

MR. ABRAHAM BORNSZTAJN

Rabbi Abraham Bornsztajn (h"yd¹), a young and energetic student, was received in the year of 5695²(?) as an adjudicator in Kutno. Acute, smart and witty – liked in all circles. His honesty, great understanding and pleasant demeanor brought him many friends in all circles of the public and even beyond the chassidim from whom he grew up and of which he was one.

Descendants of the famous Rabbis – son of the Rabbi of Sochaczew R' Shmuel ztz"l (famous for his book "*Shem MiShmuel*"³) and grandson of the Gaon R' Abraham ztz"l (author of "*Avnei Nezer*"⁴), he inherited from them their sharpness of mind and depth of thought, along with the chassidic devotion. He endured with a lot of perseverance and despite his young age he acquired an extensive and deep knowledge of the Torah, and he even managed to 'perfume' himself with the Jewish occult.

Born in Sochaczew in Heshvan 5761 (1910⁵) and educated on his *Admor* father's lap, from whom he sucked the teachings, he was one of the distinguished students of the *Gaon* Rabbi Abraham ztz"l Wajnberg, one of the rabbis of Warsaw. He married Royza⁶-Mindel, daughter of Rabbi Yaakov Binem Danciger z"l, son of the *Admor* R' Shmuel Zvi ztz"l of Alexander (author of "*Tiferet-Shmuel*") and as was the custom in those days he was near his father-in-law's table at Alexander⁷ for many years, sank in the sea of Torah.

Rabbi Yitzhak Yehuda Trunk z"l was his brother-in-law (his wife Mrs. Frumet was the daughter of the Rabbi of Sochaczew) and guided him in his first steps in the rabbinate. After his death (in the year 5699⁸), Rabbi Abraham succeeded him, at only thirty years old. However, the peaceful days that R' Abraham won, which so many promised, unfolded and bore fruit, did not last long. The deluge of blood flooded the land and also swept the Kutno community within them Rabbi Abraham and his family. It is rumored that he was hit by the murderers' hand in Otwock, near Warsaw, where he had fled with his family in 5702⁹. Together with his wife and two children, they died in *Kiddush HaShem*, and nothing of them remains. May God avenge their blood.

Anker ALEXANDER

¹ TN: Hebrew abbreviation, "May HaShem avenge his blood" usually applied to those who died as a result of antisemitism.

² TN: 1934-1935.

³ TN: wrongly mentioned as "*Shem Shmuel*" in original text.

⁴ TN: wrongly mentioned as "*Avi Nezer*" in original text.

⁵ TN: November-December 1910.

⁶ TN: wrongly mentioned as "Poisa" in original text.

⁷ TN: Aleksandrów Łódzki.

⁸ TN: 1939.

⁹ TN: 1941-1942.