

GOLDMAN Leon (1894–1940), surgeon, sports and communal activist. He was born on 4th April 1894 in Częstochowa, the son of Paweł Perec (1867-1927), industrialist, commission member of the Częstochowa City Council, in 1919-20 secretary of the Poor School Student Support Section of the Association for the Promotion of Knowledge Amongst Jews. His mother was Salomea Sura née Steinhardt. His siblings were Dorota (→ Dorota Hassenfeld), → Józef and Jakub “Janek” (1903-1943?), a paper manufacturing engineer, who worked in a paper factory in Klucze, a Second Lieutenant in the Polish Army Reserve, perished together with his wife during the German occupation of Kraków.

Goldman graduated from a gimnazjum in Częstochowa. He studied briefly in Germany and, from 1915, studied medicine at the University of Warsaw. He was also a student in self-education courses in Częstochowa. From the end of 1914, he took part in raising donations for the Częstochowa Emergency Aid Committee. From 1916, he belonged to the Polish Military Organisation (POW) and to the J. Lelewel Association of Progressive-Independent Youth. In 1917, he took part in a demonstration against the imprisonment of Piłsudski by the Germans.

On 8th November 1918, in Warsaw, he joined the Academic Legion, taking part in the disarmament of the Germans. From the Academic Legion, he was transferred to the Częstochowa 27th Infantry Regiment. In 1919-21, he fought with the regiment in Cieszyn Śląsk. On the Bolshevik front, he participated in the offensive on Kiev, and in the retreat over the Styr and Bug Rivers. In January 1921, he transferred into the Reserve.

After the war, he completed his studies at the University of Warsaw, receiving his degree on 30th June 1923. He specialised in gynaecological surgery. In Częstochowa, he conducted a private practice, but also worked for the County Health Fund. In 1929-39, he was head of the maternity ward of the NMP Surgical Hospital (later the Municipal General Hospital) in Częstochowa.

As a reservist, he was promoted to Second Lieutenant (1924) and to First Lieutenant (1932). He was a member of the backup staff of the 4th District Hospital. He was a member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade and lectured firefighters in areas of medicine. At the end of the 1920s, as a member of the local branch of the Polish Red Cross, he delivered popular lectures on hygiene, anatomy and rescue.

He was involved in sporting activities. In 1927, he joined the board of the Częstochowa Football Sub-District. He was a leading activist (vice-president 1926-1932) of the "Warta" Częstochowa Sports Club. From 1933, he chaired the medical commission of the "Makabi" Jewish Gymnastics-Sports Association. From 1932, he was a member of the organising committee for the construction of a swimming pool in Częstochowa.

He was also a member of numerous other organisations: the Union of Jewish Participants in the Fight for Independence, the Society of Friends of "Strzelec" in Częstochowa and was active in the local branch of the Polish Red Cross.

In Częstochowa, in 1930, he lived at ul. Piłsudskiego 9 (which is where he had his doctor's office). Later, until 1939, he lived at I Aleja 14.

In September 1939, he was mobilised, probably to the field hospital of the Łódź Corps District Command. From 17th September 1939, he was taken prisoner by the Soviets and held in a camp in Kozielsk. As part of the NKVD list No. 029/3, dated 13th April 1940, he was taken to the Katyn Forest and was murdered there. Identified under No. 1680, he was exhumed from the death pit and placed into a common grave, probably the third one. (From 2000, it has been the Polish War Cemetery in Katyn). A symbolic inscription appears on his father's grave in the Częstochowa Jewish Cemetery (grave No. 1121 II). He was awarded the 1918-1921 War Commemorative Medal.

With his wife, Wiktorią née Szpigelman, he had a daughter Sylwia (5th June 1937 - 1943). His wife and daughter perished in Treblinka in 1943. His niece is Anna Goldman, a doctor in Częstochowa.

Katyń. Księga cmentarna, p. 172 (biographical note and photograph); Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, vol. I, p. 276; *Żydzi polscy w służbie Rzeczypospolitej*, vol. I. p. 369 (biography and photograph). – Małolepszy, *Kultura fizyczna*, pp. 21, 74; Wyględowski, *Chirurgia i chirurdzy*, p. 205. – *Kursy samokształcenia w Częstochowie. Sprawozdanie z cyklu drugiego, rok szkolny 1915/1916*, Częstochowa 1916, p. 60; PCK. *Sprawozdanie 1933*, p. 16; *Rocznik oficerski rezerw 1934*, p. 757. – "Częstochowianin" 1930, No. 31, p. 3; "Goniec Częstochowski" 1914, No. 311, p. 2, 1918, No. 9, p. 3 (regarding his father), 1928, No. 289, p. 3; "Express Częstochowski" 1929, No. 57, p. 2, 1930, No. 230, p. 3 (regarding his father); "Kurier Codzienny" 1927, No. 55, p. 3; "Nowy Express Częstochowski" 1926, No. 282, p. 3; "Ostatnie Wiadomości Częstochowskie" 1934, No. 18, ps. 6; "Wojskowy Przegląd Historyczny" 1991, No. 1, p. 346 (biography). – APCz, AmCz 6525; USC Częstochowa, birth record (of daughter Sylwia) No. 185/1937. – Information from his niece, Anna Goldman of Częstochowa.

Juliusz Sętowski