

**EDELIST** Noe (1893–), industrialist, social activist, Chassid. He was born on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1893 in Częstochowa, the son of → Dawid Icek and Rywka née Rozen. His father came to Częstochowa, in the mid-1880s, from his hometown of Pińczów. Initially, he worked as a trader, later establishing a factory, producing cigarette filters and papers, at ul. Warszawska 5 (later moving to ul. Warszawska 21).

The Edelist family were followers of the Góra Kalwaria *Tzaddik*. Edelist, most likely, studied in religious schools (in a *cheder* or perhaps in a *yeshiva*). His day-to-day language was Yiddish, but he was also quite fluent in Polish. Initially, he worked in his father's factory (which operated until 1933). In 1933, he opened "Polmetal", a factory which manufactured metal and galalite<sup>1</sup> products (at ul. Jaskrowska 21/23). In 1938, it was converted into the "Be-yot" bicycle parts factory.

On the day that the War broke out, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939, he and his whole family left, initially, for Piotrków Trybunalski. Later, on 4<sup>th</sup> September, they reached Warsaw. They stayed there under difficult conditions (food shortages and, later, a lack of water also) until the capital capitulated - on 28<sup>th</sup> September. He and his family then returned to Częstochowa.

The factory had been expropriated by the Germans, so that he found himself without any means of support. The *Judenrat* offered him work but, after the first session, he left, not wishing to be involved in sending Jewish workers into forced labour. It was then that two of his sons reported for work to the Forced Labour Department.

In September 1942, during the period of deportations from the ghetto to the Treblinka extermination camp, for his family and some neighbours, he arranged a hiding place in the basement of a house. However, he and his oldest son were led to the "*Metalurgia*" factory by → Bernard Kurland. During the period of the "Small Ghetto", he again lived with his family, working in the clothing warehouse, while his wife worked in the camp kitchen. On 26<sup>th</sup> June 1943, the day after the liquidation of the "Small Ghetto", he and his wife were taken to the HASAG Pelcery munitions factory. When the factory camp was established, he moved into the cleaning group. Work there was lighter, safer than in the factory, and it also allowed time for regular prayers.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: a synthetic plastic made from the interaction of casein with formaldehyde]

On the night of 15<sup>th</sup> January 1945, he and his family hid in the camp kitchen and, the next day, after the German guards and *meisters* had fled and Soviet soldiers had entered the city, he was released. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 1945, he was one of the founders of the Jewish Religious Association in Częstochowa. He presided over the foundation meeting and became its chairman. However, in 1946, he and his wife left for Paris and from there, permanently to Palestine.

His marriage to Mindla née Haberman produced three children: Lola Laja (1919-), Mendel (Pinkus Mendel) (1922-) and Arie Mordka Lejba (1924-2011) who became an Israeli lawyer and long-term chairman of the Association of Częstochowa Jews in Israel.

A. Edelist, *Wspomnienia*, in: *Żydzi częstochowianie. Losy Żydów częstochowian 1945–2009*, ed. J. Mizgalski, J. Sielski, Toruń 2011, pp. 192–208. - APCz, unit No. 58, birth record No. 287/1893.

**Wiesław Paszkowski**