

Dr Benjamin Orenstein¹



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

From 26th September 1939 to 27th April 1942, he was in Otwock. From 28th April 1942 to 22nd 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 25th June, he was barracked in HASAG-Pelcery.

He was deported to Buchenwald on 15th January 1945, from there to Dora on 24th January 1945, then evacuated on 2nd April 1945 to Bergen-Belsen, from where he was liberated on 15th 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 Yuhrzeit* [Our Death Anniversary], as well as an entire array of other publications.

He arrived in Canada on 28th October 1948. He was elected as Chairman of the Czenstochover *Landmannschaft* 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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