

**Unauthenticated**

**Statement of Michael Kishel**

**Born Majlech (Mailech) Kisielnicki (Kisleinicki)**

**Translated from the Yiddish**

**Abstract**

Gives the history of Kaluszyn (Kalushin) during the time of German occupation. It was located in the territories designated for Russian governance, but only the Germans occupied it. Immediately, they beat the Jews and cut off beards. In May 1939 the Mayor was ordered to create the Judenrat to carry out the German's orders while using their own money. Germans confiscated the Jew's belongings and brought in people from nearby areas although the town was already overcrowded. Germans made certain requirements of wearing special armbands, created the Jewish police and Sanitation Unit and had males 18 to 45 report to labor camps. Soon Kisielnicki (Kishelnitski, Kishlenitski, Kisleinicki, Kisienicki) became their leader and went to the work camp and got some young men released from their difficult conditions. Next, he was successful in making the entire Kaluszyn a ghetto, wherever Jews already lived. Then he got permits from the Germans in Minsk to allow some of the Jews to go to the nearby village to work so they would not starve. Homes and the synagogue were demolished to provide material to build an airfield. The Jews were forced to labor and were given a half piece of bread for the day's work; and Kisielnicki intervened with gifts, and they got paid. He was sometimes successful in having confiscated items returned and supplied the funds the Judenrat needed to feed the poor. When deportations began in Warsaw, Kisielnicki succeeded in having former Kaluszyn residents be returned to Kaluszyn. Soon deportations occurred in the other nearby towns and, fearing Kaluszyn would be next, many fled to work camps. Then the Gestapo imprisoned Kisielnicki and shot him. The Germans searched for all the Kaluszyn Jews and either shot them or put them on trains to Treblinka. Some tried to escape from the trains. Out of 8,000 people, 17 survived from Kaluszyn (lists the names).

**Document Verbatim**

In the time of the German occupation, the city of Kaluszyn was located amid the territories which the Russians were to govern. Immediately after agreements had been reached deciding how much of these territories up to Vistula (Wisla) should belong to the Russians, Kaluszyn became a free but damaged town; neither the Germans, Russians, nor the Poles ruled it. Order was maintained by a militia whose members were appointed by magistrates and other officials. This continued for several days—from the end of September to the beginning of October. Soon, however, the Germans started marching in, reoccupying the area which had been assigned to the

Russians—it was as if a new battle had started. The soldiers would stay for several days revealing who they were and what they were capable of doing. They snatched people who were at their work places and they beat them. And soon they began to cut off beards.

Life began to normalize after the turmoil, and the administrator and magisterial offices started functioning. A little later, that is November, 1939, the *burgermeister*, Mayor (Burmiszcz) (?) Pliwaczewski (Plywaczewsky) (?) received an order from the Germans to establish a Judenrat which would be responsible for carrying out everything the Germans demanded.

Pliwaczewski nominated twelve people to the Judenrat. They were: Michelson Rubin (Michelzon Runin) (?), Berman Mojsze (Moshe), Pieknawies (Pienknawiesz, Pienknaniesz, Pienknawiesh) (?) Jidl (Yidl) (?), Kisielnicki Mojsze (Moshe), Guzik Alter Mojsze, Gamze (Gamzo, Gamza) (?) Abram, Borensztajn Lajzer (Lejzer, Laiser) (?), Rapaport (Rapoport) (?) Aron, Aronson (Aronzon) (?) Motel, Rinwrot Mordka (Mordcha, Mordechai) (?), Feldman Herszel, and Lis (?) (talis maker). The mayor informed the Judenrat of their assignments, which included providing materials and people for work projects. At once, various demands were made. These involved great expenditures and were assessed to the Judenrat.

Because typhus was spreading in Kaluszyn, the German police organized themselves in Mrozy, a railroad station. Whatever expenses were incurred, had to be paid by the Judenrat. In addition, the German police began to seize (confiscate) furniture, linens, and whatever they wanted. Winter was approaching, and conditions were very difficult. Jews were then living in the synagogue, the Talmud Torah, the community bath house, the brewery, in Raizman's tannery, and other similar places. There was much overcrowding in Kaluszyn, and yet the Germans sent in people from Pabianice (Pabjanice, Pabenits, Pabnitz, Pabyanets, Pabyanitse) and Kalisz (Kalisch, Kolish) to the town. These people were hidden, housed; some in homes, some in open places. Some people, seeing the conditions in Kaluszyn, on their own, went to other towns. Troubles increased particularly unsanitary conditions due to the overcrowding, and many came down with typhus. The disease dragged on for two years. Many died in the hospital in Rudka (Rudke), and later many died in the hospital in Kaluszyn which the Judenrat had established. Many died of cold and hunger.

