

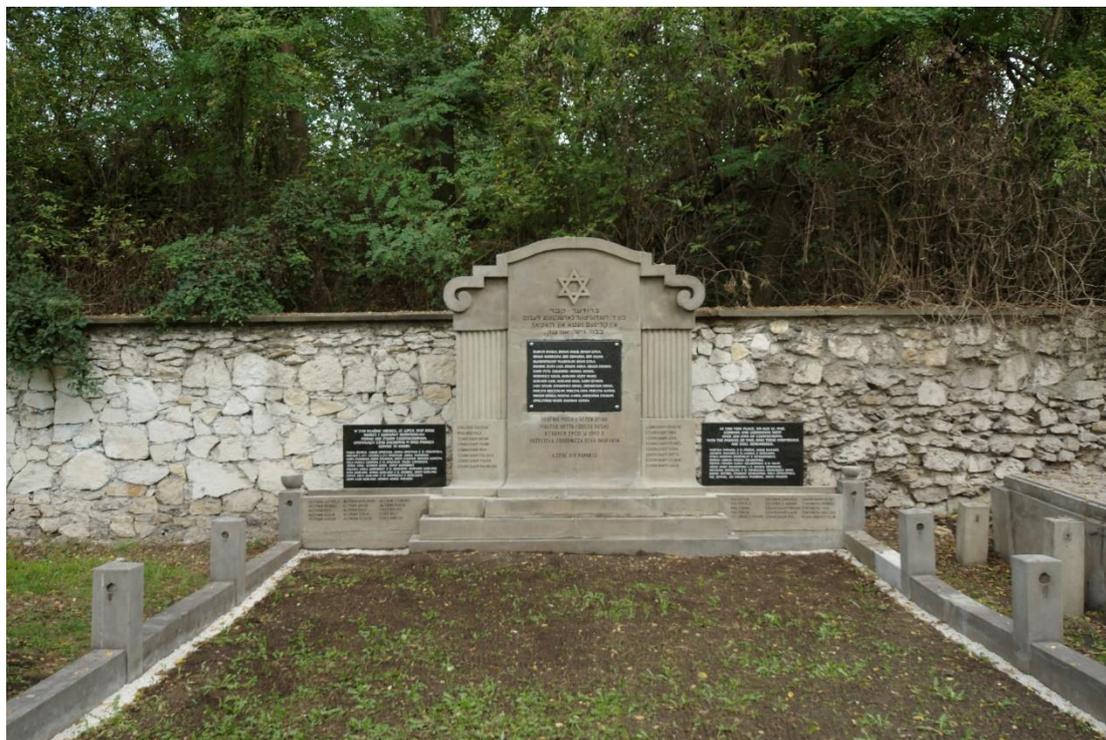


התאחדות יוצאי מחוז צ'נסטוהוב (דור ההמשך ער) בישראל  
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## HASAG Victims Monument

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The inscription on this monument reads as follows:

The common monument to the hundreds of victims  
 of the Small Ghetto and the HAGA camp  
 whose lives, in 1943,  
 were criminally cut-short by the occupier.  
 May their memory by honoured.

Blibajn Rajzla	Braun Jakub	Braun Gitla	Braun Mordchaj	Ber Edwarda
Ber Julian	Blumenfrucht Władysław	Baum Gitla	Baumac Złata Laja	Erlich Ajdla
Erlich Zalman	Karo Pyta	Goldberg Moniek	Horowicz Lolek	Kurland Józef Majer
Kurland Lajb	Kurland Olek	Karo Szymon	Laks Szulim	Lewkowicz Izrael
Orensztajn Izrael	Perczyk Mieczysław	Perczyk Lena	Perczyk Alfred	Prozer Dorca
Montag Karol	Jarociński Zygmunt		Opoczyński Majer	Rajzman Estera

(on the left:)

