



התאחדות יוצאי מחוז צ'נסטוחוב (דור ההמשך ער) בישראל
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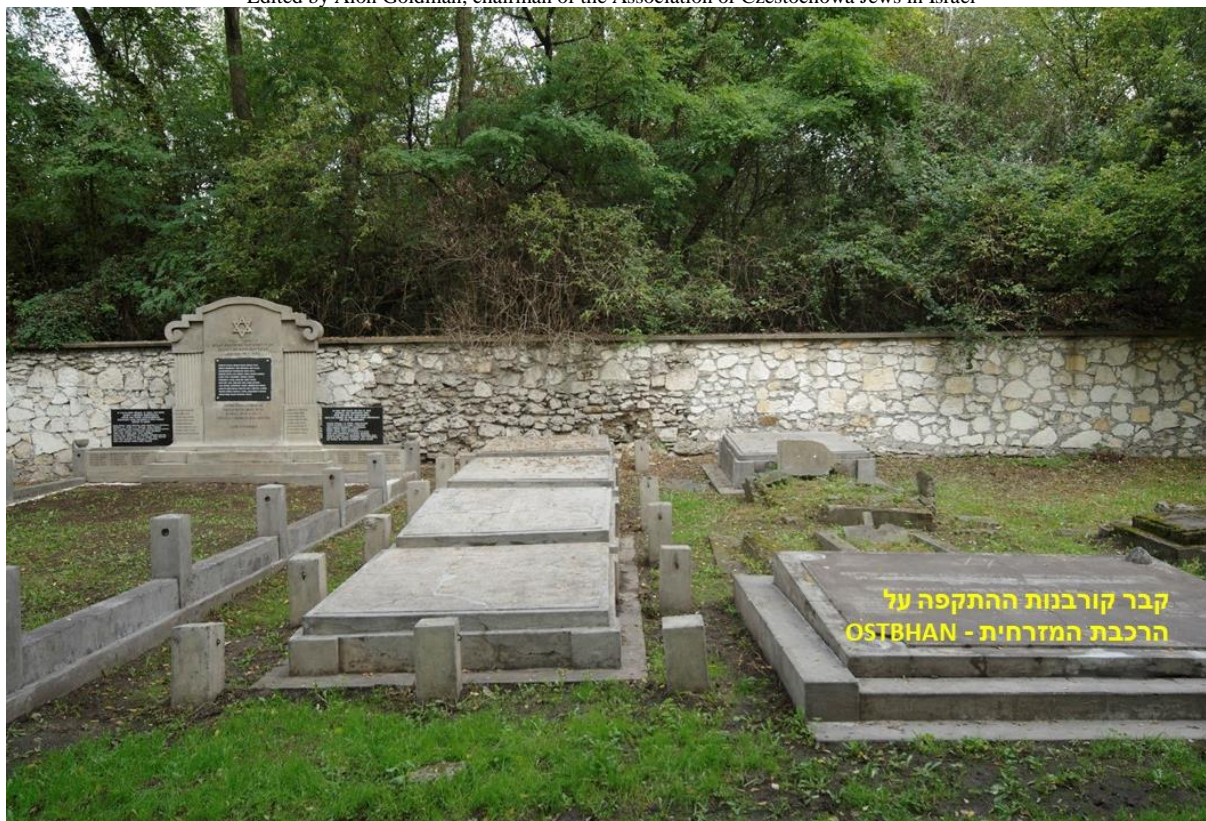
February 2018

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.

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



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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.

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	Rusin Szymel	Gerszonowicz Harry	Lewkowicz Dudek
Rozine Awiw	Goldberg	Laszer Mendel	Zelkowicz	Lustyger Cwi
Montag Stefan	Zeligman Berl	Ferleger Mietek	Lewek Mich	Frankenberg Leon



¹ Brener, pp. 126-127.

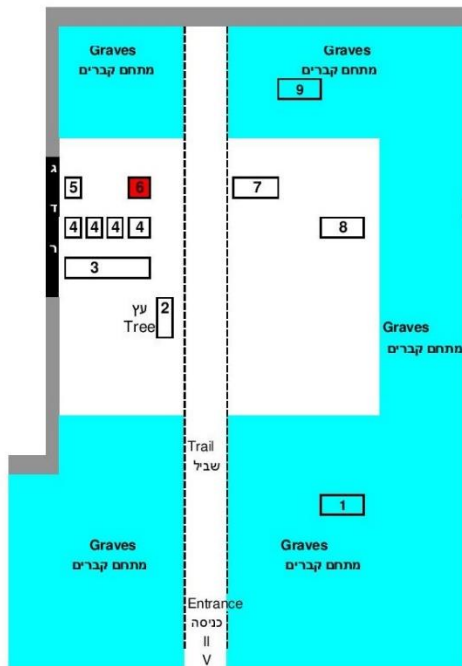


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Of the twenty eight who fell, fifteen are named. In addition, we know that, in December 1942, Mietek Ferleger fell into the hands of the Gestapo. He was tortured and later shot. He is probably resting in an unmarked grave in this cemetery. He is named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

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

15.5.2018



ארגון יוצאי צ'נסטוהוב בישראל
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- 1 קבר האדמו"ר מפילץ - הרב יוסטמן
Rabbi Justman Grave
- 2 קבר הרב נחום אש
Rabbi Nachum Asz Grave
- 3 קבר אחים קורבנות האסאג והגיסו 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 חוקפי 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 הבונקר - 26.7.43
Mass Grave - ŻOB, Bunker victims - 26.7.43
- 9 קבר קורבנות הפוגרום בקיילצה - גרושקה ורמבק - 4.7.46
The Kielce Pogrom victims 4.7.46 - Gruszka & Rembak

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

מגרש חניה - Parking Lot