



התאחדות יוצאי מחוז צ'נסטוהוב (דור ההמשך ער) בישראל
Association of Częstochowa District Jews in Israel
P.O.B 65050 Tel Aviv 61650 – Tel:03-6749322 – טל: 61650 תל אביב
E mail: czestochowajewsinsrael@gmail.com

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The Grave of the *Ostbahn* Operation Victims

The Author: Wiesław Paszkowski, The Częstochowa Museum, Documentation Center

Translation into English: Andrew Rajcher

Edited by Alon Goldman, chairman of the Association of Częstochowa Jews in Israel



In the spring of 1943, the Jewish Fighting Organisation (ŻOB) looked for a way to fight the Germans. As a station along the transport route towards the Eastern Front, Częstochowa seemed like a good location for sabotage operating on the railway. Jewish prisoners, employed in HASAG-Pelcery, prepared keys with which to unscrew the railway track. Armed and equipped with these tools, five fighters from the “66” youth group left the “Small Ghetto” on 22nd April 1943, together with a group of Jewish workers employed on the German *Ostbahn* railways. They were Awiw Rozyner, Cwi Lustiger, Lolek Frankenberg, Harry Potaszewicz and Dawid Altman. They were meant to separate from the workers group and, later, rejoin them at a pre-agreed place in Błeszno.

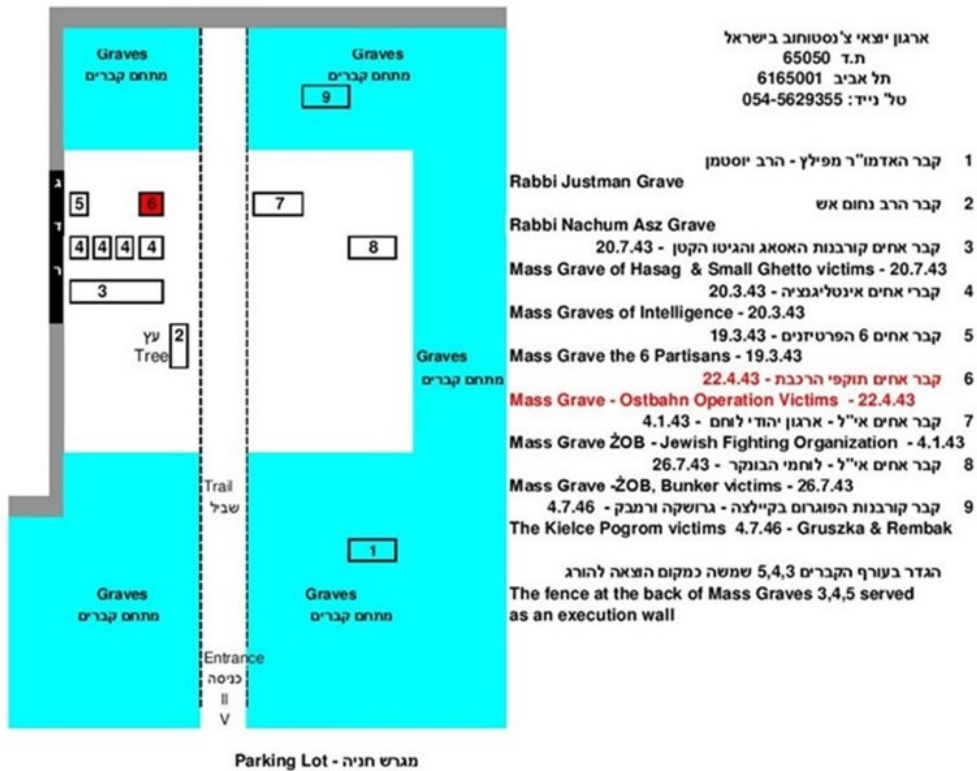
The first to “break off” was supposed to be Lolek. He succeeded. Dawid Altman was to be the second, but he was stopped by Bahnschutz Karna (a *Volksdeutsche* from Wyczerp past Częstochową). Initially, they tried to bribe Karna, but soon another German from the Bahnschutz became involved. Karna backed out of taking the bribe and both of them led Dawid to the guardhouse.



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מתחם קברי אחים - בית העלמין היהודי בצ'נסטוהובה
Mass Graves complex - the Jewish cemetery in Czestochowa

15.5.2018



In an attempt to free him, Harry shot at the two Bahnschutz officers. One of them fell, seriously wounded and Dawid fled. Harry, Awiw and Cwi could not escape as they became surrounded by a large number of Germans who shot at them from all sides. Harry and Awiw died on the spot. Cwi barricaded himself inside a barn. He defended himself until he was seriously wounded by a grenade thrown into the barn. Alive and seriously wounded, he was captured by the Gestapo, imprisoned in their basement and tortured in order to give up the names of his companions. Cwi did not break and was shot at the Jewish Cemetery.¹

The Gestapo and Schutzpolizei took out their vengeance against the Jewish workers. From that group, every second worker was shot – in total, twenty five men. Amongst those shot were Jakub Mosze Gelber Litwin, Nachman Enzel, Berl Zeligman, Stefan Montag, Goldberg (from Warsaw), Rusin (a former pupil at the I.L. Perc School in Częstochowa) and Dudek Lewkowicz. This is according to Liber Brener.

¹ Brener, pp. 126-127.



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After the War, a cement gravestone was made with the following inscription in Polish:

Glory to the heroes of the Ostbahn operation 22nd April 1943

Enzel Nachman	Litwin Moszek Jankiel	Rusin Szymel
Gerszonowicz Harry	Lewkowicz Dudek	Rozine Awiw
Goldberg	Laser Mendel	Zelkowicz
Lustyger Cwi	Montag Stefan	Zeligman Berl
Ferleger Mietek	Lewek Michał	Frankenberg Leon



Of the twenty eight who fell, fifteen are named. In addition, we know that, in December 1942, Mietek Ferleger fell into the hands of the Gestapo. He was tortured and later shot. He is probably resting in an unmarked grave in this cemetery. He is named here so as to memorialise his name somewhere as a companion in the battle.



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Leon-Lolek Frankenberg (Frontsek)



Gerszonowicz Harry



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At the initiative of The Association of Czestochowa Jews in Israel and its chairman, Alon Goldman, the tombstone of the mass grave was restored and on June 9, 2022, the tombstone was unveiled in the presence of the Israeli Ambassador to Poland, the Deputy Mayor of Czestochowa and a large crowd.





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