

## Cantor Reb Abram Fiszel *hy”d*



Abram Fiszel was the Chief Cantor at the New Synagogue in Częstochowa from 1914 to his tragic demise in 1942. Additionally, he was also music teacher at the primary schools and the Hebrew high school, and directed several choirs.

(On a night at the end of 1940, the Nazis set fire to the synagogue. Reb Fiszel, who lived in this same building, managed to escape with his family at the last moment. Having been left without a roof over his head, he returned to live in a small shack in the synagogue courtyard, not desiring to abandon the place where he had performed his duties for most of his life. He held services in the cellar which remained from the synagogue’s magnificent building.

On the Yom Kippur preceding the “*Aktion*”, he stood all day in prayer before the congregation. The following day, the Nazis took him out of his poor shed.

One of the murderers ordered him to run ahead of him and he followed, riding his bicycle. He pursued him thus through several streets, but when his strength failed him and he could no longer run, the cruel Nazi stood him up against a wall and fatally shot him.

(A Jewish policeman, who witnessed this horrifying event, reported the details to his daughter Lea Fiszel-Panska, who now lives in Tel-Aviv.)