The demands of the Germans kept growing, and the Judenrat did not know where to begin. The work of the Judenrat did not proceed smoothly because of the relentless demands. In the winter of 1939-40, more Germans arrived who ordered the Polish police to arrest ten rich Jews, extort 10,000 zlotys, and if they refused, they would be shot. Immediately, the Judenrat attempted to raise the money but they also tried to negotiate a lower (ransom) amount. Nothing helped—they had to pay the entire amount in order to save the lives of those who had been arrested.

In the winter of 1939-40, new decrees were issued—Jews must wear white armbands with a blue Star of David on their right arms—anyone discovered not wearing the armband would be punished and in some cases, shot. The Germans also ordered all males between the ages of 18

and 45 years, to register for work in the labor camps. In fact, not much time passed before these men were called to work. This was after Pesach, 1940 when there was an order for 150 young men from Kaluszyn. Because of the intensive efforts of the Judenrat, mainly the effort of Mojsze Kisielnicki, only 38 people were provided. The young men were sent away to Biala Podlaska, where they worked very hard and were beaten until bloody. They starved and were infested with lice. The letters they wrote disturbed everyone. The Judenrat decided that regardless of the expense, they would bring them back to Kaluszyn. However, to attempt this, someone would have to go to Biala; but there was a great fear that whoever went could be seized. So Kisielnicki undertook this task. On his first visit, he met with the twelve young men and gave them hope that they would not have to remain there. When he went to negotiate with the Germans, they beat his head and body so badly that when he returned home, he had to remain in bed for two weeks. But he couldn't rest because he had seen the conditions under which these young men were living. He returned to Biala, and after eight days there, he brought them all back to Kaluszyn. The parents were overjoyed. Just imagine, their sons had been rescued from the beasts!

This was the start of Kisielnicki's risky work. He labored with devotion for all the Jews of Kaluszyn and for their town. The work of the Judenrat did not proceed. The former president of the pre-war Jewish Council died and the other members were not interested in helping in this difficult situation which was getting worse every day.

In the summer of 1940, Mordechai Rinwrot and Lis, the tallis maker, were removed from the Judenrat and Sadowski (Sadovski) Lajzer (Lazar) (?) and Goldwasser (Goldwaser, Goldvasser) (?) replaced them. In 1940, many rumors circulated. People were seized at their work places; new rules were applied, brass works were removed from the doors of Jewish homes, and the Jews were subjected to much pressure. People were still permitted to leave the city for the village in order to get food, but could do so only during the day. At the end of summer, German soldiers appeared and demanded workers to go to Mrozy, where a boczbuca (depot) (?) near the rail station was being built. At this time preparations for war with the Russians were underway. The pay for this work was five zlotys a day, translated as a ½ kilo bread. People did not wish to do this work, so they were beaten and forcibly taken.

At the same time (that) the ghetto in Warsaw was sealed, a ghetto was established in Kaluszyn. The ghetto in Kaluszyn was the entire town—wherever a Jew lived. This was accomplished by Kisielnicki. When the—starosta (Polish) (?), Kreishauptmann (kreishaubtman (German))—county chief came to determine the location of the ghetto, Kisielnicki accompanied him and, at great length, persuaded him to allow the Jews to remain in the places they already lived. At places where Jews lived, signs were erected bearing an inscription, “Jewish Quarter—Kaluszyn Ghetto.” Also the Jews who were at a distance—across the water, past the church and the Szczonky (?), gentile area, at the hog market, and the brewery near the post office, in one word, everywhere in the town—continued to live in their same places. The ghetto of the Kaluszyn had not yet been sealed, and the Jews were still able to leave the town. Later, the ghetto was sealed,

