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## The Road to Treblinka

Two weeks after the onset of the War, on *Erev Rosh Hashanah*, a transport of Jewish deportees from Pławno passed through Częstochowa. They were forced to run. I saw them on ul. Warszawska, pressed on by German soldiers. That same *Rosh Hashanah*, a freight lorry was brought into town, packed with Jews in prayer-shawls and silken gabardines, also from a small nearby *shtetl*, whose name I no longer recall. The Poles stood in the street and laughed with pleasure.

Sometime later, the Germans demanded labourers to regulate the river [i.e., change its course or maintain its channels]. We worked in several locations - at the Jewish Hospital by the cemetery, in Bugaj and also in Raków. We went there every day with spades on our shoulders to engage in forced labour.

Two months before the [final] liquidation of the Częstochowa Jewry, policemen took me from my bed and escorted me to the Jewish police station at Aleja 6. From there, I was led to a shop at Aleja 10, where several dozen Jews were already being held. The following day, we were all sent to Gidle, near Radomsko, where we were again employed in regulating a river. The situation was terrible for those who were infirm and unable to work. The sadists beat them murderously, all over their bodies, with planks.

I was at the Gidle camp for four weeks, until I managed to get out of that hell and returned home to Częstochowa. The entire camp at Gidle was subsequently sent away to Treblinka.

I was only home for a few days when the tearful *akcje* [operations] commenced. I went with the third *akcja*, when the police told us to go out on the street. This was on Garncarska, on the side of the Jewish technical schools, from #2 to #22. The people stood in row, and cries went up of, "The Lord, he is the God!" [1 Kings 18:39]. With these holy words on their lips, they tread their last path. Following that *akcja*, the Germans went through all the dwellings, to see if anyone had been left behind. Whoever was found was executed on the spot.

At the Nowy Rynek, we went through the selection - who to the right and who to the left. Those left to live are conducted to ul. Krótka, to the Landau Brothers factory, from where we are sent to various workplaces. A large group was taken along ul. [Świętej] Barbary, next to the convent. We were being conducted to work, breaking rocks in the airfield on the way to Kłobuck. A messenger suddenly arrived in a taxi and we were sent back, running, to Barbary. Later, we were taken to *Metalurgia* for yet another selection and, again, hundreds of people were sent to Treblinka.



*Maks Brum in Treblinka, together with a delegation from Israel, of which Rabbi Frenkel was part.*