

**GEISLER** (GAJSLER) Arnold (1894-1972), entrepreneur, judge. He was born on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1894 in Częstochowa, one of seven children of → Izydor Izaak and Paulina Perla née Herszlik (1857-1936). His brothers were → Julian and → Leon.

Until 191, Geisler studied chemistry at the University of Munich and, from 1918, in the Law Faculty of the University of Warsaw. During his student days, he performed in theatrical productions in Częstochowa, the proceeds of which were donated to charity. One such performance took place on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1915, at the “Corso” theatre when he performed in the play *Gospoda pod Zieloną Papugą* [“the Green Parrot Inn”]. From the end of 1918, as a volunteer, he took part in the defence of Lwów, where he was wounded during the fighting. After graduation, he returned to Częstochowa.

Circa 1922, he took possession of the family estate - Wyczerpy Dolne. From 1926, he served as a board member of the “Paulina” Glassworks. In the 1930s, the Geisler family fell into debt as the result of a crisis which led to the collapse of the glassworks. In 1931, Geisler sold the Wyczerpy estate and moved to Częstochowa, where he began work as a lawyer. In the second half of the 1930s, he converted to Catholicism. He was a judge in the Local Department of the Piotrków District Court.

In 1941, he and his family were locked into the Częstochowa ghetto. Following the liquidation of the “Big Ghetto” in the autumn of 1942, as the result of a selection, he was separated from his family and sent, together with other Jews, to work as a gardener in the Municipal Plantations (on ul. św. Barbary). Because he was fluent in German, he served as foreman. Almost straight away, he fled the plantation and, for some time, hid in Częstochowa. Later, with the help of the Jastrzębski family, he found himself in Warsaw and continued hiding there. Following the collapse of the Warsaw Uprising in 1944, he was deported to Germany, where he worked in railway-track construction and, later, on a farm.

In May 1945, he returned to Poland. In Częstochowa, he resumed his work as a judge. He was president of the Criminal Department of the District Court. He later became a judge in the Criminal Department of the Provincial Court in Stalinogrod (Katowice). By a decision of the Minister of Justice, he created the State Notary and Mortgage Office in Częstochowa, which he managed until his retirement. He was friends with priests Tadeusz Ojrzyński and Józef Chwistecki, providing them with legal advice regarding their parish. He died on 19<sup>th</sup> March

1972 and was buried in the Kule cemetery in Częstochowa (section 100, row I, grave 8).

He was married to Felicja née Tykociner (-1943), whose parents had a textile factory in Odessa. They had a daughter Krystyna (1924-2001) married to Bogdan Jastrzębski, a gardener and member of the Częstochowa City Council. She graduated in chemistry at Łódź University. Geisler married again, in 1945, to Janina Szaruga (1909-1945), who worked as a housekeeper for the Geislers. From 1941, she helped the Geislers who were locked inside the ghetto.

J. Badora, J. Mizgalski, *Ziemiaństwo częstochowskie w latach 1918–1939*, w: *Spółeczeństwo Częstochowy w latach 1918–1939*, ed. R. Szwed, W. Palus, Częstochowa 1997, p. 211. - Jastrzębski, *Opowieści rodzinne*, pp. 33–39. - "Goniec Częstochowski" 1915, No. 87, p. 2; *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, p. 301. – *Spis abonentów sieci telefonicznych 1939*, p. 48 (regarding brothers Julian and Leon). - USC Częstochowa, death record No. 466/1972. – Information from Bogdan Jastrzębski of Częstochowa. – a copy of the grave inscription.

**Juliusz Sętowski**