and the Jews were no longer permitted to leave. They did not dare go to the village, since the Germans threatened anyone who did so with severe punishment and shooting. The closing of the ghetto caused great sorrow to the population because, almost without exception, everyone carved their livelihood from the village. Even though they were in great fear, some went to the village, risking their lives. The Judenrat was forced to position Jewish police to prevent Jews from leaving the town, but people ignored them. Every day, gendarmes imprisoned Jews they encountered outside of the town and confiscated their possessions. In many instances, people were shot on the road. Among those shot: the ritual slaughterer Chaim Neiman (?), Tschachanovitski (?), a son of Chemya (?), Zshita (?), a man and his wife and son, Sladzena (?), and about 50 others. Kisielnicki began to obtain from the Gestapo office in Minsk, permits allowing Jews to go to work in the village. Because he was unable to obtain permits for everyone, some people smuggled themselves out, greatly fearing they would fall into the hands of the "bandits."

How was it that a Jewish police force and a sanitation unit was created? In October, 1940, when a ghetto was established and then several months later sealed, the Kreishauptmann (county chief) ordered the Judenrat to establish a Jewish police force to establish order in the ghetto and organize a Jewish sanitation unit to maintain sanitary conditions; to supervise the bathhouse and the hospital and so on. The police force consisted of the following: Goldwasser (?), Piasecki (?), Czapka (?), Radzynski (?), Gontarski (?), Berman, Kisielnicki, Wajnkranc (?), Dimentman (?), Gelbard (?), Kushka (?), Jaworski (?), Sadowski (?), Obronzka (?), Grodzicki (?), and Zylberman (?). The head man was a person from Lodz who knew German well which greatly helped to relieve the hard duties assigned to them. The sanitation unit included : Berman, Kamienny (?), Kisielnicki, Kornblum (?), Palma (?), Ruza Rabinowicz (?), Slomka (?), Zilberman (?), and a few others I do not remember. More than once, members of the sanitation unit, along with the president of the Judenrat, then Gamze (?), were imprisoned by the anti-Semitic mayor. The Jewish police also suffered at the hand of the anti-Semite. At first, the Jewish police worked in the interests of the people of Kaluszyn. Though the police had to obey the commands of the Germans, they did whatever they could to lighten the burden of the Jews. When the deportations began, the police did not cooperate with the Germans. They could move freely and sought ways to escape, and indeed this is what they did.

In the winter of 1940-41, after the Kaluszyn ghetto was established, German civilians, German work groups such as "Wolper and Goebel" (Wolfe und Goebel) (?) arrived from Minsk demanding Jewish workers to clear the snow on the way to Dorbe-Minsk (Dorba). They made no announcements, but forcefully dragged men from their homes—old and young. The Germans ignored the fact that some were already employed; that others worked in the fur (or pelts) plant, and were not to be assigned to other work; that some of the men were members of the Judenrat. The Germans made no distinctions; they took everyone. People were so badly beaten while working, they returned to their homes with broken heads and bones. This lasted for several days, until the Judenrat notified higher authorities. However, the local Germans received no

punishment; for approval, if they wanted workers, they first had to notify the Judenrat. But who can expect justice from a Cossack!

In the spring, soldiers from Janow (Yanov), near Minsk, arrived. An airfield was being constructed, and these soldiers began confiscating homes of Jews which had been burnt during the war. The work to be done on the houses was assigned to Jews. When this task was completed, the large synagogue was demolished. This happened between Pesach and Shavuot, 1941. All the bricks were hauled to the airfield, a lot of wood was stolen by the gentiles, and what remained was used for repair and for firewood for the bathhouse.

In every city, and every organization, there are always those who like to criticize—are the leaders capable? There are always foolish critics who create baseless stories. And this was also the case in Kaluszyn. The Judenrat had somewhat reorganized after the death of Michelson (?). Then came a new mayor to Kaluszyn, a superintendent of the Poyzner (?) area. He was an extreme anti-Semite, and tried in every way to hamper the work of the Judenrat. There were some Jews who cooperated with him, thinking that if they succeeded, they would lead the city by the head (literal translation). These people were Bernard Feldman, the fat midwife's husband from Dembe-Vielke (?), Shmuel Riba (?), Avraham Lazar Abfel (?), the teacher Sheteinfelsen (?), their secretary, and several others like them. They tried to undermine the Judenrat with reports they sent to the various German officers stating that the city was unclean, due to the typhus epidemic.

