

Częstochowa's [Surviving] Remnant

The prisoners in the Częstochowa HASAG camps were liberated between 16th and 17th January 1945. The Nazi regime did not manage to evacuate them to the concentration camps and, thanks to the Soviet army's victorious march forward, 5,200 Jews left the camps to a new, normal and free life. Physically spent and broken in morale, those liberated began to organise a community upon the ruins of the once-blooming economic and communal Jewish life. A committee was formed which, in place of the once numerous institutions, established those of an educational and charitable character - which were the most necessary.

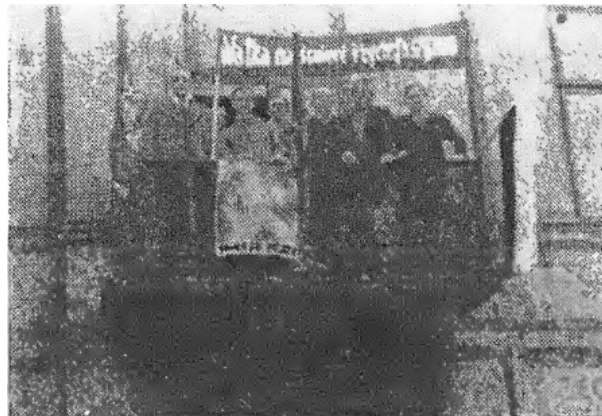


Photo №25: The committee in Częstochowa.



Photo №26: The schoolmistress, Mrs Wajnman, with the young children who were saved. The liberated children, who had been hidden in various bunkers during the Nazi times, march with their teacher to the former "Small Ghetto".

These institutions are the following:

- a children's home
- an invalids home
- a health department
- a workers' restaurant
- the religious *kehilla* building
- a religious home for Jewish girls

- a *yeshiva*, and
- a *mikveh*.

Fifty orphaned children are studying in the children's home. They are being educated there in the spirit of a free [viz. secular] people.



***Photo № 27: The first sprouting of communal life - the first celebration.
The chairman of the committee, L. Brener, is delivering a speech. Those sitting at the Executive table include the Chief Rabbi of the Polish army, Antek¹ (a representative of the PPR) and others.***



Photo № 28: The Nazi authorities blew up the houses of the underground movement.

¹ [TN: Codename for Icek Cukierman.]



Photo № 29: The liberated Jews march into the area of the “Small Ghetto”.

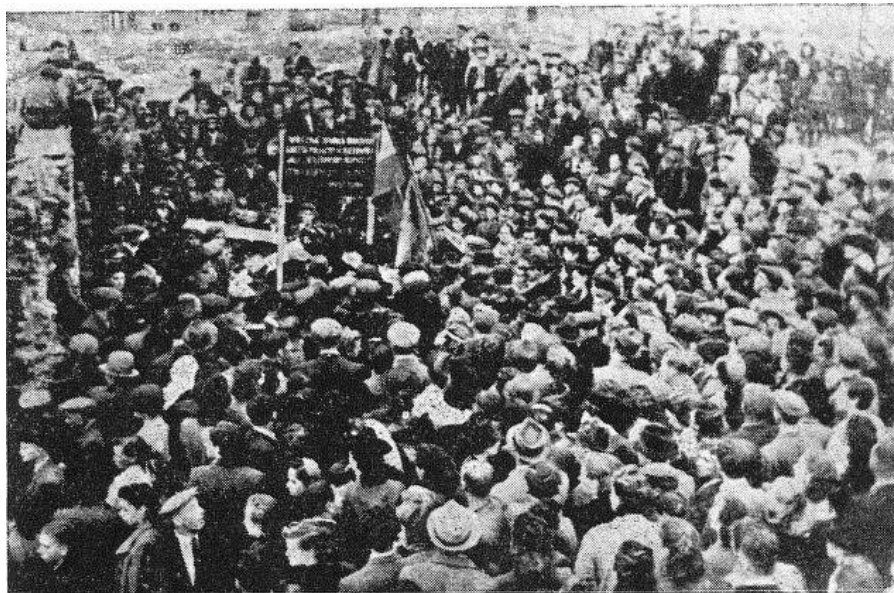


Photo № 30

Immediately following the Liberation, the Jewish Committee, under the leadership of the chairman, Liber Brener, sought out the graves of the fallen heroic Jewish combatants and interred them with honour.



Photo № 31: Exhumation of the 27 martyrs shot on 4th January 1943 - the coffins of Mendel Fiszlewicz and Izio Fajner are being carried. The place, where the six partisan fighters of the Möbellager who were killed on 19th March 1943, were buried was [also] sought out.

