

Ezriel Ben-Moshe

The State Party Movement

(Judenstaats Partei [Jewish State Party] – Grossmanites)

Once the Revisionist Zionist movement had started to infiltrate the wider circles of the Jewish public in Częstochowa and had reached the height of its development, especially in 1933, a split occurred at the top of the world party, mainly due to a difference of opinion between its central figures – Ze'ev Jabotinsky and Meir Grossman.

Obviously, the split also influenced the movement's branch in our city. The majority of the older members left the revisionist movement and joined Grossman's faction, which took the name "The State Party – *Judenstaats Partei*", who were known on the Jewish street as "Grossmanites".

The "Grossmanites" in Częstochowa began extensive activities. The movement was headed by Eliaz Ickowicz, a seasoned Zionist public figure [and] a great orator, Michał Ruzewicz, a renowned public figure, among the founders of the sports movement in the city, who was involved in its social life, Eng. Fajgin, an experienced Zionist public figure, Eng. Orlinski, Efroim Bratman, one of the founders of *Betar*, Liberman, Izrail Janiek, Binem Hofman, Gliksman, Altman, Baran, Abram Sztajnhart, Izrail Tiberg (who died in a working accident in Israel) and other members whose names I do not remember.

The "Grossmanites" party's activity was felt on the Jewish street and, during a certain period, even reached important achievements, with the election of its delegate, Eng. Orlinski, to the City Council. The "Grossmanites" also established a special youth movement called "*Barak*" [Lightning], at the head of which were members Hofman and Zilberszac. Over the course of the years, they established a training centre in the city's suburb of Bleszno, to which youth swarmed from throughout Poland. The pioneers of the training centre made their livelihood from their work and from agriculture in particular.

The "Grossmanites" were able to receive a number of certificates and a few of their members emigrated to the Land [of Israel].



The management of the Zionist State Party (Grossmanites) in 1933
Standing (from right to left): I. Tiberg, Zilberszac, Liberman, I. Janiek, B. Hofman,
Adv. Bratman, Gliksman and Joel Baran
Sitting (as above): M. Ruzewicz, Eng. Fajgin, A. Ickowicz, Eng. A. Orlinski and Altman



*The young Grossmanite scouts "Barak" in 1934 in their uniforms.
In the first rows are: Tiberg, Ester Szlezinger (Orbach), Zilberszac, Ickowicz, Hofman, Orlinski, [?],
Potaszewicz, Gliksman and Zilberszac (the other)*

* [Translator's note: The surname that appears here is spelled גלברואר (GLBRVAR) in Hebrew.]