

Czaryski Janusz

## The Mass Grave on Ulica Kawia [Street]

I lived ul. Garibaldiego 21, which was liquidated with the first *akcja*. The night after the close of Yom Kippur, I happened to be working night-shift at the paper factory on ul. Narutowicza and so, consequently, remaining alive. But as for my mother and sister, I never saw them again.

After the night-shift, we were not conducted out of the factory in the morning as we always had been. The Christians, who came [to work] in the morning, told us about the massacre that had been conducted during the night.

At noon, the *Volksdeutsch* Blancke, who managed the work, informed us that he had received orders to take us over to the "Metalurgia" factory. When we arrived there, the bandit Degenhardt made us run to the gate, where the Germans were already standing and conducting a selection, beating the Jews murderously.

As I stood at the gate, a policeman approached me and told me to go outside. A group of seventy people was already there and a gendarme escorted us to ul. Kawia. A different gendarme, on horseback, took over our group and said that we would be working there. The tools were already there.

He took half of the men to dig pits and the other half lowered the corpses into them. The gendarme addressed us, saying that we were to do a "decent" job and, that if not, there was enough room for all of us there.

Our shudder upon seeing the wagons, in which flesh was being transported, bringing the dead bodies of slaughtered Jewish martyrs, is indescribable. We lay the bodies down in the pit in rows, head to head. After each row, we spread lime or chlorine.

Unloading the dead from the wagon, we noticed that one of them was still alive. The German did not allow him to be put into the pit, but ordered that he be searched. I took the wallet out of his pocket and a photo of his wife and child. He wore spectacles and, from the photo, I recognised him as the lawyer Rozensztajn, from ul. Garibaldiego 21.

The German murderer pulled out his revolver and shot a bullet into his head, but he remained alive. To which the German bandit remarked, "He's as fit as Rasputin, but I'll soon fix him!", thereupon shooting the unfortunate victim twice more in the head.

The entire task took until dark, after which we were then taken back to "Metalurgia".



*The bones of the Częstochowa Jews murdered in mass-killing operations are reinterred in the Jewish Cemetery.  
Delivering the eulogy – Rabbi Wajsler (1946)*