

FRAJMAN Herszlik (1887–1943), pseudonyms “Czarny Herszl”, “Herszlik Blacharz”. Craftsman, one of the leaders of the Bund and a fighter in the Jewish Fighting Organisation (ŻOB). He was born on 2nd November 1887 in Częstochowa, the son of Wolf (1863-1931) and Fajgla née Wnuk (1862-1937).

He worked from childhood. Very early on, he also began working in the Bund. During the 1905-07 revolution, he commanded one of the groups of the Bund’s fighting organisation in Częstochowa. He also agitated amongst the Russian soldiers in the Częstochowa garrison, for which he was arrested several times (along with Abram Goldsztajn, Mendel Braun, Mordechaj Meryn and others).

Circa 1910, he was conscripted into the Russian army. Until at least the end of 1911, he served in Wiaźma [Smolensk Oblast, Russia]. In July 1920, during the war with the Bolsheviks, he was arrested by the Polish authorities and interned in Dąbia near Kraków. He was, for many years, a member of the Bund’s Częstochowa committee. He hosted Bund leaders in his home (al. Wolności 19), among them being Włodzimierz Medem and Bajnisz Michałowicz. He was a lover of Yiddish literature and had a large collection of books.

In April 1941, during the German occupation, when he was forced to move into the ghetto, he lived at Stary Rynek 24. At that time, at his own expense and in his own apartment, he organised a kitchen serving free lunches to the poor on Saturdays (initially for 50 people, later for even 150). The whole Frajman family was involved in their preparation.

During the deportations to the extermination camp (September-October 1942), he organised a hiding place for his family in the basement of his house. At night, he cooked food for them and it to the cellar. After the deportations ceased, past the German posts, he moved everyone into the “Small Ghetto”.

He belonged to the command of the Jewish Fighting Organisation (ŻOB). He participated in the preparations for armed resistance against the Germans (including the making of pincers to cut through barbed wire fences). At ul. Mostowa 9, in the “Doctors’ House”, he arranged a room in the attic as a place for learning and playing for the children hidden there. He was involved in the smuggling, into the “Small Ghetto”, of illegal Bund literature. On 4th January 1943, following the attack on German policemen by → Izio Fajner and → Mendel Fiszlewicz, he was one of twenty-five men who perished, having been shot by the Germans in retaliation. After the War, his remains were exhumed and buried

in a single grave in the Częstochowa Jewish Cemetery. In 1949, a monument was erected in the cemetery. He and his wife are named on it.

In 1914, he married Rywka née Rubel (→ Rywka Frajman). They had two children.

Ofir, *Tak się zaczęło moje przyszłe życie*, p. 317; Brener, *Widersztand*, pp. 94, 114–115, 119; Sętowski, *Czyn zbrojny*, p. 81. – AP Łódź, Management of the Gendarmerie of Częstochowa and Noworadomsko Counties 176, p. 85.

Wiesław Paszkowski