

BRONIATOWSKI Mieczysław Artur, actually Artur Mieczysław (1912-1989), communist, political officer, officer of the UB [*Urząd Bezpieczeństwa*¹] and SB [*Służba Bezpieczeństwa*²]. He was born on 5th April 1912 in Częstochowa, the son of doctor → Paweł Pinkus Szulem Broniatowski and Felicja Frymeta née Liberman.

Until 1931, he attended the H. Sienkiewicz Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. In 1932, he matriculated from the A. Witkowski Mathematics and Natural Sciences Gimnazjum in Kraków. In that year, he began studying medicine in Lyon and, from 1933, at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. He was a member of the KZMP [Communist Union of Polish Youth] and, in 1935, he was sentenced to one and a half years imprisonment for communist activities.

With the rank of lieutenant, he took part in the Spanish Civil War, fighting in the ranks of the General J. Dąbrowski Battalion (the *Dąbrowszczaków*), part of the XIII International Brigade. He joined the Communist Party of Spain. Following the defeat of the republicans, he fled to France, where he was interned and imprisoned in a camp in northern Africa. From there, he escaped and, crossing Palestine, Iraq and Iran, in 1943, he reached the USSR. On 15th August 1943, he joined the T. Kościuszki 1st Infantry Division, receiving the rank of major and heading the Personnel Department of the Political and Education Board.

On 1st August 1944, he was transferred to the Department of Public Security and headed the Provincial Public Security Service in Warsaw (initially, with its headquarters in Otwock). He organised the structure of the UB in Districts (e.g., in Płock) and in Provinces (in Rzeszów). In the years 1945-1947, he was director of the Central School of the Ministry of Public Security in Łódź and, in 1947-1948, he was acting director of the MBP Training Centre in Legionowo. He was still working in the department in 1955-1964 as director and deputy director of the Social-Administrative Department of the Ministry of Internal affairs. He became a colonel in the Security Service [SB] of the People's Republic of Poland. In addition, he held various positions in the government's administration. In 1961, he graduated in law from University of Warsaw. In 1986, his memoirs were published - *Zaczęło się za Pirenejami* ["It Began Beyond the Pyrenees"].

He died on 22nd June 1989 in Warsaw and was buried in the Powązki Military Cemetery (section 41A-1-12). He was decorated with the Golden Cross of Merit

¹ TN: Ministry of Public Security – the secret police, intelligence and counter-espionage agency.

² TN: Security Service - the same organisation as was previously known as the UB.

(17th September 1947), the Knight's Cross (10th October 1945) and the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (19th July 1954).

His wife was Henryka née Lewicki (12th October 1920 Warsaw - 26th April 2010 Warsaw), a communist, editor and translator. From 1943, she served as political and education officer in the T. Kościuszki 1st Infantry Division. In 1946-1947, she was director of the PPR's Propaganda House in Łódź and then worked in the Propaganda Department of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party. (She supervised the *Krzywy Kocioł* Club and, in May 1956, she joined its board.) In 1958-1968, she was Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the "Iskra" publishing house. She translated Russian-language literature. In 1955, she was awarded the Golden Cross of Merit. She is buried with her husband in Powązki.

They had two sons:

Karol (23 April 1945 Łódź-), Polish sculptor and graphic artist, a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw (a student of Prof. Jerzy Jarnuszkiewicz). From 1976, he has lived in West Berlin.

Michał, journalist and manager. From 1979, he worked for TVP, also during the martial law period. He was then associated with British Independent Television News, Associated Press and, from 1985, with the Reuters agency. Since 1992, he was director of Polish branch and, from 1997, director of the Reuters office in Russia. In 2001-2002, he was a member of the Board of Directors of ITI and a member of the Supervisory Board of the Onet Group. From 2003 to 2009, he served as vice-president of the Russian information agency Interfax. In 2009-12, he managed Polish internet projects and, in 2013, he co-founded the Ukrainian news channel Espresso TV. From 1st October 2014, he was Editor-in-Chief of the "Forbes" monthly. In 2016, he authored *Małej instrukcji co musi się stać, żeby powstał Majdan*. Since May 2017, he heads Politico portal of Onet.pl. His wife is Urszula née Trochim-Trochimiak (1954-2010). They had three children, including a daughter Honorata.

Kulczykowski, *Żydzi-studenci UJ*, p. 522. – "Ostatnie Wiadomości Częstochowskie" 1932, No. 73, p. 4. - Wikipedia and internet portals. - APCz, Unit No. 1, ref. 8853, No. 124.

Wiesław Paszkowski