

FRANK Leon Lejbuś (1899-) engineer, communist. He was born on 9th September 1899 in Częstochowa, the son of Samuel Szmul Gronem Frank (1857-1929), watchmaker, and Gela (1857—933) née Kenighajt.

Frank was the long-time bookkeeper of the “Ezra” Jewish Women’s Circle in Częstochowa. He was a member of the Ohel Jakow synagogue (at I Aleja 4). At the beginning of the 1930s, he belonged to the “Frajhajt” Socialist Union of Working Youth, as well as to the “Hapoel” Sports Club. In the mid-1930s, he was already well-known as a communist activist.

In 1941, he was wanted by the Gestapo. He hid with his cousin Gronem Frank (who was arrested in the night of 30th April 1941 and, on the following day, was transported to the Auschwitz German concentration camp).

Frank escaped to the Soviet Union. He survived the War and probably returned to Częstochowa. (He repaired the damaged graves of his parents in the Jewish cemetery.) Perhaps, he was the same Leon Frank who, in the 1960s, managed a property at ul. Krótka.

In 1931, he married Hela née Rozenberg (14th May 1906 Częstochowa - 1942 Treblinka), the daughter of Jakub and Ita née Frank. They had a son, Oszer (circa 1938-). On 21st September 1942, during the curfew, → Machl Birencwajg, with the help of Michał Wajskop, took Hela “*Möbellager*” in order to hide her and her child in a bunker, but she was driven out of there. On 22nd September 1942, she got inside “*Metalurgia*”. She hid her son under her clothes. On 4th October 1942, she ended up on a transport to the Treblinka extermination camp. (Did she volunteer?). Her sisters, Estera Rozyne and Natka Rozencwajg, did not want to leave her by herself and volunteered to leave with her. All of them perished on 5th October 1942.

Paszkowski, Cmentarz żydowski, vol. I, pp. 70, 71 (regarding parents). - Brener, Widersztand, pp. 59, 60, 77, 78, 84; - “Częstochower Cajtung” 1931, No. 26, p. 1; 1933, No. 27, 1. 1. - APCz, register of Jewish records, birth record No. 346/1899.

Wiesław Paszkowski