The Germans decided to deport a portion of the population to Warsaw—the first group would be from the poor class. The deportations were conducted by a German doctor from Warsaw—his name was Koman (?), and his representative was an ethnic German named Neuman (?), who had the entire time worked in Kaluszyn; and by the pompous anti-Semite, Zigmund Janiak (?). The Jewish police and sanitation unit worked with them so the assignment would not be transferred to the Polish police and gendarmes who were waiting for the opportunity to rob and beat the people. About 2,000 people were sent to Warsaw. After several weeks, more than half of them returned to Kaluszyn. The others died in the Warsaw ghetto.

At that time, the president of the Judenrat was Avraham Gamzo (?), who refused to compromise with the “critics” or admit them as members of the Judenrat. Consequently, he resigned his position as president. In order to avoid further betrayals, the Judenrat agreed to admit Bernard Feldman and Shmuel Riba (?) as members. The Judenrat was reorganized as follows:

Kisielnicki, vice-president for municipal affairs, both internal and external, with all German authorities.

Moshe Berman, president and assistant to Kisielnicki

Yidl Pienknianiesz (?), interior, police and gendarmes

Aron Rapoport (?), treasurer

Lazar Sadovski (?), sanitation and Jewish hospital

Bernard Feldman, labor

David Bataln (?), secretary

Goldvasser (?), bookkeeper

The rest of the members were assistants.

The Judenrat now started a new assignment. Not long after the deportation to Warsaw, the city was badly damaged. Germans started coming, demanding Jewish laborers to work on the roads. People then were willing to work, fearing that, otherwise, they may be deported. The work was for the same firms which had, in the winter of '40-41, beat the people while they were cleaning snow from the road leading to Dorbe. The firm "Wolper (Wolfer) and Goebel" managed construction of roads, bridges, and other types of construction for the German military. The firm was located in Minsk Mazowiecki (Minsk-Maz, Minsk Mazovyets, Minsk Mazovyetsk). For an entire day's work, from morning until night, a laborer earned up to five zlotys. The Judenrat gave each worker a half kilo bread. Frequently when Kisielnicki arrived in Minsk to collect the money due the workers, he was paid with blows. He then turned to a higher authority, arriving with expensive "gifts," and he intervened.

The intervention helped a little, but nevertheless, there was a delay in paying the workers. This is how it proceeded the entire time of this work. People worked on roads, bridges for the soldiers. The number of Jews employed by the Germans reached 1,000. Girls also worked. Hard labor was performed by both the skilled and unskilled. Business people were in fear constantly. They were subject to searches and confiscation of various items of merchandise. Thanks to the efforts of Kisielnicki, in many cases the merchandise was returned after a promise that the Jews would no longer engage in trade. But they had to do something, so again they dealt; and again they were caught and beaten; again (articles) were taken away; and again they resumed trading. At first, searches were conducted in the leather, pelts and fabric shops, because these items were needed to obtain food and when a discovery was made, punishment followed. The Judenrat reclaimed the goods ostensibly for the children who were under their protection.

Besides the gendarmes from the city and Powiat (?) County, Kaluszyn suffered very much from the Warsaw Gestapo who, each week, came through Kaluszyn. It was mandatory to meet their demands; if not, they threatened to take hostages and also to shoot. They started coming Pesach, 1942 and arrested Reuven Cohn 'Katche' (nickname) (?), his two daughters and Chaim Milgrom (?). They were confined to the Kaluszyn jail for several days. The Judenrat worked very hard for their release and went to Warsaw to consult with Dr. Wielikowski (Vielikovsky) (?), a representative of the Warsaw ghetto. Nothing helped.

Several days later, the same Gestapo arrived and led away the arrested ones and led them away from the city—on the road between Siedlce (Shedlets, Shedlitz) and Wegrow (Vegrov, Vengerov, Vengrov, Vengrova, Vengrove, Wegrow Podlaski, Vengrv)—and there, in the woods, shot them. No one uttered a word for fear of risking one's life. It was also forbidden to bring them (the victims) to Kaluszyn for burial. (But) the Judenrat organized some people who, at night, brought the people (victims) for burial in the cemetery. . . . And the same Gestapo returned to Kaluszyn like spiders sucking from the poor city, everything they could.

