

POHORILLE Szymon (1886–1943), lawyer, Częstochowa city councillor, social activist. He was born on 25th April 1886 in Brzeżany, the son of Mojżesz and Szajndla née Farb.

Pohorille was a lawyer, acquiring a law doctorate. In the summer of 1921, he moved his legal practice from Lwów to Częstochowa, locating it at ul. Kościuszki 3a and, later, at No. 22. He was also a military court defence lawyer.

In 1925, representing the United Jewish Electoral Committee, he won a seat on the Częstochowa City Council. As a councillor, he undertook numerous municipal duties including, in 1926, chairing the Citizens' Opinion Committee Fighting Against Rising Prices. In April of that same year, he agreed to a temporary rise in the price of bread (against the vote of the majority of committee members). Having made that decision, he resigned as chairman of the Committee. In 1927, during a split in the circle of Jewish councillors, he left that circle (together with → Arnold Bram). During the elections to the City Council in 1927, he served as chairman of the Regional Electoral Commission.

From 1926, he was a member of the audit committee of the Częstochowa Anti-Tuberculosis Society. He belonged to the Częstochowa branch of the Polish Red Cross. Pohorille not only enjoyed a level of authority within the Jewish community of Częstochowa but, according to Stanisław Rybicki, he was also on good terms with the city's Deputy Mayor, Józef Dziuba.

Following the occupation of the city by the Germans, from October 1939, he belonged to the Council of Elders (*Judenrat*) and was a member of its executive. In 1940, he was head of the General Department. He later served as Organisation Head, supervising the work of all the Judenrat's offices. On 2nd August 1940, he was arrested by the Germans and, for several days, was held in the Zawodzie prison in Częstochowa. On behalf of the Council of Elders, he was in constant contact with the city's Mayor P. Rybicki, with whom he discussed the issue of food aid for the kitchens which served meals to poor Jews. He was also engaged in other activities in support of the Jewish population.

At the end of September 1942, during the liquidation of the ghetto by the Germans, at the Częstochowa municipal offices, he met with Rybicki, telling him about the terrible scenes which had taken place in the previous days in the ghetto, thousands of murdered, about the shooting, on the spot, of the elderly, the sick and the children, about the separation of families and the segregation into those fit for work from those who qualified for deportation.

Pohorille was shot by the Germans, on 20th March 1943, at the Częstochowa Jewish Cemetery, during the liquidation of the Jewish intelligentsia. He is buried in a mass grave in that same cemetery (grave No. 28–31 III).

His wife was Leonia née Wittlin (1885-1943). She perished together her husband and their daughters Maryla and Ruteczka.

Adwokaci regionu częstochowskiego (J. Sętowski), pp. 191–192. – Szwed, *Radni m. Częstochowy*, p. 51; Szwed, *Żydzi w samorządzie*, p. 169. – Brener, *Widersztand*, pp. 13, 14, 15, 16; – *Spis abonentów telefonicznych 1939*, p. 51. – Pietrzykowski, *W obliczu śmierci*, p. 89. – Rybicki, *Pod znakiem lwa i kruka*, pp. 65, 66, 80, 82, 84, 156, 159, 160, 202. – *Kalendarz handlowo-przemysłowy 1927*; *PCK. Sprawozdanie 1933*, p. 21; *Przewodnik gospodarczy województw kieleckiego, krakowskiego i śląskiego 1938*; *Rocznik oficerski rezerw 1934*, p. 201. – “*Gazeta Sądowa Warszawska*” 1921, No. 34 (20 VIII), p. 4; “*Dziennik Urzędowy Ministerstwa Sprawiedliwości*” 1933, No. 16, p. 370; “*Goniec Częstochowski*” 1926, No. 83, p. 3, No. 84, p. 3; “*Kurier Codzienny*” 1926, No. 57, p. 2, No. 62, p. 3; “*Nowy Express Częstochowski*” 1927, No. 8, p. 3; “*Palestra*” 1938, No. 5, p. 499, 500 (here, as the author, he recalls Samuel Wajntraub). – APCz, AmCz 5412, p. 226, record No. 8/47, ref. 488 (Niemiecki Zakład Karny w Częstochowie z lat 1939–1944); USC Częstochowa, death record No. 3/1945.

Juliusz Sętowski