

GELBER Aba (1913–?), stonemason, policeman. He was born on 10th September 1913 in Częstochowa, the son of stonemason Nuchim Gelber and Zysla née Pelc. He was the grandson of → Chuna Gelber.

He attended the Jewish Gimnazjum Częstochowa (at ul. Dąbrowskiego 5), but only finished seventh (of eight) grade and most probably began working in the stonemasonry of his grandfather and father. From April 1936 until September 1937, he served in the 80th Infantry Regiment in Słonim, leaving as a shooter. He then returned to the family business.

When, at the beginning of the occupation, the demand for stone tombstones dropped, seeking some source of income as well as protection against forced labour, in April 1940, he joined the Street Traffic Inspectorate. (In April 1941, it was transformed into the Ghetto Order Service, commonly known as the “Jewish Police”). He served there until October 1941. He returned to the police on 18th July 1942, when there was a clear threat that the ghetto was to be liquidated. (He was given Service No. 159.) At that time, he lived at ul. Katedralna 7. On 5th October 1942, he lost his position as a policeman and was sent to the HASAG-Pelcery camp as an ordinary worker (camp No. 1129).

He survived the occupation and avoided deportation to Germany. He is on the list of Częstochowa survivors (No. 650). At that time, he was probably the city’s only Jewish stonemason. There is evidence of his short-term professional activity in the cemetery (e.g., the reconstructed grave of Icze Majer Frank and his wife, with a symbolic memorial for family members killed during the War, grave No. 275 I). Soon after, he probably left Częstochowa.

His wife (married on 10th September 1940 in Częstochowa) was Cypora Cesia née Drozdek (born 15th March 1914 Częstochowa[?]), the daughter of Nuchim, a manufacturer of celluloid accessories in Częstochowa and Rywka née Pradelska. They had no children.

Paszkowski, *Żydowskie warsztaty kamieniarskie*, pp. 50-52; Paszkowski, *Policja żydowska*, pp. 170-171.

Wiesław Paszkowski