The Judenrat not only supplied everything the Germans demanded, but also **did everything possible** for the poor Jewish population. Soon after the creation of the Judenrat, a general kitchen was established for poor people. The kitchen provided breakfasts for children and dinner, both for the children and the elderly. The necessary funds were assembled entirely by Kisielnicki who, each week, hauled from Minsk and Mrozy, various items from the gendarmes which the Germans had demanded from Christians and Jews. With various pretexts, he tricked them out of flour, potatoes, kasha and other food the kitchen needed; but there was never enough. The Judenrat was forced to close the kitchen to adults and only fed the children. Each Friday, each poor family received, exclusive of the food (ration) card, a half kilo of bread per person, within the capabilities of the Judenrat. Each day they also gave to every person employed in outdoor work, a half kilo of bread and sometimes an entire kilo of bread to those who were engaged in very heavy labor. The Judenrat also established a Jewish hospital for typhus victims, which treated many Jews from Kaluszyn as well as Jews from the vicinity.

Wanting to meet the needs that tormented the Jewish population in Kaluszyn and the expenses (charged to the Judenrat) from all that the Germans devoured, the Judenrat assessed its own members as much as 20,000 zlotys. The first money was contributed by Kisielnicki, Berman, Pienknawiesh (?) and Rapaport (?). They contributed because they (Germans) took them by the heads (literal translation) and constantly threatened arrest and execution. They also contributed, thinking that, maybe, they could save the city with money!—until the liberation. But it did not help, the bandits wanted the money and, after, the lives (of the victims).

This took place not only in Kaluszyn but in all the territories occupied by the Germans. And when the Germans realized that they could first take the lives of the Jews, then, after, take their money, that is what they started to do. And this is how they began the liquidation of the Jews, beginning first in Warsaw, and after, in other cities.

The deportation in Warsaw began the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, 1942. When the Jews of Kaluszyn learned of the Warsaw deportation, they understood at first, that it would not include all Jews. So they devised ways to bring families from the Warsaw ghetto, and they did this in the following way: as before, Kisielnicki, under various pretexts, obtained permission for Jews to travel to Warsaw. So again, he tried very hard to get this permission in order to bring back Jews who had been stranded in the Warsaw ghetto. He accomplished this, and with members of the Jewish police of Kaluszyn, risking their lives, began to bring back these Jews of Kaluszyn, who had resided in

Warsaw for a long time. When these people returned to Kaluszyn, they believed they were already helped. However, this did not endure, and the row came close on Minsk and after on Kaluszyn. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of August, the Germans started to annihilate the Jews in Minsk-Maz. The terror soon enveloped the people of Kaluszyn. They reckoned that now; now, tomorrow, they will do this in Kaluszyn. The city emptied as if no one lived there. Most of the members of the Judenrat and the Jewish police also concealed themselves fearing what would take place. And in this case, also, Kisielnicki demonstrated his willingness to deal with the bandits. He was well-aware that if no representative from the Judenrat would be there to speak with them, it could be much worse. And perhaps, as had previously occurred in other towns, they could negotiate. From six in the morning, he (Kisielnicki), with several Jewish policemen, awaited the bandits. Fortunately, this time they (the Germans) merely drove through Kaluszyn. On that day, the Germans liquidated Siedlce, Losice (Loshits, Loshitz, Lositse), and Mordy (Mord). The people, seeing that the Germans had passed through Kaluszyn, began returning from holes [literal translation] (hiding places), woods and fields. But what use was such a life, knowing that in the nearest city, Minsk Maz, where there also existed a strong Judenrat, was already deported. Every night, it was thought, that when they would awaken, they would find themselves surrounded by the bandits. Several days after the destruction of the Jews of Minsk, they (the Germans) sent to Kaluszyn those Jews who had, in that time, hidden (during) the action and were later discovered. They concentrated them in order to have less work. The Judenrat could not travel outside the city or to the German authorities to find out what they planned to do further. Now, eight days after the events in Minsk, they received special permission to go to Minsk. In the negotiations which they conducted with the Germans, the Germans assured them that Kaluszyn was designated to survive over the winter, and later, they would decide what would further happen. The Judenrat did not believe them, but they had no alternative. Again they murdered, and Jews hoped that perhaps a miracle would occur, and the few Jews in Kaluszyn, and also in other towns, would be saved. But the miracles of the past did not happen.

