

## Other Barracks Sites

During the transition period, viz. from the bloody liquidation of the “Big Ghetto” to the establishment of the “Small Ghetto”, the Jews who were assigned to work were billeted in their workplaces. Living conditions there were horrific. There was no way one could wash oneself or change a shirt. There was nothing to eat and most of the barracked Jews lay down on concrete floors after a long and hard day of work. No one took off his clothes, because there was nothing to put underneath one and nothing with which to cover oneself. The hunger and need were tormenting. The suffering of the body and the morale ruined all of them.

The Częstochowa Jews were barracked in the following locations:

- **Częstochowianka**<sup>1</sup>, a textile factory that belonged to a French company;
- **Braland**, a Jewish metal factory owned by the Landau brothers on ul. Krótka;
- **Metalurgia**, a large Jewish metal factory, which was the main assembly point was;
- the **Möbellager** [furniture camp] at ul. Wilsona 22, which had been an old Jewish firm that produced celluloid combs. This factory had belonged to the Wajnbergs and, in the last days, to Lewkowicz;
- **HASAG-Pelcery** - a French wool factory, which the Germans turned into a munitions factory;
- the **Gestapo** [headquarters?];
- the **Ostbahnhof** - a German-managed railway;
- **Giesche** coal transport - a German firm;
- **Elektrownia** - a municipal enterprise;
- **PBI Papierbekleidungsindustrie** [Paper Clothing Industry] - everything there was made out of paper: suits, handbags, handbaskets, hats and various other articles;
- the **Luftwaffe** - a military workplace on ul. Barbara 32;
- **ENRO** - a Jewish metal foundry and glue factory;
- **Strug** paper mill - a Jewish factory that produced wooden haberdashery, whose owner was Leon Kopiński, and
- **Golgota** - a gathering point in the cinema next to Jasna Góra, where 700 Jews, men and women, were billeted under the worst conditions for six weeks.

Selections were made every few days and it seemed that, bit by bit, everyone would be sent away to the gas chambers or to be shot. In some individuals, these events caused depression and made them wish to bring an end to the unbearable pain and to be redeemed through death. In others, on the other hand, it strengthened the will to fight against the killings.

The first nucleus of the “Small Ghetto’s” subsequent underground movement was formed there. The brothers Izrael and Alter Szyldhaus, Juda Cymerman, Abram Wirsztel, Josef and Dawid Kantor, Lajb Zelewer and Cwi Rozenwajn belonged to this group. On their way to work, the group were able to establish contact with the emissaries of the *Ha’Chalutz* Central in

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: Aka “Société Textile La Czenstochovienne”.]

Warsaw who were, at the time, in the *Aryan side* of Częstochowa. They were Tosia Altman, Lajzer Geler and Szlama Kac.

In all the [aforementioned] places, the Jews were stringently guarded and very badly treated. Every few days, searches were conducted and everything the Jews had was taken from them. In a short time, everyone withered and went about in filthy, torn clothes.

Once the "Small Ghetto" had been set up, the barracks points were liquidated. The Jewish workers were relocated to the "Small Ghetto". They would be taken from there every day to work, guarded by *Werkschutz* men.