

THE DEATH OF THE JEWS OF ŁĘCZYCA

by Abraham WISZEGRÓDZKI

When the Nazi hordes occupied Poland, one of the first cities they bombed was our city. After occupying Łęczyca, they drove the Jewish population to the city school. Great was the panic, despair and fear of the women and children. As in many other cities and towns, they listed ten men as "hostages" (*eruvniks*):

Yaakov Chaim Lesman, Yaakov Spiegel (Teve Baharier died of fright on the spot), Szpringer, Reuven Kolski, Ben-Zion (hung by his own son, later the son was hung), Yaakov Wyszegródski (my brother), Israel Szajbe, Abraham Eliyahu Szajbe, Mordechai Sztar.



Eve of the deportation

Yaakov Wiszegródzki, one of the hanged "eruvniks". The rope snapped when they first hanged him. The German acted in disregard of international laws and hanged him anyway



The name of tenth one is unknown to me, as he was a makeshift, not from Łeczyca.

I would like to point out that while hanging Yaakov Wyszegródski, it happened that the rope broke. He turned to the elder of the SS and said that "according to international law, I should not be hanged anymore." The killer replied: "You must be hanged"!

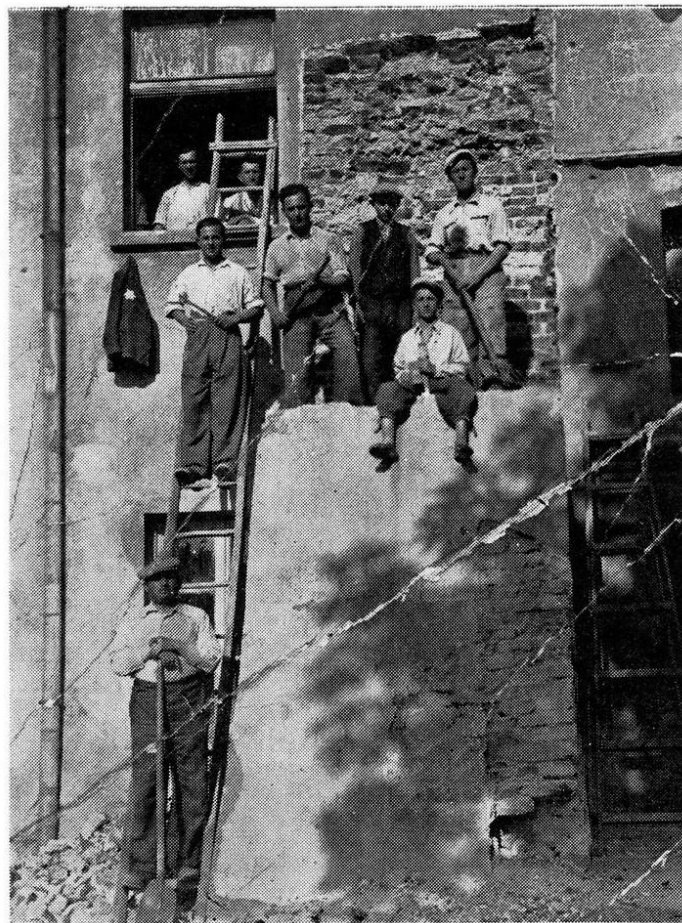
A second case also occurred with Yaakov Spiegel, that while he was being led with the other nine men to the gallows, he fell into weakness. The law says that to hang a man, he must be conscious. He was taken out of line and given injections. And when he felt better, he was hanged.

Such were the Nazi bestial laws!

The gallows were erected in the middle of the market, and the whole town of people had to stand and look directly at the gallows, as well as the women, children and family – how their loved ones were hanged.

Later, the young people were rounded up and sent to work, partly in the concentration camps and partly in the gas chambers, mainly in Chelmno, the first gas chambers to be created in Poland.

With various cruel deaths, the young lives of our closest relatives were cut off: fathers, mothers, wives, children,



Forced labor in ghetto

sisters, brothers, who shared the tragic fate of the six million.

With great reverence, we remember our martyrs. A constant nightmare stands before our eyes. Until our tomb – we will never forget them!