

KURLAND Lejb (1913-), writer, journalist, doctor. Officer of the Polish Armed Forces in the West. He was born on 19th May 1913 in Dąbie near Częstochowa (now a part of the city), one of the seven children of Herszlik and Sura Ajdla née Zelkowicz. His father had a water mill and a small estate.

In Częstochowa, Kurland studied in Grilak's cheder and then at the Jewish Gimnazjum (matriculating in 1932). From 1930, he worked with the "Częstochower Cajtung", which published his short stories and sketches. In 1932, he left for France (to Montpellier) to study medicine. However, he completed his studies in Lyon (1937). During this period, he worked with "Unzer Weg" (in Częstochowa) and, in 1936, was a correspondent for "Moment" (Warsaw). For two years, he specialised in paediatrics.

In 1939, he volunteered for the French army and, in 1940, he joined the Polish Army in France. Following the surrender of France, he was evacuated to England where, as an officer, he was a military doctor. At that time, he was published in the pages of "Cajt" (London). He wrote the drama *Mojszesz sztekn* (Moses' Stick). He published a book of poems *Mir zajnej wi felzn* (We Are Like Rocks, 1942), a volume of short stories *Es hot zich angehojbn* (It Has Begun) and a larger novel *Amol iz gewen a dorf* (It was Once a Village). In 1944, as a military doctor, he took part in the invasion of the continent ["D-Day"].

He was the first Jewish writer to describe the life of Jews after 1945. In a long series of reports, he wrote about his meetings with Jews in France, Belgium and German camps. They were printed in "Forwerts" (Nowy York), "Cajt" (London), "Unzer Wort" and "Unzer Shtime" (Paris) and "Nai Welt" (Palestine) magazines. At the end of the war, he was wounded and was hospitalised for six months.

From 1946, he lived permanently in Paris. He practised as a doctor and, at the same time, under many pseudonyms, he wrote for various Jewish newspapers and magazines. When the Association of Częstochowa Jews was established in Paris, he became its chairman.

Czenstochow, p. 335.

Wiesław Paszkowski