

Arje Mandelbaum

He was born in Częstochowa in 1916. From his earliest childhood, he lived as an orphan under difficult material conditions. Nevertheless, he managed to complete the *gimnazjum* and, afterwards, to master the general social sciences.

In the years of his youth, he was active in Communist ranks and later joined the *Gordonia* pioneering youth organisation where, thanks to his innate intelligence, he became one of the most active and revered members. In 1935, he travelled for "*hachshara*" to Zduńska Wola, where he held the office of *kibbutz* secretary.

In the period of the "Big Ghetto", he was an involved *Ha'Chalutz* activist and the official secretary of the *Arbeiterrat*. In the "Small Ghetto", he worked in the *kibbutz* and actively participated in organising the armed resistance.

He was captured due to some mishap and sent away with a group of other Jews to Skarżysko near Radom. He could not calm down and strove to return to the underground movement in Częstochowa. Together with Alter Szyldhaus and Berl Rudnicki, he escaped from Skarżysko. The Nazi authorities managed to catch Arje Mandelbaum and he perished under severe torture.

Arje Mandelbaum was one of the most ideal figures that *Ha'Chalutz* and the underground movement produced in Częstochowa.