

After the Homyel Pogrom

The days of terror have passed, and once we learned who all the victims are, the time has come to write down their names for remembrance.

Here are the names of the eight people killed in the Pogrom:

Eliahu son of Yitzchak Aberman, 27 years old tailor; Fybush son of Eliahu Halperin, 24 years old merchant (both left widows behind, one shomeret yibum¹); Zalman son of Moredcai Kohenski, a 20 years old Zionist and an only child to his parents.

Meir Davidov, a Chider Melamed (school teacher), about 40-45 years old, left a wife and a son.

Dov Laykin, 45 years old book seller. He walked down Palace St. on his way to protect his only son from danger when the killers caught up with him. He was killed right there and then.

Dov son of Simcha Keves, a 32 years old well-to-do merchant, left a wife and sons. He was beaten to death on Haromaynci St, by the Orlov's Bank construction workers when he was on his way to the post office. They also pushed down and severely beat the banker Shmuel Luria, but his servant a Christian youth saved him by saying that Luria was an Askanez-Russian. They also beat, injured and robbed the Credit Union Bank manager Shmuel Legonov, and Yacov Ahronson the son in law of Mordecai son of Hillel HaCohen, and other people as well.

Baruch Pitzky, about 24 years old book editor escaped town with his wife of 2 weeks, and a few other people. They found shelter in a house of an honorable honest Christian in the Kavkaz(?) Region, but when the rioters got closer, their host's carriage driver was to take them to the train station. To avoid the rioters they decided to travel to the Kostiukovitch station. While passing through the village of Yermina(?) the villagers killed Pitzki, and severely wounded the others including women and children. His widow fell severely ill because of sorrow.

Ze'ev Eidlin, a 60 years old orchard leaseholder, a husband and a father was slaughtered in his sleep in a hut in his garden on Saturday night after the riots, on Hetrozi St, in front of my house. The suspect is the street's guard; he was arrested and already confessed.

When these KDOSHIM were brought to rest, an infant girl who died on Wednesday (the third day after the riots) was also brought to the cemetery. She was left at home with her Christian wet nurse when the parents went into hiding; they found her dead upon their return home.

¹ a childless widow waiting for her brother-in-law

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Do we need to mourn and tell more about these Kdosheem? And do we need to pray more for their souls to be bound up in the bond of eternal life?

Israel Yehuda Adlerⁱ

ⁱ Israel Yehuda (Yeshai) Adler(1870-1948) was the head master and teacher of the 'Hebrew in Hebrew' Chider in Homel, circa 1901-1904.

Translation: Smadar Gilboa, Yeshai Adler g-granddaughter.