

KUTNO REFUGEES IN GERMANY (1945-1947)

translated from the Yiddish by Carole Turkeltaub-Borowitz



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Yitzhak Kac (of blessed memory)

May 1945. The Second World War had finished with the victory over Hitler's Germany. Those who survived the Nazi death-camps, those who still had enough strength, wanted to return to Poland to look for family and friends, but with little hope in their hearts because hardly anyone had remained alive. Many however remained on the accursed German soil, too exhausted and sick to leave for the journey which would be long owing to the bad conditions on the railways. Among those who stayed, there were some people from Kutno.

As the route from destroyed Poland to *Eretz Israel* was through... Germany, and various refugee camps had been established by the *Joint* and the Jewish Agency, one could meet Jews from Poland at them – countrymen, relatives, friends. In the years 1946-1947, within this framework, organizations were set up, bringing together survivors from the same towns for social and memorial meetings.

On the pictures: a memorial meeting in Germany, 1946. Picture above, right, Yitzhak Kac (of blessed memory) standing next to the inscribed memorial tablet commemorating Kutno 101 victims of the concentration camp, at the time of their liberation in April 1945.