Berliner Isachar	Berliner Pola	Szwarcbaum Natan	Szwarcbaum Mania
Szwarcbaum Irka	Szwarcbaum Halinka	Szwarcbaum Majer	Szwarcbaum Rachelka



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(on the right:)

Szwarcbaum Mordche Szwarcbaum Genia	Szwarcbaum Tonia Szwarcbaum Rutta	Szwarcbaum Wera Szwarcbaum Szlama	Szwarcbaum Mendel Szwarcbaum Fajcia
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(at the bottom, from left to right:)

Altman Jacheta	Altman Mendel	Altman Ides	Altman Szaja	Altman Abram
Altman Benjamin	Altman Jakób	Altman Sala	Altman Genia	Altman Rysiek
Altman Zygmunt	Altman Marek	Fuks Miriam	Fuks Wolf	Fuks Andzia
Rug Icchak	Rug Ruchla	Rug Chawa	Rug Chaja	Szczekacz Rywka
Szczekacz Rajza	Szczekacz Abram	Szwarcbaum Mordka	Szwarcbaum Laja	Szwarcbaum Idel
Szwarcbaum Alta	Tenenberg Mendel	Tenenberg Srul	Tenenberg Gerszon	Rubin Bornsztajn

This monument was intended to commemorate the most well-known site of execution of Jews at the Jewish Cemetery. At least four hundred forced labourers from HASAG (*Hugo Schneider Aktiengesellschaft*, with its headquarters in Leizig) and from police warehouses were killed here.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, only seventy-five names were placed onto the monument. The disproportion is huge. In order to understand this, it is necessary to refer to the history of the Jewish community in Częstochowa.<sup>2</sup>

From the end of June 1943, following the liquidation of the forced labour camp in Częstochowa, the so-called “Small Ghetto”, all the Jewish labourers, still alive, were relocated to prefabricated camps in the HASAG-Pelcery plant and in the grounds of the steel-mill in HASAG-Raków. There was also a large group employed in the police warehouses on ulica Garibaldięgo. There, they sorted, and prepared for transport to the Reich, goods that had been looted from Jews in the autumn of 1942, during the liquidation of the Częstochowa ghetto and the deportation of 40,000 individuals to the death camp in Treblinka. The *mikvah* (ritual bath) at ul. Garibaldięgo 18 served as barracks for the last fifty Jewish policemen and their families. In July, they were transferred to HASAG-Pelcery.

On 19th July, the German *meisters* in HASAG-Pelcery attempted to put together a list of non-essential workers. In the face of resistance from those at risk, the attempt was unsuccessful. For this reason, under the direction of Director Lüht, engineers and *meisters*, in the presence of Bernard Kurland, who was the Jewish leader of the labourers group, conducted the selection at night. All the men and women were required, in ranks, to pass by the Germans. Victims were pulled out of the lines, placed into the factory compound outside the camp and then locked in the building’s basements, which served as the camp’s detention facility. After the selection, Hauptmann Degenhardt, who was in the facility and supervised the operation

<sup>1</sup> Information about the “Small Ghetto” is erroneous as, by July 1943, it no longer existed.

<sup>2</sup> A reconstruction was made based on memoirs and research and studies: L. Brenner, *Widersztand...*, pp. 140–144; B. Arenstein, *Churban Czenstochow*, pp. 262–263.



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from a distance, ordered that Bernard Kurland be handed over and that he be added to the group locked in the basements.

On the following day, Degenhardt announced, to the labourers in the police warehouses, that anyone who wished could join their family in HASAG-Pelcery. More than one hundred individuals came forward and they were loaded onto trucks. They were transported to the basements in the facility and locked up with the others. Later, they were joined by Jewish policemen and their families. Only the wife of policeman Kohn hid, with her son, under the factory roof and thus avoided being imprisoned.

The victims were then pulled out of the basement and loaded onto vehicles. Some desperate prisoners put up strong resistance, but they were stunned with hammer blows, restrained and then thrown onto a vehicle. After being transported to the cemetery, they were all shot.

