

## My Biography

I was born in 1900 in Przyrów, near Częstochowa, and am the son of Reb Majer-Zalman and Itta *née* Gelbard. At the age of four, I began studying at the *cheder* of Reb Szmul-Josef, who was a pious and strictly observant Jew and [also] an expert on worldly matters.

When I was thirteen, my two brothers were mobilised into the Russian army and, as a result, I was forced to help out in earning our livelihood. I began to work and studied by way of private lessons.

Aged twenty, I was mobilised into the Polish army. This was during the Polish-Bolshevik War. The Polish officers and soldiers were consumed, through and through, with a hatred of Jews and antisemitism. Due to that, I suffered extensively, both from hunger and humiliation and insults, for being a Jew and at the expense of the Jewish People [in general].

At the age of twenty-five, I married Salcia Nudelman, who gave me two children - a daughter Nadzieja [aka Nadia] and a son Majer-Zalman. We led a content and happy life.

In 1936, my wife died following a prolonged illness. I was left on my own with the two children and, on top of that, I ran a business, which was not so easy. Under the influence and pressure of my wife's family, I married Rela Jakubowicz, the daughter of my wife's sister.

Thus, life went on until the Nazis occupied Poland and the terrible massacres of Jews ensued. In 1942, my wife Rela and my only son Majer-Zalman perished in Treblinka. My two brothers, with their wives and children, also perished at the hands of the German murderers in Treblinka.

My daughter Nadzieja and myself were barracked in HASAG and lived through the horrific and tragic period until 17<sup>th</sup> January 1945, when the Russian army liberated Częstochowa.

In the direct aftermath of liberation, my daughter and I felt lonely and forsaken in Częstochowa. No one was left from the entire large family. The houses and dwellings were smashed and destroyed. Each place, each stone and each tree brought up memories of the lives which had been mercilessly annihilated by Hitler's cannibals and their Polish helpers. Therefore, my daughter Nadzieja and I decided to leave Poland, and, after wandering for some time, we came to the Zeilsheim DP camp in Frankfurt am Main. We were there, in the camp, for almost three years, until the State of Israel was established. In November 1948, we arrived in the city of Yaffo, Israel.

In Israel, *Częstochower landsmann* Mordche Propinator sought us out and aided us extensively in settling down. We had a very good and friendly relationship during the whole time.

Let it also be mentioned, that *landsmann* Mordche Propinator showed a great interest in all the newly-arrived *landsleit*, who had been saved from the concentration camps and helped every single one of them with deeds, advice and in any way he could.

For various reasons, my daughter and I left the State of Israel and arrived in Montreal, Canada, where we met with a great number of *landsleit*, friends and acquaintances.

In Montreal, my daughter Nadzieja made the acquaintance of a Tarnów townsman [named] Salek Sporn. They married and live happily and contentedly. They have two fine, little children - a son Chaim [Henry], who is already ten years old, and a daughter Halina [Salena], aged seven.

I have lived all this time together with my son-in-law, daughter and grandchildren. This is the only consolation and happiness in my life, and I view the family as a treasure.



***The Sporn Family***

*(L-R): Nadzieja, her husband Salek with the two little children,  
Chaim [Henry] and Halina [Salena]*