

E.B.M.

Mordechai (Motek) Kusznir z''l



The son of Chaim and Chawa Kusznir, he was born in Częstochowa in 1914. His parents came to our city from one of the towns in the Jewish Pale of Settlement in Russia.

His father was a great expert in the tailoring profession, but did not pursue greatness. He never did establish his own independent workshop, but toiled all his days as a hired tailor for others.

Over the course of the years, young Motek became one of the leaders of the proletariat youth that rallied round the Bund.

At the movement's Central, they recognised his distinct qualities and great organisational strength and, at one of the meetings, he was named coordinator of the Bundist youth alliance *Tsukunft* [Future].

With the outbreak of the Second World War, Motek Kusznir was among the best of those who acted [personally] and urged the youth not to yield to the Nazis' machinations - to destroy Our People through prolonged pernicious operations, whose end-goal was utter annihilation. Together with his other comrades, he called rebellion against the Nazi regime, to go underground and, from there, to hit the Germans and to hinder them in [their] work of extermination.

He did not make do with just oral propaganda, but also printed an illegal journal in the Polish language named *For Your Freedom and Ours*.

In this publication, he incited Jews and Poles, as one, to oppose the cruel, oppressive regime. The Gestapo left no stone unturned to find the source of the "evil" that was being done to it by way of this operation and they finally managed to discover the location where the journal was being edited and also apprehended its editor. Motek Kusznir was brutally tortured by the Gestapo, but he did not reveal the names of his comrades.

His family members, with the help of the Częstochowa Jewry, gathered significant sums of money with which they were able to bribe the Gestapo people, who eventually consented to release him from his imprisonment.

In 1956, Motek managed to emigrate to Israel and, shortly afterwards, he joined the Bund Union in Tel-Aviv, in which he performed the duties of the movement's Secretary.

Motek went about thinking and planning out wide-scale operations, but was unable to carry out his ambitions. He died an untimely death in 1960 at just 46 years of age.

Blessed be the memory of this prolific man, who was snatched away in his prime.

