

Raphael Federman

Zalman Tenenberg

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[He was] born in Częstochowa to impoverished parents who lived in the poorest quarter. He attended *cheder* and later graduated from the Jewish Crafts School in Częstochowa as a carpenter. He had a reputation as a good craftsman and worked for various furniture businesses.

In 1913, when a movement to establish legal professional unions began amongst the Jewish workers, Zalman Tenenberg was one of the founders of the Woodworkers Union, as a branch of the Woodworkers Union in Łódź. On 30th November 1913, he was elected to the union's administration. It was known that Tenenberg represented the Bund. Zalman was short in stature, but he gushed with energy and was a good speaker.

In Independent Poland, when great activity commenced, Zalman Tenenberg was already in the [city's] first Bundist Committee and was one of the Bund's representatives on the Workers' Council. When strong repressions against the Bund began, the entire Częstochowa Bundist Committee was arrested, among them Zalman Tenenberg. He was sent to the concentration camp in Dąbie.

Years later, Tenenberg became a teacher at the Vocational School in Piotrków. He headed the division for technical draughtsmanship. The Vocational School grew. It had about 100 pupils, who had a very good attitude towards him. He was energetic and inventive at work. He married the daughter of a respected communal figure, Herc.

He never relinquished working for the Bund. He was elected to the City Council. When the Bund became the largest faction in the Piotrków *Kehilla*, Zalman Tenenberg was elected Chairman of the *Kehilla* Council, which he led until the outbreak of the Second World War.

When the German legions occupied Piotrków and selected a *Judenrat*, he was appointed *Judenrat* Chairman. During his leadership of the *Judenrat*, conflicts with the German invaders arose. Zalman Tenenberg was connected with the Bund's underground activity. Due to the falling through of a [female] messenger from the underground Bund organisation, the most important Bundist leaders were apprehended, among them Zalman Tenenberg. The Gestapo sent him to the slave-and-death camp in Oświęcim, where he perished at the age of sixty. His wife and two children were also annihilated by the Nazis.