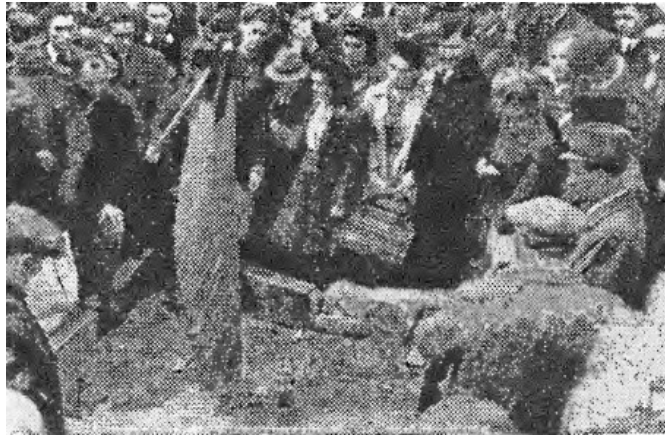


Photo № 32: Zysman Krauze, the father of the slain partisan Janek Krauze, is saying Kaddish. To his right, stands the representative of the PPR, Adv. Lowa Baum and, to his left, stands a representative of the Soviet army. The Soviet authorities officially took part in the exhumation ceremony.



Photo № 33: Members of the underground movement and the surviving family members of the fallen combatants.



Photo № 34: A group of surviving members of the ŻOB in Częstochowa. From the left: Antek's [female²] secretary, Heniek Wiernik, Marzej Krauze, Cesia Windman, Antek, Nacia Wiernik, Różka Herc, Abram Czarny, Mania Szlezynger and Ajzyk Diamant.

² [TN: Although the word used in the original is "sekretarn", which in Yiddish is the plural form of secretary, it is more likely a misprint of the word "sekretarin", or female secretary, as surely not all the people in the photo were Antek's secretaries.]



Photo № 35: Jewish life is bound up with sorrow and tears.



Photo № 36: The old Częstochowa Rabbi, Elia-Nyssen Wajsler, Edelist, and the military Chief Rabbi and a military rabbi of the Polish army at a funeral ceremony.



Photo № 37: The temporary memorial plaque.

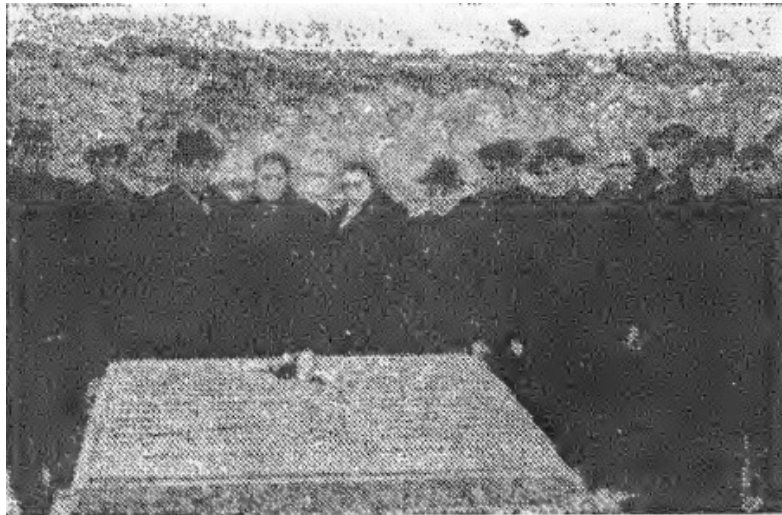


Photo № 38: The tombstone on the grave of the six fallen heroes. The inscriptions are in Yiddish and Polish, and read:

“Here rest six young combatants who fell in the fight for freedom on the day 19th March 1943.

***Flamenbaum, Moniek – 21 years old
Herszberg, Olek – 26 years old
Krauze, Janek – 23 years old***

***Rychter, Heniek – 19 years old
Rozenblat, Jerzyk – 18 years old
Szajn, Szlamek – 23***

Honoured be their memory!”