Meanwhile, the gendarmes and Gestapo tripled their demands and the situation became more oppressive. They (the Jews) understood that they (the Germans) were preparing everything in haste, while the Jews were still there. Later no one would be left from whom anything could be taken. People began to flee to the camps around Kaluszyn—to Kiflev (?), Jeziorek (?) near Kiflev, to Mienie Sucha (?) to Siedlce and wherever there was a work place managed by the Germans. This flight helped until December 9, 1942 when a second deportation from Kaluszyn took place.

For four weeks following the annihilation of the people of Minsk, the Jews lived in terror; and it came to pass yet another great threat which made an end to the Jews of Kaluszyn. Sunday night, the eve of Yom Kippur, 1942, an ober-lieutenant from the gendarmerie arrived and announced to the Judenrat, that the next morning, the day of Yom Kippur, six in the morning, 500 people must go to Jeziorek to work. And if they (the Judenrat) will not deliver, then the Germans would accomplish it; and this could result in casualties. They (the Judenrat) did not know what to do.



Where could they find [literal translation is 'take'] 500 people when almost everyone had placed themselves in the work camps attempting to save their lives. But there was no excuse (acceptable to the Germans). Early the next morning, gendarmes and police appeared and waited for the 500 people. It was very difficult to assemble this number so the gendarmes started to take people over 60 years of age. They ran around like crazy people and into a home where people were praying. People ran out and the Germans started shooting and killed two elderly persons, Yechil Finkelshtein (?) and Elboim (?). Also killed were the son of Shmuel Teitelboim (?), Israel, and several other people. Around three in the afternoon, it became very quiet, as if in a cemetery. In about two hours, the chief of the Gestapo in Minsk arrived and sent the Polish police for Kisielnicki. This was not the first time the Gestapo had ordered them to come but this time it was different. The police did not wish to digress and they immediately left with Kisielnicki. When he arrived at the Polish Posterunek (precinct) (?), the Gestapo ordered the imprisonment of Kisielnicki and (that) no one be allowed to see him. The police faithfully followed this command. Other members of the Judenrat were informed—Fienknawiesh (?) and Rapoport—who immediately went to the Gestapo [word used in a presumably regional manner] to intervene with promises of gifts—like the Judenrat always did—, so that Kisielnicki could be freed. The Gestapo said that he (Kisielnicki) would be sent to Warsaw and his wife and children could come to bid him farewell. Night approached and not a single person was seen on the street. Two members of the Judenrat and I, with my brother, waited until Kisielnicki would be led to the automobile.

Meanwhile, the Gestapo people drank good schnapps (whiskey) at the expense account of the Judenrat and got very drunk. Being impatient, we decided to go through a side street to the rear of the prison to say goodbye (to Kisielnicki). In the meantime, we heard shootings, and this was not a good sign. We arrived at the jail and Kisielnicki was no longer—he had been shot. Immediately, (the place) had been tidied, as if nothing had happened.

Next morning, ignoring that it was not allowed to leave the city, all the people who had been in hiding went to the funeral. One could recognize from (expressions on) people's faces, that the slain one was an extraordinary person.

And so ended the life of a person who had throughout each day, each night—for poor and rich—defended the interests of the Jews of Kaluszyn. Returning from the cemetery, we heard that on this day, the Jews of the neighboring towns, Wegrow and Sokolow (Soklov), would be liquidated. It was believed that in about 2-3 days they (the Germans) will come to Kaluszyn (and do the same). Again people tried to save themselves. They gave their possessions to the Poles, who later betrayed them; and they attempted to hide or flee from the city.

In the same week that there were up to 20 victims in Kaluszyn, the German beasts attacked and began their work. This was on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. German, Lithuanian, Latvian, Ukrainian gendarmes, Polish police and firemen, searched for Jews. Those who were seized were led to the market place—the place of assembly; from there, they were chased, on foot, to Mrozy. They took

everyone they saw, and anyone unable to go, was shot on the spot. At first, they took the workers of the fur plant, but later, after the intervention of Sheradzinsky (?) and because they were still needed (to work in the fur plant), 30 workers were freed. At night, they started to chase people to Mrozy. Women and little children were loaded onto wagons of the peasants, which were waiting for them. They were shoved into the wagons in order to get as many in as they could.

