

**KOHLBRENER** Bernard (1911–1943), *Judenrat* clerk. He was born on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1911 in Warsaw.

Until 1939, he lived in Gdynia. At the end of 1939 or beginning of 1940, he came to Częstochowa in a forced transport of people by the Germans. Thanks to his excellent German and elegance, he was appointed as a clerk of customs declarations, a position which he still held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1940.

Soon after, however, the Council of Elders (*Judenrat*) established the Department of Requisitions and the Department of Housing – Kohlenbrener was appointed as manager. Both departments were to provide German officials, sent to Częstochowa, with furnished apartments at the expense looted, local Jews. Kohlenbrener, serving the Germans, ruthlessly carried out the requisitions.

This over-zealousness did not prevent him from being arrested on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1942 and sent to prison. As a political prisoner, he was held until 10<sup>th</sup> July 1942. However, he and his wife survived the liquidation of the ghetto and the deportations to the Treblinka death camp. After the Council of Elders was dissolved, they both worked in institutions subordinate to the *Schutzpolizei*.

In March 1943, he and his wife were led out of where they worked, by a German policeman, and were shot. It is believed that he was murdered because he was an inconvenient witness to embezzlement.

Brener, *Widersztand*, pp. 14, 17, 18; H. Lustiger, *Pamiętnik*, p. 183 (typed document in ŻIH archive, ref. 302/216); A. Kromoński, *Wspomnienia*, p. 252, a copy in the author's collection. – State Archives in Częstochowa, unit 47 (German Prison in Częstochowa 2065).

**Wiesław Paszkowski**