After comparing the inscription with data contained in the Central Database of Holocaust Victims on the Yad Vashem server, it must be stated that the victims of the selection and execution were those named in the upper table.

The remaining individuals are family members commemorated by their relatives who had survived the Holocaust. Was this only due to the difficulty in establishing the names of the victims? That would be understandable, because no Jews could have observed the execution. What is known, however, is that those, who were detained during the selection, never returned to the camp. Let us not be confused by the description *robotnicy* (*workers/labourers*). Often, the intelligencia would claim to be *robotnicy* in order to survive. Apart from reducing the workforce and those being fed by the Germans, a selection was aimed at finding people who lacked physical fitness or who were poor workers, those who lacked qualifications or those who pretended to be tradesmen. There, they tried to carry out selections according to work positions. So, it had nothing to do with people who were poor or who were insignificant within the Jewish community.<sup>3</sup>

A large group of victims were Jewish policemen and their families. During their several years of work, especially in 1942 and 1943, they were sadly inscribed into the life of their community. There were few people who were not harmed due to them. They spied on their fellow Jews. They caught Jewish children and the elderly. In the last group. They were almost all the “tested” helpers of the German police, along with their commander Herman Parasol. For the most part, they were not monsters. However, they were under constant pressure from their German superiors. Their names were well-known by many people. However, after the War, they were surrounded by disdainful silence.

The rest of the inscriptions on the monument are family memorials, most likely not related to the events of 20th July 1943.

Because the Jewish religion forbids the performing of exhumations (this can only be carried out in exceptional circumstances), it was carried out under duress. It was impossible to

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<sup>3</sup> L. Brener writes, “Oto Klem (head of the factory guards) leads the well-known and respected by all Doctor (Rachela) Wajsberg. Here is some guard leading the beautiful young Markowicz girl, in whom Klem was always interested (...) and threw her in with those condemned to death.” L. Brener, *Widersztand...*, p. 142.



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distinguish one from the other. Their names were omitted from the monument and what is not mentioned is that heroes are resting next to “traitors”. The Polish party authorities also spoke on this subject, ultimately forbidding the naming of Jewish policemen.<sup>4</sup>

A quite typical example is that of Bernard Kurland, lying next to Herman Parasol – the most well-known murder victims. Although it is known that he is buried in this mass grave, his name was placed on the neighbouring grave where, amongst other members of the Jewish intelligencia, his family, who were killed 20th March 1943, are buried. Bernard Kurland avoided death at that time, escaping from the vehicle which was carrying Jews to the place of execution. It should be remembered, however, this case may also be controversial. In the grave, next to Jewish doctors, engineers, lawyers and their families, lie the last members of the *Judenrat*, the first commander of the Jewish Police Maurycy Galster and his son Jerzy who also served as a policeman, etc.

In the creation of these graves-monuments, we see a strong interweaving of different motivations shown on the part of their creators. In the first instance, attempts were made to combine and to reconcile the various reasons and interests of political groups and of families. With the third monument, we are dealing with the omission of an entire group of victims, denying them the right to be remembered and natural justice when it comes to an ordinary grave. The formula in the creation of the monument created some limitations, but that formula was used inconsistently.

The monument was badly affected by the actions of time and people. Already in the beginning (probably in the 1950's), the central plaque was lost. The one that appears in the 1960's differs in the layout of the text. Later, the cement joints and individual elements of the monument begin to deteriorate. Again, the central plaque is lost. In 2016, it is reconstructed during the renovation of the monument. A further plaque is added containing the names of victims, not mentioned up that time.

