

Godl Frajtag

Częstochowa *Landsleit* Fight and Build

Częstochowa Jews in Israel took an active part in the struggle for independence to establish the State of Israel. They operated in the *Haganah* [precursor of the IDF], as well as in the Civil Guard. A few of our *landsleit* - Kopinski, Słomkowicz and Szczekacz - were officers.

Frajtag [viz. the author] and his daughter were also active. The Częstochowa writer and journalist, Fajtel Szmulewicz, was seriously wounded on guard duty.

Częstochowers also fought in the British Army on the fronts of the Second World War. Among them [were] the Klarman brothers, Jakób Kartuz, Ezriel Jakubowicz (ben-Moshe), Majer Włodowski and others.

During the War of Independence, the heroes Klarman from *kibbutz* Yad Mordechai, Gliksman, Szlezinger, Handelsman, Ankielewicz, Berman and Bratt fell.

Częstochowers Participate in Building the Land

Among the workers who built the "Herzliya" high school, there were also two Częstochowa Jews - Gerszon Ickowicz and Jakób Handelsman.

In 1925, numerous *Częstochowers* arrived in the Land of Israel and took part in the building of houses. Among others there was also Aba Librowicz. A dispute ensued with the *Histadrut*, that it should allow immigrants from Częstochowa to be employed in building Librowicz's house. At this point, the "Frajtag Group" was created, which included Szymon Pik, Sz. Oderberg, A. Kaminski, Brygel, Handelsman, Ch. Bencelowicz, Pendrak, Kerner, Kopinski, Helfgot, Rozenblat, Lewkowicz Fefer, Gerszonowicz, Laks, Woznica and Helmund - a Christian from Częstochowa - the son of the building contractor Buchenheim - who had come to the Land of Israel together with his friends.

The "Frajtag Group" was not content with only constructing houses, but also built highways and was active in all fields of construction in Tel-Aviv.

In 1939, Ezriel Jakubowicz (ben-Moshe), who was a correspondent for the "*Częstochower Zeitung*" at the time, also wrote about a group of Częstochowa pioneers who were building a house on Balfour Street in Tel-Aviv for their *landsman* Kohn.



The so-called "Frajtag Group" - in the photograph: Joskowicz, P.K. Kaminski, and Shoshana Bencelowicz.