*Photo No. 39: The Nazi regime burnt and destroyed all the synagogues and houses of worship.
Prayer service are held under the open sky.*



*Photo № 40: The Old Synagogue in ruins
- the arrows indicate the places where Hebrew inscriptions can still be seen.*

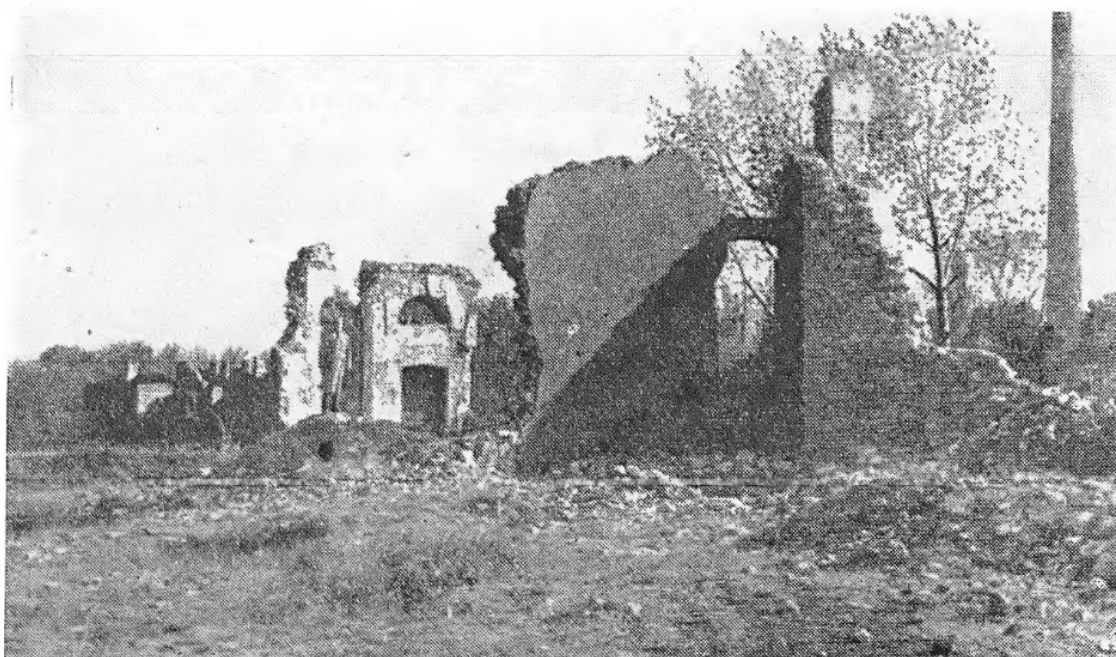


Photo № 41: The destroyed synagogue on ul. Nadrzeczna 50.

