

Dynowinka, 2021

Dynowians Remember

January 27, 2021, Wednesday, a snowy day and another anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. It is also another International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust in the Podkarpacie region. This time, the form of the observance is modest, but celebrated as usual with dignity and due reverie.

We came to the cemetery in Karolówka: I, Prof. Joanna Duda, Ms. Ewa Czyżowska, Mr. Jerzy Warchoł and the youth gathered around her and participated in the project about Jewish inhabitants of Dynów.

It is here, in 1940, thanks to the efforts of the Krosno Jewish community, the bodies of the bestially murdered Jewish inhabitants of Dynów were buried in a mass grave. It has been over 80 years since the Nazi death squads (Einsatzgruppen), in accordance to Reinhardt Haydrich's Plan I, murdered most of the Jewish population and drove some of them to the other side of the San River under Soviet occupation.

In Dynów Ludwik Hahn led the operation. It took place in the middle of September, when our congregants were celebrating New Year (Rosh Hashanah). They were driven to the schoolyard (today a parking lot of the Municipal Office) mostly men, and were shot in Zurawiec (Woods) and Plebańskie Pole.

Some of the Jews were thrown into and burned alive in the synagogue, which was set on fire by the Nazis. It is estimated that about 400 people died. The second part of the drama took place on 28 September, also on a Jewish holiday. This time it was the Sukkot holiday (celebrated to commemorate the exodus of Jews from Egyptian slavery). Approximately 1,500 people, accompanied by the sound of an orchestra, were rushed to the San River and ordered to go into the river.

Some drowned, some were shot, and others were exiled deep into Siberian slave labor camps.

Jewish Dynów ceased to exist!

A veil of silence hid the memory of these events for a long time until Nina Talbot, a painter from New York, who lost 37 members of her family during the Dynów "tore down the veil".

On her initiative on the ohel of Tzaddick Tzvi Elimelech Shapiro there are plaques commemorating Talbot's family members who were murdered in the Nazi invasion. It was also her who, raised the money to fence the above-mentioned cemetery and made sure that a plaque informing about the tragedy was placed at the gate. She also painted a series of paintings "Faces from Dynów".

The paintings, on the one hand save the world of Dynów Jews from oblivion, and on the other hand, they artistically document those sad events. Thanks to the great and wise gesture of the painter, the paintings are now in the possession of the Dynów High School and make lessons about the Holocaust take on a regional dimension and become "tragically alive".

At the cemetery, these macabre scenes were recalled by a poem of mine, which I took the liberty of reading. Then, in silence, we prayed, remembered the murdered and joined in the pain with their families!

*Where is Dynów, where Tzaddick and the parish priest used to chat?
There is no colorful, communal town from long ago.
There are only bones of ancestors dragged out of their homes,
That are still screaming, yet silent trace.
And there is no more grandmother Bela Neger's Dynów,
Where she collected chestnuts in the golden autumn,
Instead, there are the tombstones, so heavy with pain,
Skulls and mouths of mute babies..
And only sometimes on Plebańskie and Zurawiec
The wind wails tragically, like a "German Hahn dog"..
And the death march with loud music on the Sanowa River
Will be remembered by the still remembering San River..*

Maciej Jurasiński
High School in Dynów