BERLINER Natan Dawid (1883-1943), financier, Jewish and general local
government activist. He was born on 4th June 1883 in Częstochowa, the son of
Berek and Gitla Chana Gizela née Berliner. He was the head and co-owner of →
Joachim Weksler’s Kantor Wymiany [Currency Exchange] at I Aleja 6. He lived at
ul. Szkolna (Dąbrowskiego) 12.

Prior to 1914, he was on the board (he was the cashier) of the Częstochowa
branch of the “Gemilas Chesed” Tow. Wzajemnej Pomocy Kupców i
Rzemieślników Żydów [Mutual Aid Society for Jewish Merchants and Craftsmen],

Over many years, he was an active board member of the Tow. Żydowskich Szkół
Średnich (TŻSzŚ) [Association of Jewish Secondary Schools] in Częstochowa,
which ran the Jewish Gimnazjum. His daughters also attended this school. In
1927, he joined the TŻSzŚ committee to promote a building plan for the
Gimnazjum. He soon became a member of the Construction Committee, a
position he held until 1938.

In the 1930s, he belonged to the “Achiezer” Tow. Wzajemnej Pomocy [Mutual
Aid Society]. In 1939, he was a board member of the Częstochowa Gmina
[Jewish Community Council]. In May 1939, on the list of the United Jewish
Electoral Bloc, he stood for the Częstochowa City Council - however, he was
unsuccessful.

On 16th September 1939, he participated in a meeting of Jewish communal
activists, convened by the local Gestapo’s Commissar for Jewish Affairs, who
appointed him as a member of a six-person representation. When, on 1st
October 1939, at the order of the German Stadthauptmann, it was converted
into a 24-member Council of Elders (Judenrat), he became a member of its
executive, serving as treasurer. Until the liquidation of the ghetto (in the autumn
of 1942), he played a key role in the Council of Elders’ financial economy in the
allocation and payment of funds to communal organisations. The underground
magazine “Rasta” accused him of personal gain in these operations. From 22nd
September 1942 (during the great deportation from the Częstochowa ghetto),
he served on the truncated Council of Elders and worked at the temporary camp
in the “Metalurgia” factory. He was later in the “Small Ghetto”, but no longer
played any significant role. On 20th March 1943, he perished in the mass
execution, at the Jewish cemetery, of representatives of the Jewish
intelligentsia. He was buried in a mass grave (28–31 III).
His wife was Rała née Gotlib (26\textsuperscript{th} December 1882 Częstochowa – 20\textsuperscript{th} January 1939 Częstochowa), the daughter of Dawid and Hinda Laja née Berliner. She was a long-term board member of the “Ezra” Jewish Women’s Circle. She occupied herself with helping the poor. She was attributed with dedication, modesty and other moral values.

The Berliner couple had two daughters - Dobra (31\textsuperscript{st} October 1913 Częstochowa -) and Halina (15\textsuperscript{th} August Kraków -) married and, after the war, lived in Israel.


Wiesław Paszkowski