

**CHOLEWA** Alter Mejlich Elimelech (circa 1910-1945?), cantor of the local synagogue. His mother was Szajndla. In the first half of the 1930s, he was employed in Włoszczowa. He was engaged by Częstochowa's Old Synagogue at the beginning of 1936, following the departure → Cantor Josef Badasz.

At the synagogue, he organised a permanent choir comprised of very good singers, each of whom could be a soloist. Among others, a member of this choir was bass → Maurycy Neufeld.

He lived at ul. Garncarska 23 (until the autumn of 1942). The War destroyed the very foundations of his existence. By mid-September 1939, the Germans had already destroyed the Old Synagogue. In the prevailing difficult conditions, he needed to support a large family. In the autumn of 1942, his wife and children were transported to Treblinka. Hiding his own identity, he worked in a factory. After being detained, he was transported to the labour camp in Bliżyn and, from there, was sent to the Auschwitz German concentration camp - where he perished. According to another version, he was transported to Germany and perished in the camp in Buchenwald. He was the last Częstochowa synagogue cantor.

His wife was Chaja Gela née Rozenberg (circa 1908–1942). According to surviving sources, they had seven children, among them Szlama Juda (1937-1942), Szajndla (1939-1942) i Rojza (-1942).

Orenstein, *Churban Czenstochow*, pp. 355, 356; *Czenstochow*, p. 13; S. Waga, *Churban Czenstochow*, p. 188. – "Nasz Głos Powszechny" 1936, No. 1, p. 3. - USC Częstochowa, birth records 28/1937, 36/1939 i 107/1942 (regarding his children).

**Wiesław Paszkowski**