

ALTMAN Becalel Calel (1903 - before 1968), baker, trade union and political activist.

He was born on 19th May 1903, the son of Izrael and Małka née Elster. Due to his parents' poverty, at the age of twelve, he was sent to work in a bakery in order to help support his family

In 1919, he became a member of the Bund youth organisation, *Tsukunft* and, later, a member of the Bund in Częstochowa. He gained an education and upbringing in the youth organisation. There, he learned to read and write in Yiddish (his only language).

Thanks to his self-education, he became one of the most aware workers in the city. He organised a youth section in the education union, became secretary of the Food Industry Union and secretary of the bakers' section. He served in these positions until 1939. At the end of the 1930s, he was a member of the Bund committee in Częstochowa.

During the German occupation, in the ghetto, together with Herszel Broder, he commanded the first fighting group. (This was later taken over by → Herszlik Frajman and → Adam Wolberg). In the "Small Ghetto", he was a member of the Bund's underground committee. As a forced labourer, he worked in HASAG Pelcery and lived in the factory camp. He participated in all the Bund's battles waged against the occupation. In January 1945, he was evacuated to Germany and was imprisoned in the Buchenwald and Colditz camps.

At the end of the War, he returned to Częstochowa, from where he left for Dzierżoniów in Dolny Śląsk, where he continued to be active in the Bund. Following the liquidation of the Bund in 1948, together with his wife and child, he left Poland. He settled in Melbourne, Australia, where he arrived on 15th March 1951. There, he was active in the Bund organisation.

His first wife, Hinda (1899–) née Handwerker, probably perished during the occupation. After the War, he married Rajzla née Jakubowski. They had a son, Szymon, (4th April 1947-).

R. Federman, *Altman Becalel*, in: *Czenstochow*, p. 290.

Wiesław Paszkowski