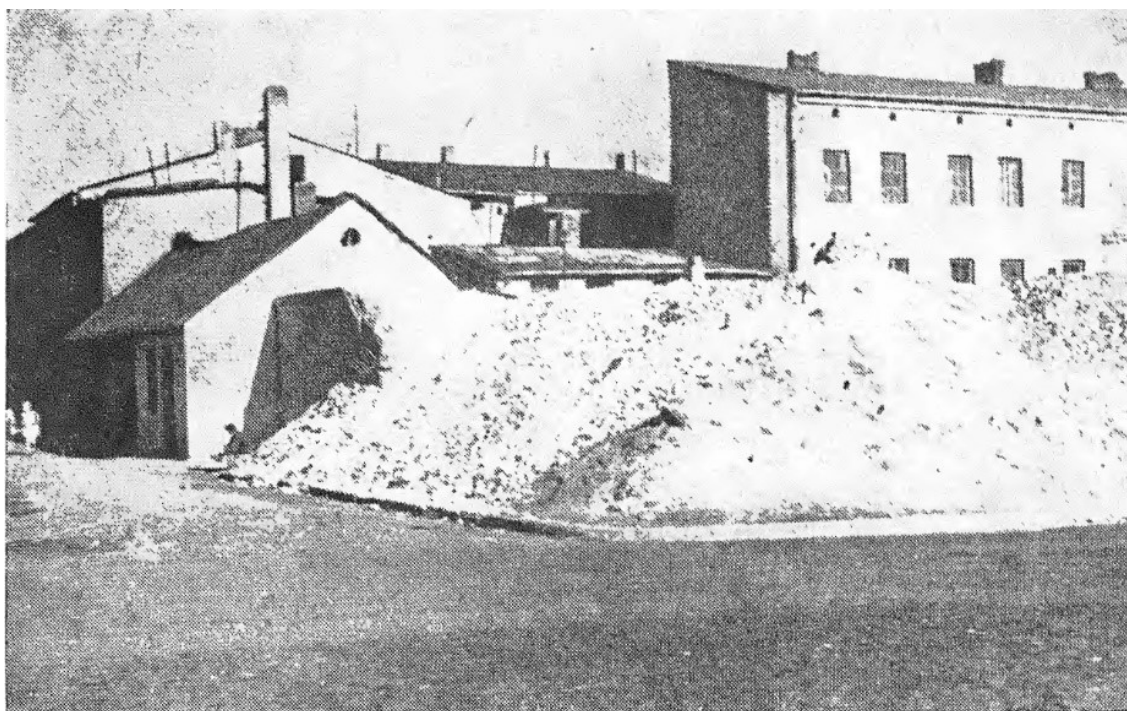


Photo № 42: The ruins of the Old Synagogue on ul. Mirowska

As not all of the liberated Jews in Częstochowa were natives of Częstochowa. An exodus ensued in the search for relatives, and many left "the City of Slaughter". Some left for the US or British Zone in Germany, for Austria, Czechoslovakia and Italy. A small number also managed to make it to the Land of Israel, America and Canada. In America and Canada, there

are *Częstochower landsmannschaften*. In Częstochowa, there are currently 1,200 Jews. The majority are employed in their professions and work in the Jewish cooperatives that the committee established, namely shoemaking, tailoring, metalwork, cabinetmaking and hairdressing.

There were 11,000 Jews in the Częstochowa HASAG camps. On 15th and 16th January 1945, the Germans evacuated 5,800 people. The statistics regarding the 5,200 liberated Jews in Częstochowa are as follows: 2,442 had been dragged there from various localities in Poland, 1,518 were Częstochowa residents and 1,240 were born in Częstochowa.

The liberation of the *Częstochower landsleit* in the German concentration camps occurred on various dates: in Bergen-Belsen, on 15th April 1945 by the British; in Buchberg near Wolfratshausen, on Tuesday, 1st May (Lag Ba'Omer) by the Americans, and the women in the Ravensbrück camp on 5th May 1945 by the Soviets.

The *Częstochower landsleit* constitute an organised part of the general *Surviving Remnant* and they are members of the Central Committee in Poland and in Germany, in the US Zone – the case is the same in the British Zone. At the moment, there are 1,200 *Częstochowers* in the US Zone and 200 in the British Zone.

The *Częstochowers* are organised into a *landsmannschaft* in the Federation for Polish Jews in the American Zone. The seat of the Central Administration of the *Częstochower Landsmannschaft* is in Munich. The Central Administration has branches in the following localities: Munich, Landsberg, Feldafing, Föhrenwald, Geiselhöring, Regensburg, Zeilsheim, Pegnitz, Frankfurt, Bamberg, Pottenstein, Schwabach, Falkenhof, Marktredwitz and other places. The *Częstochowers* in the British Zone live in Bergen-Belsen, Hanover, Celle and other localities.

To mark the fourth anniversary of the liquidation of the "Small Ghetto", a ceremony was held in Feldafing on 26th June 1946 and, on 20th October, there was a large convention and memorial service in Landsberg marking the fourth anniversary of the liquidation of the "Big Ghetto".



Photo № 43: The presidium of the convention of the Częstochower landsleit in the US Zone, which took place on 20th October 1946 in Landsberg in the large "Beit Ichud" theatre hall.

[TN: The banner reads: "Liquidation of the Częstochower Ghetto, from Yom Kippur to Simchas Torah."]

Sitting from left to right:

- 1) Henoch Pradelski, Munich, Chairman of the Federation for Polish Jews in the American Zone;**
- 2) Benjamin Orenstein, Bamberg, representative of the Regional Committee in Franconia and the Editorial Board of "Unser Wort" [Our Word];**
- 3) Grajcar, Munich, the oldest Częstochower landsmann;**
- 4) Adv. M. Goldberg, Heidelberg;**
- 5) Dr Szmul Gringauz, Landsberg, President of the Council of the Central Committee of the liberated Jews in the American Zone and President of the Landsberg [DP] camp;**
- 6) Adv. Eстера Epsztajn, Landsberg, Chairwoman of the Organising Committee;**
- 7) Aron Gelbard, Feldafing;**
- 8) Zajdman, Landsberg, Organising Committee;**
- 9) Zysser Lapidus, Pegnitz;**
- 10) Dr Cwi Kantor, Munich, editor of "Unser Welt" [Our World];**
- 11) Dr J. Dobrzynski, Landsberg, Organising Committee, and**
- 12) Frydenzon, Landsberg, representative of the Editorial Board of "Yiddishe Zeitung" [Jewish Newspaper].**