

Izrael-Awigdor Szyldhaus

Izrael-Awigdor Szyldhaus was born in Przedbórz in 1914. From his earliest years, he was brought up in Częstochowa, where he received a strict religious education. Due to his parents' bad financial situation, as a boy of fourteen, he was forced to start earning for bread, working as a painter. In the first few years, he belonged to Beitar. Later, he changed his ideological stance and joined the *Poalei Zion* Zionist-Socialist Party, where he became one of the leading members and organised the professional movement. He was a committee of management member of the general professional union of painters.

During the War, he became an active worker of the pioneering underground movement and helped organise the *Arbeiterrat*. He had an innate talent as an orator and spoke the simple language of the people, with which he influenced and fully won the hearts and sentiments of poverty-stricken working masses. He thus became one of the most beloved activists. He was elected as an executive member of the *Arbeiterrat* and worked in the secretariat of the *kibbutzim*.

He was arrested many times by the Jewish police for his indefatigable work and struggle against the Nazi authorities and their servants, the *Judenrat*.

Following the liquidation of the "Big Ghetto", he renewed his activity in the "Small Ghetto" by organising the armed resistance movement ŻOB (Jewish Fighting Organisation) as a member of the high command, in which he displayed great organisational capabilities. On the day the "Small Ghetto" was liquidated, he was shot by the Nazis in the battle of resistance.