jewish girl, who was fancied by an SS officer, had confidentially told [him] that, during the entire "Small Ghetto" period, Bernard Kurland had collaborated with the underground movement.

The annihilation of the entire Jewish police force is explained by the fact that Degenhardt had found out about the subterranean bunker which the underground movement had constructed under the building of the Jewish police on ul. Kozią in the "Small Ghetto".