

## YOSELE THE GOLDSMITH AND HIS FAMILY

In the year 1935, I came from Koło to Kutno, as the wife of Menachem Korn. Here I had a chance to get to know the wonderful old man and sage – Yosele the goldsmith. He was known as the 102-year-old elder of the Podrzeczna street, esteemed and loved by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was himself a living chronicle of Kutno. Even the mayor used to visit him at home to find out a date, or an important event, related to the history of Kutno. Mr. Yosele lived peacefully and died quietly in 1936.

On the other hand, his two daughters, Dvora Abramsohn and Feiga Berkowicz with their families, as well as my father-in-law Leizer Korn, were driven by the Nazis to the ghetto Konstancja and perished there. Before this, my father-in-law had to witness the tragic death of his son and my husband Menachem Korn – the first victim of World War II in Kutno.

In May 1940, we were deported to work in the "tytoniówka"<sup>1</sup>. During a half-hour stroll in the courtyard of the camp, my husband noticed an opening in the enclosure.

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<sup>1</sup> TN: Polish, "tobacco factory". Menachem Korn was murdered there, some time after. Leizer Korn was sent to the ghetto and probably died in Chełmno.

He pushed me out with the two children, to freedom, he himself returning to his parents – and I never saw them again. My surviving daughter, Chana Beila, died the same year. My son Yosef born in Kutno in 1939, managed with me to go through all seven circles of hell and survive the terrible war.

Let these few lines be a reminder of the three generations of the Korn family and the memory of his mother Sara [born] Werner from Krośniewice.

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