

Julian Land

From: RAYMUSIK@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2011 5:07 AM
To: JGSGB Online Discussion Group
Subject: [jgsgb-discuss] A date for your diary. An important visit to the Nuovo cemetery

Dear interested centrekkers,

Many of you will know by now of the controversy over the proposed plans to build on the - (what's left of) - Nuovo cemetery (opened in 1733) in Mile End. I have thus made plans - prompted by a concerned member - to visit there for a tour 'round and research session, before it's too late.

I'm pessimistic about it's future, especially after the debacle of the 70's when three quarters of the interred were moved to a desolate, non atmospheric and most difficult to locate corner of a field in Brentwood. Essex. There are no signs indicating the site. It's behind a 5 barred, unlocked gate to a field. After several attempts, I found it. "You can bet your bottom shekel", that said plans will go ahead. We need to go there.

If you are interested in coming along, please let me know. The date set is for Sunday the 2nd of October. Meet outside at mid-day. The cemetery is actually located behind Queen Mary College.

As a PS - a mini report on the same subject.

Having recently moved to the Brentwood area, today was the first real opportunity for me to visit the cemetery. I found it to be the most depressing "cemetery" that I have ever seen in the south east. It makes West Ham look like Kew Gardens !

There are 4 plots of nothing, bar umpteen small stones scattered in each plot, fenced in by a low railing. Each plot measured approx. 25 x 15 metres. Having the remains of family members buried there, I was taken back and upset.

On seeing these plots, my mind went back to 1974 when I visited Dachau. A terrible analogy, I know - but if any of you have ever visited Dachau, you will remember the sites, either side of the main path, where once stood the barracks. Those images came to me again. I had a "shivery" moment.

There are no markers, no names, no real indication that there are remains buried there - except for 2 small plaques - (one in English, one in Hebrew) - inside and either side of the wall (facing away from visitors) - denoting basic details of those buried there and the move from the East End. There is however, a large plaque denoting the prayer that one says on entering a cemetery. This is the only indication that one is on hallowed ground.

I didn't see this as a Jewish cemetery - or any cemetery come to that - but as just a forgotten field in Essex, just the other side of the M25. motorway.

If anyone would like photographs of the plaques and the area, just ask - I'll send them as a JPEG attachment.

Raymond Montanjees

Researching :
ISAACS - JESSEL - LEVY - maternal

MONTANHES/MONTAN(N)ES/MONTANEZ/MONTANJIES,
VAN PRAAG(H) - TOF(F)LER/TAF(F)LER - KURTZ - PIZER - paternal

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