

## Dr Benjamin Orenstein



He was born in Warsaw to the rabbi Reb Eliezer [Lajzer] and Cypora *née* Szapiro. When the War broke out, he left Warsaw.

From 26<sup>th</sup> September 1939 to 27<sup>th</sup> April 1942, he was in Otwock. From 28<sup>th</sup> April 1942 to 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1943, he was in the Karczew camp, from where he fled to Częstochowa.

He was in the Częstochowa “Small Ghetto”, working at first in HASAG-Raków and later in HASAG-Pelcery. On 25<sup>th</sup> June, he was barracked in HASAG-Pelcery.

He was deported to Buchenwald on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1945, from there to Dora on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1945, then evacuated on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1945 to Bergen-Belsen from where he was liberated on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1945.

Following liberation, he lived in the town of Bamberg in Western Germany. He formed part of an entire array of bodies of the Surviving Remnant [viz. Holocaust survivors]. He was the director of the regional historical commission in Franconia, a lector in the Central Department of Culture and Education and worked together with the press.

He was elected as Chairman of the Cultural Committee of the Central Committee of Częstochower *Landmannschaften* in the American Zone in Germany and made appearances at all the central *akademie* [Pol., functions/ceremonies].

He is the author of the book *Churban Czenstochow* and editor of the one-off edition *Unser Yahrzeit* [Our Death Anniversary], as well as an entire array of other publications.

He arrived in Canada on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1948. He was elected as Chairman of the Czenstochover Landmanschaft of Montreal and, subsequently, served as General Secretary – an office which he holds to this day. In Canada, he has published a series of booklets and essays on general issues and also on Częstochowa.

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