

Unser Yuhrzeit

[Our Death Anniversary]

Publication Dedicated to the Annihilation of the Częstochowa Jewry
11th Tishrei 5703-5709 ----- 1942-1948



Six years have passed since the gruesome slaughter in the city of Częstochowa.

Six years have passed since Częstochowa's streets flowed with rivers of blood, and the Jewish life of fifty-thousand Jews was cut short in the Treblinka gas chambers.

The further we get from this date, all the more distinct, clear, painful and hurtful appear, before us, the spectral images of this tragic *yuhrzeit*.

Our *yuhrzeit* encapsulates the Jewish martyrdom, and it is enveloped in a holy sanctity, because the majority of our dead are martyrs and heroes.

The religious Jews, old people, women and children were severed from this world, with the full consciousness, they perished in sanctification of the Name [of God] and the People [of Israel].

The youth, who took the people's destiny into their own hands and fought with weapons against the enemy of mankind, against Hitler's tyrannical regime, displayed its moral, spiritual and physical prowess, falling in battle as heroes.

The Jewish people was raised in the spirit of ethics and morals, in the spirit of "*but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself*" [Leviticus 19:18], and they could not adapt to the fact that, in Nazism, all humanitarian and altruistic feelings were eradicated, and what decided was the animalistic, i.e. the bestial.

The higher Germany's culture and technology grew, all the lower its ethics and morals sank.

To the last minute, the Jews were unwilling to believe in the horrifying murders that the Germans were carrying out, until the terrible reality became a fact.

The Nazi regime, the disgracer and destroyer of all ethical concepts, carried out these criminal deeds precisely on the Jewish holidays. Every Jewish holiday was transformed into a day of mourning. The streets, which bore the names of the Jewish and Italian freedom fighters, Berek Joselewicz and Garibaldi, were transformed into rivers of blood and places of the most terrifying slaughter.

Częstochowa youth evaluated the situation realistically, and the logical conclusion of leading a joint struggle prevailed. The youth, regardless of political views and affiliation to a party, fought together, united, against the brutal enemy.

Most of the combatants fell in heroic battles. They found their deaths in the fight for freedom.

Today, six years later, these heroes have for us [some text apparently missing], their slogans [ringing in?] our ears: Death or Freedom, in its true substance and sense.

Today, six years later, these heroes have grown for us into symbols. They have become for us spiritual beacons, who show us the way. These spiritual torches have been transformed into gleaming floodlights, paving for us the life-path of fighting for freedom.

On the day of our *yuhrzeit*, we call out, "*Honour to the fallen heroes!*"

B. Orenstein