[Marysia Parasol / Jakub Rajcher / Jacheta Rajcher / Zysla Mariema Rozenblat / Roman \(Abram Pinkus\) Szlsdowski / Frania Frajda Szladowska / Jozio Josef Szladowski Lat 3 / Michal Szperling / Nechuma Szperling / Franciszka Szpic / Dawid Szybel / Zygmunt Szydowski / Pola Szydowska / Inz' Szwarc / Dr Rachela Wajsberg / Zofia Wigdor](#)

[Fajga Beatus / Jakub Epsztajn / Genia Epsztajn / Miecius Epsztajn Lat 4.5 / Liliusia Lat 2.5 Epsztajn / Josek Fajerman / Sara Fajerman / Hana Feldman / Jerzy Galster / Moszek Gonzwa / Fela Fajgla Gonzwa / Tauba Grynbaum / Josek Jung / Szymon Kohn / Jozef Kornbrot / Paulina Linka Kornbrot / Bernard Korland / Icek Korland / Mania Korland / Jozef Korland / Chaja Hela Korland / Leon Lajb Korland / Henryk Hersz Parasol](#)

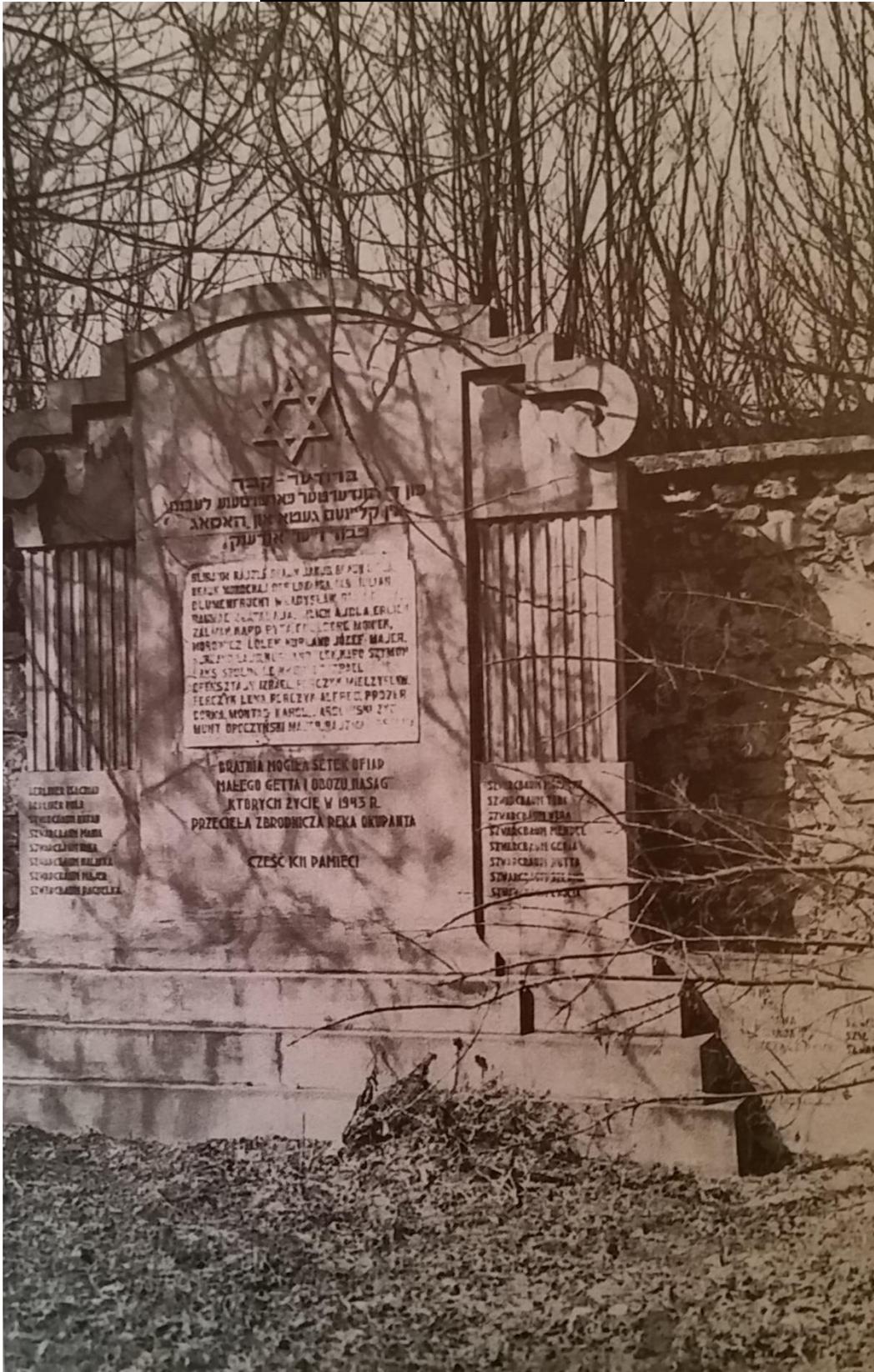
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<sup>4</sup> Oral information from Bronisława Proskurowska and Seweryn Szperling.



