

Chaim Szymonowicz

All Israel is Responsible...¹

People still remained in hiding inside the “Big Ghetto” and the carters, who cleaned out the dwellings, put their own lives at risk by concealing these people in their carts. They were covered with various objects and were driven into the “Small Ghetto.” Such was shown the commitment and affection of one person for another. This was particularly apparent in the cases of the elderly, the ailing, the infirm, the disabled, etc.

In a Sack on the Wall

The Germans displayed a particularly sadistic attitude towards the disabled - miserable souls who had suffered since birth. Whenever they heard of such cases, they made every possible effort to find them.

They suddenly became aware that there was a hunchback in the “Small Ghetto” and began searching for him in a truly intensive manner.

One time, they conducted a very thorough search, and it became impossible to conceal him any longer. Someone then had the idea to put him in a sack and to hang the sack on a wall.

When he was given the sign that the Germans were approaching, he lay inside the sack without moving. They searched the very house where he was “hanging on the wall” - and they noticed nothing.

But, when the ground began to burn under the feet, we took him out from there and brought him outside the ghetto. We put him in a little corner on the Polish side and covered him with a pile of corrugated metal sheets so that nothing [of him] could be seen. But we could no longer come to him afterwards and the hunger began to torture him more and more. Having no other option, he crawled out from beneath the pile, during the night, and shuffled over to a church, where he positioned himself as if he were a mendicant begging for alms. But this did not last long, for he was soon recognised.

The Germans took him away and immediately shot him.

¹ [TN: See previous, col. 134.]