

## The Destruction of the Częstochowa Jewry Statistical Data

It is difficult to ascertain the number of Jews in Częstochowa based on the official municipal tables of the *Judenrat* and the Town Hall.

The illusory opinion, that the Częstochowa ghetto would be left untouched because the majority of the Jews were employed in productive labour, drew to it masses of Jews from the surrounding *shtetls* and also from distant territories.

Almost all the Jews from the nearby smaller localities - such as Mstów, Bodzanów, Wieluń, Koniecpol and Królewska Huta - came to Częstochowa. The *Judenrat's* official statistics state that, in 1940, 3,252 newly-arrived Jews from Działoszyn, Łódź, Kalisz and Kraków officially registered themselves. There were also Jews from Otwock, Warsaw, Lublin, Płock and from territories which had been annexed to the so-called "Third Reich".

The official statistics of the *Judenrat* and the Town Hall do not match. In 1940, 33,693 Jews were registered at the Town Hall, and, in the *Judenrat*, only 32,725. This can be explained by the fact that the newcomers did not wish to report to the *Judenrat*, in order to avoid the forced labour and various taxes.

In 1942, this situation was completely altered. According to an ordinance from the Nazi regime, a Jew was not allowed to leave his place of residence - viz. the ghetto in which he was. Transgressing this regulation was punishable by death. Just due to this, none of the newcomers failed to register themselves.

There were also such cases when newly-arrived Jews, without any means of sustenance, could not procure food products in the black market and were compelled to register with the *Judenrat* in order to obtain food coupons.

There was also a second reason - namely, the unsettling rumours that, should a resettlement<sup>1</sup> take place, the first to be deported would be those who did not possess a work card. Due to this, there was a great drive to legalise oneself, registering with the *Judenrat* and receiving a workplace with a work card. In the idiosyncratic, Częstochowa ghetto lingo, this was called "being covered".

This explains why, in the months August and September 1942, shortly before the catastrophe, 995 Jews registered themselves with the *Judenrat*. The Town Hall already failed to register this number. The Częstochowa Town Hall's latest statistical report, dated 18<sup>th</sup> February 1947, № 47/1/891, covers the period up to 30<sup>th</sup> July 1942. There, it states that 34,290 Jews had been registered and about 20% of the Jews were not registered at all.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: Nazi euphemism for deportation to death camps.]

If we take into account the statistics of the Town Hall, it emerges that, prior to the resettlement, meaning on Yom Kippur Eve 1942, the number of Jews in Częstochowa was [as follows]:

1) Officially registered until 30 <sup>th</sup> July 1942	34,290
2) Newly-registered with the <i>Judenrat</i> in August and September 1942 .....	995
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	35,285
3) The Town Hall's assertion that 20% of the Jews were not registered.....	7,057
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<b>Total of number of Jews.....</b>	<b>42,342</b>

It is my opinion that the statistics of the *Judenrat* and the Town Hall do not correspond with reality.

Firstly, in 1944, close to 12,000 Jews were brought, with various transports, to the Częstochowa HASAG camps - Pelcery, Warta and Częstochowianka. These transports of Jews were from the Łódź Ghetto, Płaszów (a camp near Kraków), Skarżysko-Kamienna, Bliżyn, Piotrków and Dęblin.

Secondly, the Polish Town Hall was, at the time, no longer engaged in Jewish statistics because, from the second half of 1943, Częstochowa was considered to be "*judenrein*" [Ger., clean of Jews]. Jews were exclusively within closed and fenced camps.

Thirdly, the fact that the Town Hall's last statistics, dated 18<sup>th</sup> February 1947, gives the number of Jews, up to 30<sup>th</sup> July 1942, may serve as decisive proof. What emerges from this is that, from this date to the collapse of the Nazi regime, the Town Hall did not engage in Jewish evidence.

Fourthly, we cannot take the Town Hall's assertion that 20% of the Jews were not registered as absolutely certain, as it may have been more - or actually less.

Fifthly, the *Judenrat's* statistics may only serve as a basis for estimates, and also only up to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1942. Starting on that day, the horrifying massacres began of destroying Częstochowa Jewry. Six months later, on 20<sup>th</sup> March, the members of the *Judenrat* were also shot. From this, it emerges that, from 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1942, a statistics department no longer existed.

The *Judenrat* Statistics Department was a very large one and, in December 1940, it employed 65 officials - sixty men and five women. This multitude of officials, most of them with a higher education, albeit exclusively and preferentially treated, were people who only considered the post from the standpoint of being "covered". Nevertheless, they performed significant work, bequeathing us a wealth of statistical tables, which may serve for researchers in all fields.

As much as I should like, within the framework of this booklet, to bring an entire series of tables, I shall therefore present but one, which represents the Jewish population according to age and gender:

**The Jewish Population in Częstochowa According to  
Age and Gender**  
(Table for the year 1941)

Ages	Total		In that sum		W. per 100 men
	Sum	%	Women	Men	
0-4	1,762	5.4	845	917	92.2
5-9	2,440	7.4	1,200	1,240	97
10-14	2,847	8.7	1,373	1,474	93
15-19	3,219	9.9	1,663	1,606	103.5
20-29	5,599	17.2	3,102	2,497	124.5
30-39	6,184	18.9	3,275	2,909	112.5
40-49	4,255	13	2,376	1,879	126
50-59	3,199	9.8	1,701	1,498	113.5
60-69	2,006	6.1	1,057	949	111.5
70 [+]	1,183	3.6	678	505	134.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,694</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17,270</b>	<b>15,474</b>	<b>111.5</b>

This table is important because, from it, it emerges that 91.3% of the Jewish populace was aged 0-59, constituting an element that was viable and fit for work. This means that, during the period of extermination, the Nazi barbarians annihilated people able to live and work.