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### The incarnation of a gravestone





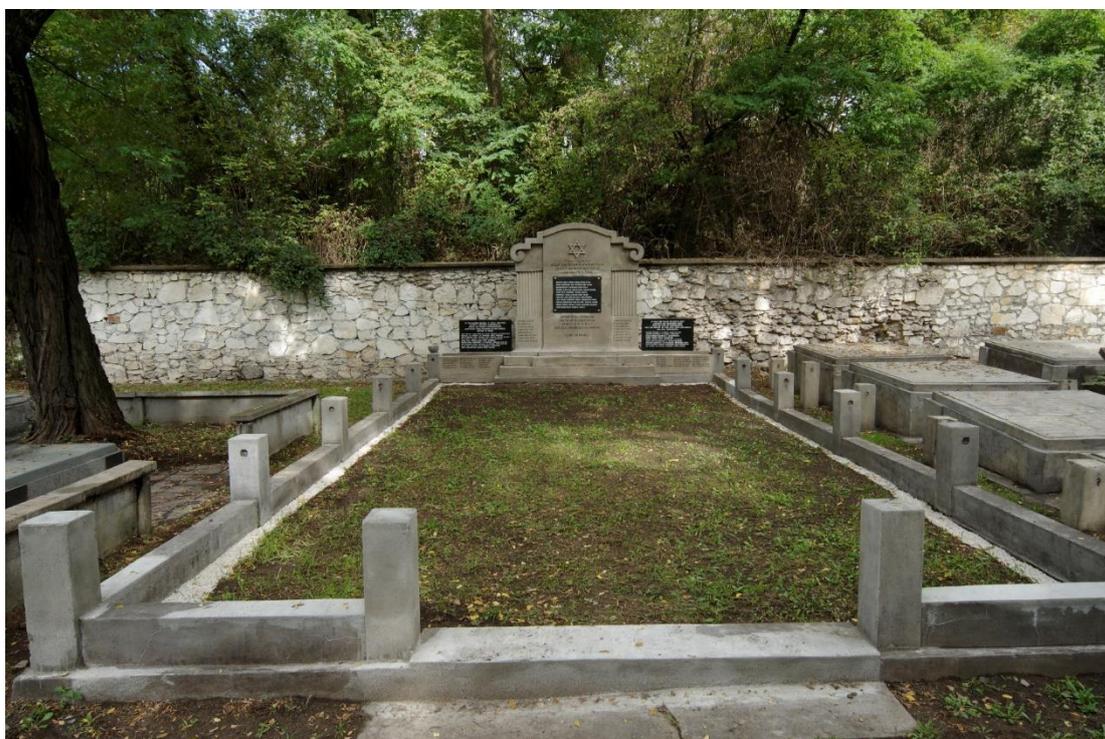
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**After renovation from 2016**





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