That day, many bloody footprints of the injured were left on the road to Mrozy. The Germans rode on horses and commanded the Jews to run quickly. Naturally, they (the Jews) could not run as fast as the horses and (many) were shot along the entire way. When they arrived in Mrozy, awaiting them was a freight train which took the people to Treblinka and the gas chambers. Many young people jumped from the train and were killed or were caught by the Poles and handed over to the Germans. There were many women among those who jumped.

There still remained in Kaluszyn, exclusive of the 30 factory workers, people who were hiding in cellars, attics and other hideouts. A search was conducted and they were discovered and collectively taken into custody. The Germans assembled a group of 150-200 persons, led them to the cemetery and there, shot them.

After the deportation, up to 1,000 people were shot. Among them were: the family Kiferboim (?), Lutsker (?), Kornblum (?), Rozshe (?), Sadovsky (?), his wife and sister, and many, many more people. They also shot the sons of Pesach Moshe Kuska (?); Avraham and Hershl Guzrk (?), who jumped from the train and went to their homes to take out various things which they had left. But the Poles faithfully served the Germans. They captured them and delivered them to the murderers who shot them.

The 30 workers at Sheradzinsky (Sheredzinsky) (?) were not allowed to move about freely and were constantly vexed. There also remained in Kaluszyn, people who earlier had fled to the work camps at Kiflev, Jeziorek, Mienie (?), Sucha (?), Siedlce, and to the forests. When the winter approached, they were ordered to return to Kaluszyn where, once again, a ghetto had been established. Everyone from the vicinity of Kaluszyn had to come to the ghetto the first day of December 1, 1942 from Mrozy, Latowicz (Latowicze, Latavitsher) (?), Shenitser (?), Kolbiel (Kolobeel), Minsker (?) and Kalushiener (?). But there was no place to live since after the occupation, the Poles had destroyed the rest of the standing buildings, searching for money and gold. There were no ovens, windows, roofs...just the four walls, and yet, there was such a desire to survive, they lived 30-40 persons in a room only large enough for two persons.

People also slept outside in freezing temperatures and were frozen. They wore tattered clothing and were naked and barefoot. And even then, they did not let the Jews live. Just nine days after the ghetto was established, that is the 9<sup>th</sup> of December, the same bandits came again, and again repeated the same history as before. But now the 30 factory workers did not remain. They were sent away to Treblinka. Again people jumped from the train and some saved themselves.

Altogether, just 17 (Jews) of Kaluszyn who remained there during the entire time of terror of the barbaric German occupation, had survived.

These are some of the names (of the survivors).

**Kisielnicki, Abram—Warsaw Ghetto, Majdanek, Skarzysk, Buchenwald**

**Majlech—Warsaw Ghetto, Majdanek, Auschwitz**

**Berman, Naftule (?)—Hidden in Fields by a Farm Family**

**Mendel—Hidden in Fields by a Farm Family**

**Josef—Hidden in Fields by a Farm Family**

**Szyja (?)—Hidden in Fields by a Farm Family**

**Radzynski Froim (?)—Hidden in Fields by a Farm Family**

**Fajga (?)—Hidden in fields by a Farm Family**

**Kornblum, Peryl (Pola) (?)—In a Convent**

**Chana—In a Convent**

**Kamienny, Abram (?)—On Polish side of Warsaw**

**Jablonka, (Girl) (?)—Survived as Gentile, Hidden by Farmer**

**Nisenbaum, Mala (?)—Survived in Woods**

**Gruszka, Kalaman (?)—Survived in Woods**

**Wierzba, Abram (?)—Survived in Woods**

**Aronsohn, Sara (?)—Polish side of Warsaw, Later Bergen-Belsen**

**Grynberg, Chana (?)—A Gentile Girl working in Germany for Farmers**

In such a manner, was a Jewish city devastated —**Kaluszyn**—which numbered 8,000 people before the occupation.