Częstochowa Jewry's capability of living and working is manifested in the *Judenrat's* statistical table from 1941, which separates the population by trades. Częstochowa Jewry was represented in all branches of industry, the liberal professions, commerce and even in earthworks - the table shows 51 navvies and sixteen gardeners. The majority of the Jews were qualified workmen and worked independently as craftsmen and also as hirelings in twenty-six trades. It is a characteristic fact that the Jews were also represented in the construction industry as bricklayers.

The professional intelligentsia occupied a respected position in sixteen liberal professions. There were 232 Jews active in the health system - physicians, dentists, dental technicians, medics, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and laboratory technicians. Of this number, 126 were men and 106 women. There were 43 lawyers - 40 men and 3 women, 79 engineers and technicians, 208 teachers - 77 men and 131 women, 1,088 officials - 761 men and 327 women and 43 actors and musicians - 31 men and 12 women. There were also editors and journalists - the statistical table shows [just] two men. In reality, there were several dozen.

Statistics cannot be built on estimates. The official tables of the Town Hall and the *Judenrat* do not match nor reflect the reality. How, then, are we to ascertain it? I am quite simply terrified of my grisly plan and concurrently difficult task, which encompasses all the tragic events of Częstochowa Jewry. This plan consists of establishing the number of victims of the various massacres, *akcje*<sup>2</sup> and selections, as well as ascertaining the number of surviving Jews. In this manner, we shall be able to conclude how many Jews were in Częstochowa during the Nazi epoch and how many Jewish lives were cut short.

<sup>2</sup> [TN: Pol., "operations"; term mainly used in Yizkor Books to describe the deportations to death camps.]

### Table of the Bloody Events in Częstochowa

Date			Event	Number	[Total] Victims
Day	Mth	Year			
4	Sept.	1939	Bloody Monday.....	150	
		'39-'40	Individual shootings of communal activists.....	200	
		'40-'42	Mortality from typhus and other epidemic diseases.....	400	
22	Sept.	1942	The beginning of the mass deportations to Treblinka and shootings in the streets.....	40,250	41,000
4	Oct.	1942	Last day of the mass deportations.....		
		'42-'43	Individual and group shootings of those captured in hideouts, cellars, attics and bunkers.....	850	
4	Jan.	1943	Shooting of the fighters Izio Fajner and Mendel Fiszlewicz.....	2	
4	Jan.	1943	Shooting of 25 young men.....	25	
4	Jan.	1943	Deportation of 500 Jews to Radomsko to the <i>akcja</i> to be sent away to Treblinka.....	500	
5	Jan.	1943	<i>Akcja</i> on old people and children.....	250	
7	Mar.	1943	25 sent away to Bliżyn.....		
21	Mar.	1943	300 sent away to Bliżyn..... Of this number, only a few individuals survived. Those who died [numbered].....	300	
19	Mar.	1943	Execution of six partisans and individual shootings at the <i>Möbellager</i> [Furniture Camp].....	20	
20	Mar.	1943	<i>Akcja</i> on the intelligentsia; Jews with academic education shot at the cemetery and selection of the <i>Judenrat</i> at Ostbahn [Ger., Eastern Railway].....	157	2,128
	April	1943	Selection at Ostbahn.....	24	
26-30	June	1943	Liquidation of the Small Ghetto; mass shootings; fallen in the resistance struggle.....	1,500	2,000
30	July	1943	Burned alive.....	500	
20	July	1943	Selection at HASAG-Pelcery.....	300	
20	July	1943	Selection at ul. Garibaldięo.....	100	
				400	
			To carry over.....		45,128

Date			Event	Number	[Total] Victims
Day	Mon.	Year			
15-16	July	1943	Carried over [from previous page].....	400	45,128
			Of the incoming transport of Dęblin Jews, the Nazi tyrant Bartenschlager shot fifteen children.....	15	
	Dec.	1943	1,200 Jews are evacuated to Germany – men to Buchenwald and women to Ravensbrück. Perished.....	1,000	
			1944		
	Jan.	1945	Forced evacuation transports to Germany from the HASAG camps Pelcery, Raków, Warta and Częstochowianka; in total, 5,800. Perished.....		
			<b>Total number of victims.....</b>		<b>50,000</b>

### Table of the Liberated Częstochowa Jews

Date			Place of liberation	Liberating army	Number	[Total] Victims
Day	Mon.	Year				
17	Jan.	1945	Częstochowa	Soviet Army	5,200	5,200
15	Apr.	1945	Bergen-Belsen	British Army		
27	Apr.	1945	Türkheim	US Army	3,000	
1	May	1945	Buchberg	US Army		
5	May	1945	Ravensbrück	Soviet Army		
					<b>Total</b>	<b>8,200</b>

It emerges from these two tables that, during the Nazi epoch, in the Częstochowa “Big Ghetto”, “Small Ghetto” and [labour] camps, there were 58,200 Jews. Fifty thousand were annihilated and 8,200 were liberated by the Allied armies.