

**BURSTIN** (BURSZTYN) Jan Izaław (1891-1942?), Polish Legion soldier, participant in the war with the Bolsheviks, teacher, social activist. He was born on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1891.

He served in the Polish Legions, taking part in the 1919-1921 war with the Bolsheviks. Following demobilisation (he held the rank of Reserve Lieutenant assigned to the District Auxiliary Command in Częstochowa), he worked as a teacher (of German) in the Polish Merchants Association's Gimnazjum and Liceum in Częstochowa.

In June 1929, he took part in the foundation meeting of the Częstochowa branch of the Polish Red Cross, and was elected to that branch's provisional (later permanent) board. He was a member of the Marshall J. Piłsudski Reserve Officers' Association in Częstochowa. In 1929, he was a delegate to the district board of the *Federacja Polskich Związków Obrońców Ojczyzny* [Federation of Polish Unions of Homeland Defenders]. In the second half of the 1930s, he sat on the board of the Częstochowa branch of the Reserve Officers' Union. He converted to Catholicism.

At the beginning of the German occupation, he was involved in secret teaching. He hid with the family of Stefania and Kazimierz Kwieciński at ul. św. Jadwiga. According to surviving accounts, "He had eminently Semitic features, so he grew a moustache and a beard. He thought that this would keep him safe". Burstin would leave his hideout and go out onto the street. He was detained by the Germans on ul. Pułaskiego, near the parks, while taking one of his walks. He was taken to the Zawodzie prison in Częstochowa and was murdered there.

Walczak, *Ludzie nauki i nauczyciele*, p. 219 (here, his date of death as 1940). - Grzędzielski, Pietrzykowski, *Polentumsträger*, pp. 89, 187; Grzędzielski Z., *Działalność oświatowa Polskiego Białego Krzyża w Częstochowie w latach 1919–1939*, in: *Wielkie i małe problemy Częstochowy w Polsce odrodzonej (1918–1939)*, ed. R. Szwed and W. Palus, Częstochowa 1996, p. 142. – "Goniec Częstochowski" 1931, No. 49 (Jubilee issue), p. 34, 1935, No. 92, p. 4, 1937, No. 53, p. 4. - PCK. *Sprawozdanie 1933*, p. 47; *Rocznik oficerski rezerw 1934*, p. 897. - Materials (accounts of Tadeusz Janczak and Waław Wydrychiewicz of Częstochowa) in the ODDC collection.

**Juliusz Sętowski**