

## “The White House”

The German powers-that-be put the qualified Jewish workforce to their own use. To this purpose, they created a category of “productive Jews”, which consisted of several dozen individuals. These professionals were installed into a special house at 14 [Aleja] Najświętszej Maryi Panny and they enjoyed special rights. The Jews called this house “The White House”, or “*Czternastka*” (“The Fourteenth”).

These specialists set workshops up in the building, in which they employed the appropriate number of qualified workers. These workshops only worked privately for the German power-holders.

There were the following workshops:

- Men’s tailoring - headed by Pinchas Einhorn
- Military tailoring - Baum
- Military tailoring - Grin
- Ladies’ tailoring - Kac
- Ladies’ garments - Mincer
- Ladies’ seamstresses - Sznicer
- Shoemaking (military boots) - Dorfsgang
- Shoemaking (civilian footwear) - Szydłowski
- Men’s linen and pyjamas - Mrs Parasol
- Ladies’ dressmakers - Orensztejn<sup>1</sup>
- Linen sewers - the Lenkinska sisters
- Embroidery - Rena Waga
- Millinery - Genia Fajgenblat
- Corsets - Sara Frank
- Cabinetmaking - Koniecpoler

The families of the qualified workers, the commander of the Ghetto Police (Parasol) and the teacher Rena Frank, who taught the children of the house’s tenants, also lived in the building. The house was outside the ghetto. Its tenants had special permits to move about in the “Aryan side”.

The *akcja* of 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1942 also did not bypass this house - despite the solemn guarantees and promises on the part of the power-holders that nothing would happen to the families of the professionals. On that tragic day, the *Ausrottungskommando* [Extermination Squad] arrived and made a selection. They took the older people - the parents of the professionals - numbering several dozen individuals, and sent them away with the transport to the gas [chambers and] ovens in Treblinka.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: Not the author himself, who invariably spells his own surname “Orenstein”, and was not yet in Częstochowa at the time; there are other individuals with this surname in the Częstochowa archival records.]

A few weeks prior to the liquidation of the "Small Ghetto", the building was liquidated and the professionals were moved into the "Small Ghetto", to the factory building on ul. Kozia, where they continued working. Once the "Small Ghetto" was liquidated, the professionals were moved to ul. Garibaldi. In 1944, Garibaldi was also liquidated and they were taken to HASAG Pelcery.

"The White House" had an important significance for the underground movement and also for individual Jews, who had escaped from the "Small Ghetto" or who came from the "Aryan side" as liaison people with the underground movement. This happened in the following manner:

The residents of "The White House" were allowed to enter the "Small Ghetto" under the escort of a Jewish policeman. Each time, they were joined by those who had arrived from the "Aryan side" and liaison people with the underground movement. Upon returning, those wishing to exit the "Small Ghetto" would come along. Those, who came with them from the "Small Ghetto", upon arriving at "The White House" which was on the "Aryan side", would disappear unnoticed to carry out the tasks which they had set themselves.