



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
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February 2018

The grave of the Czestochowa Victims - Kielce Pogrom 4.7.1946

Alon Goldman, Chairman of the Association of Czestochowa Jews in Israel

On 4 July 1946, the day of the Kielce pogrom, Czestochowers David Yosef Gruszka and Shmuel Rembak ז"ל, boarded the train at the railway station in Kielce with the intention of traveling to Czestochowa.

On the way, Poles recognized that both were Jews and threw them out of the train, to their deaths. When he saw that they did not make it to Czestochowa, Abraham Gruszka, Joseph's brother, walked on the train-tracks until he found the two bodies. He brought them home for burial in the Czestochowa cemetery.



Abraham Gruszka at his brother's grave - Czestochowa 1946



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Abraham Gruszka and witnesses accompanying the ceremonial unveiling of the gravestone

The gravestone inscription in Polish did not include Rembak's age (25). It was later added to the cemetery book by the historian Paszkowski. The inscription reads:

Szmul Rembak lat 25, Dawid Józef Gruszka lat 38 zginęli tragiczną śmiercią dn. 4.7.1946 r. na linii Kielce – Częstochowa z rąk faszystowskich morderców. Ku waszej wiecznej chwale, a ku wiecznej hańbie zbirom faszystowskim wystawił ten pomnik A. Gruszka.

Shmuel Rembak
age

David Yosef Gruszka
age 38

They found their tragic death on July 4, 1946, at the hands of fascist murderers, while traveling on the Kielce-Czestochowa train line.

Their glory be forever

An eternal disgrace to fascist thug

This gravestone was laid by

A. Gruzhka



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Over time, either due to vandalism or to weather damage, the tombstone was destroyed. The Gidonim and the historian Paszkowski found no trace while mapping the area, although Mr. Paszkowski had a general idea of its placement.

In February 2018, during a seminar we held for tour guides from Israel in Częstochowa, we made another attempt to locate the grave and found a fragment of the stone tablet with a few words on it.



Fragment of the gravestone in the Częstochowa cemetery



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The words "Kielce - Czestochowa", in Polish, caught our attention. Abraham's son, Aryeh Gruszka's comparison between the fragment and the original photograph confirmed the hypothesis that this was indeed the grave of the two men.



זהו אבי אברהם גרושקה ז"ל
שאר הנוכחים איני מכיר וגם לא
את האדם הבודד ליד הקבר

שבר המצבה הזה מתאים בדיוק לכיתוב כאן



Collage prepared by Aryeh Gruszka, where he notes (center top

Top: This is my father, Abraham Gruszka z"l. I do not know the remaining people present at the unveiling, nor the single man with a hat at the grave.

Center bottom: The fragment of the tombstone matches the inscription here.

Aryeh Gruszka finalized the rebuilding of the tombstone with the original inscription at the end of May 2018.

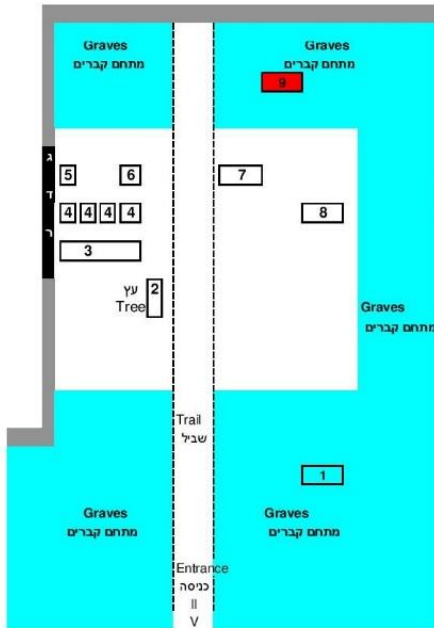


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The grave is located in the plot behind the mass grave of the ŻOB victims, on a path to the right of the main path (No 9 in the chart).

