

E.B.M.

## Dr Elyahu [Eliasz] Horowicz

Dr Elyahu Jakób Horowicz, son of Menachem [Mendel] and Rywka (née Zilber) was born in Częstochowa on 27<sup>th</sup> Adar 5658 (5<sup>th</sup> May 1898). He was raised and educated in a traditional, nationalist [viz. Zionist] home. As was custom, for several years, he attended a *chider* and, later, went to the high school - actually to the Polish high school and not to the Russian one, in order to prevent the desecration of *Shabbes* by writing, which was a stipulation at the Russian schools. In addition to general subjects, there was also a teacher of Hebrew and Judaic studies.



*Group of Częstochowers with Reb Mendel Horowicz during his visit to Palestine in 1924. Sitting (r-l): Sz. Gold, M. Horowicz, [and] D. Chodosz. Standing: A. Zisman, M. Zilberszac [and] E. Horowicz*

His father (see *Sefer Częstochowa*, Volume I, col.717, Reb [Izaak] Mendel Horowicz), who as a manufacturer was busy with business affairs all year round. [Nevertheless] he did not forsake spiritual matters and was also a fervent Zionist, which was the direct cause for his sons being brought up in a nationalist spirit and, over the course of time, becoming activists in the Zionist youth movement. During the First World War, with the advent of the Scouting Movement, Elyahu was among the first to fight against assimilation and his troop was amongst those who realised Zionism - most [of its members] emigrated to Palestine.

Back before he left Częstochowa, he was among the founders of *Tzeirei Zion* and *Ha'Chalutz* and was also active in the *Samoobrona* [Pol; self-defence] organisation (the organisation of defenders against antisemitic rioters) in 1918 in Kraków, which was headed by Rabbi Dr Yehoshua [Ozjasz] Thon.

Due to these events [i.e. antisemitism], he decided to emigrate to Palestine.

Elyahu stole across borders and arrived in the Netherlands. There, at the suggestion of Dr Nechemia Dlima [?], Chairman of K.K.L., he was sent, with a group of young people, to [receive] agricultural training.

In 1921, Elyahu Horowicz arrived in Palestine, where the representative of PICA [Palestine Jewish Colonisation Association], Mr [Chaim] Kalwaryski, who knew him from the Netherlands, referred him to [*kibbutz*] Kfar Giladi – to serve as cow-herd [in the dairy].

One year later, he was summoned to become manager of the dairy at Mikveh Israel<sup>1</sup> and, in 1923, he went out with a group of Częstochowers to Rishon LeZion to work in the tobacco plantation.

After some time, the group disbanded due to the harsh conditions. In 1924, Mr Horowicz travelled to France to train as a veterinary surgeon and returned to Palestine in the summer of 1929 to collect material for his doctoral thesis. There, he found himself in the midst of the [Arab] riots of Av 5689 [August 1929] and he felt an obligation to join the *Haganah*<sup>2</sup>. He was sent to Yesod Ha'Ma'ala with a group headed by the Częstochower, Moshe Egozi.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: Youth village and boarding school.]

<sup>2</sup> [TN: The Defence; the main Jewish paramilitary force in Mandatory Palestine.]

Once the operation was concluded, Elyahu Horowicz travelled to France to complete his studies and receive his doctorate title on the subject of "*Rearing Cattle for Milk in the Land of Israel*" (and the secondary topic – "*Rearing Cattle in Subtropical Lands*"). A short time later, he returned to Palestine and, in parallel with his professional occupation, Dr Horowicz was active for public needs and donated much of his time for the benefit of the people, and particularly those from Częstochowa, serving as Chairman of the organisation. During the Second World War, Dr Horowicz was a member of the presidential board of the Union of Polish Immigrants and, during his tenure as its de facto chairman, he organised the shipping of packages to the natives of Poland in Russia, which they exchanged for food to sustain themselves.

Dr Horowicz was among the first of the Third *Aliyah* from Częstochowa. He is married to Bella (née Szolk [?]), who made *Aliyah* in 1904 and is one of the most seasoned piano teachers in Israel. Of all his relatives, there is another brother in Israel, Wilk [Wolf], who is one of the oldest residents of *kibbutz* Mishmar Ha'Emek.