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

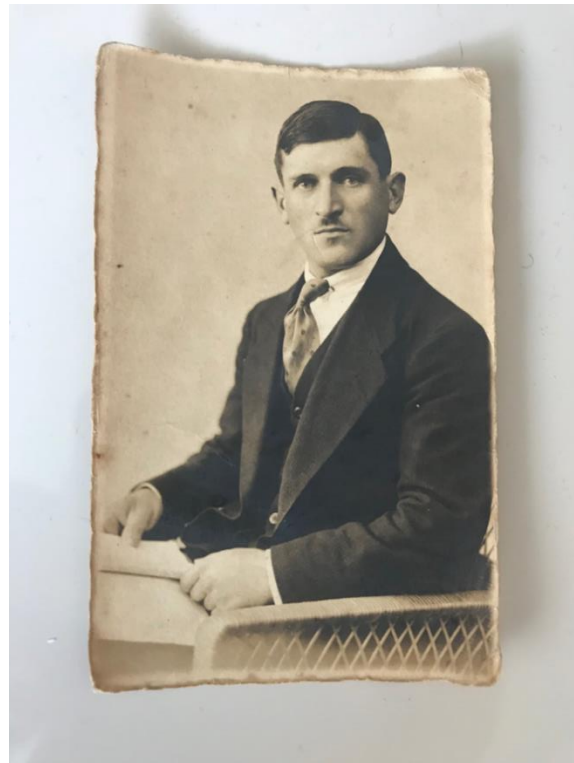
15.5.2018



ארגון יוצאי צ'נסטוהוב בישראל
 ת.ד. 65050
 תל אביב 6165001
 טל' נייד: 054-5629355

- 1 קבר האדמו"ר מפילץ - הרב יוסטמן
Rabbi Justman Grave
- 2 קבר הרב נחום אש
Rabbi Nachum Asz Grave
- 3 קבר אחים קורבנות האסאג והגטו הקטן - 20.7.43
Mass Grave of Hasag & Small Ghetto victims - 20.7.43
- 4 קברי אחים אינטליגנציה - 20.3.43
Mass Graves of Intelligence - 20.3.43
- 5 קבר אחים 6 הפרטיזנים - 19.3.43
Mass Grave the 6 Partisans - 19.3.43
- 6 קבר אחים תוקפי הרכבת - 22.4.43
Mass Grave - Ostbahn Operation Victims - 22.4.43
- 7 קבר אחים אי"ל - ארגון יהודי לוחם - 4.1.43
Mass Grave ŻOB - Jewish Fighting Organization - 4.1.43
- 8 קבר אחים אי"ל - לוחמי הבוקר - 26.7.43
Mass Grave -ŻOB, Bunker victims - 26.7.43
- 9 קבר קורבנות הפוגרום בקייצה - גרושקה ורמבק - 4.7.46
The Kielce Pogrom victims 4.7.46 - Gruszka & Rembak

הגדר בעורף הקברים 5,4,3 שמשה כמקום הוצאה להורג
 The fence at the back of Mass Graves 3,4,5 served as an execution wall



David Joseph Gruszka ז"ל



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I was not able to find a picture of Shmuel Rembak or to contact his family. I also could not identify the man with the beret seen standing at the grave in the picture on the left.

After I made the information public among Cze-rs in Israel and abroad, I received the missing information. It was sent by Ya'akov Wasilewicz, a native of Częstochowa, son of Halina Wasilewicz z"l, the director of the Częstochowa TSKZ for 40 years, and grandson of Ya'akov Wasilewicz, who was Shmuel Rembak cousin. Ya'akov identified the man wearing a beret in the picture next to the grave as his father and sent me a picture of Shmuel Rembak z"l.



Shmuel Rembak z"l



Ya'akov Wasilewicz, the cousin of Shmuel Rembak



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On July 4th, 2018, a memorial ceremony was held in front of the house at 7 Planty Street in Kielce. Forty-six Memorial Stepping Stones were discovered in memory of the victims of the Kielce pogrom, among them stumbling blocks bearing the names of, two Czestochowa Jews: Shmuel Rembak and Dawid Gruszka.

