

**PRĘDKI** (PRENTKI) Gerszon (1894-1943?), trader, political, cooperative and social activist. He was born on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1894 in Częstochowa, the son of Icek Aron, a tailor and Sura née Gerszonowicz.

Initially, Prędko worked in a shop in Częstochowa. He then opened his own confectionery store (at I Aleja 10), with a workshop at I Aleja 5.

He was actively involved in politics. He was an activist in *Poalei Zion* and, later, was one of the leaders of *Poalei Zion Left*. He conducted weekly lectures for party members, in which he presented the principles of socialist Zionism and discussed, the then, current political issues.

He was active in the "Strzecha Robotnicza" organisation. In 1919, he was a co-founder of the "Strzecha" Workers' Cooperative, being a member of its audit committee. Twice, he stood unsuccessfully for a seat on the Częstochowa City Council:

- in 1927, on the list of the Poalei Zion Jewish Workers' Electoral Committee, and
- in May 1939, on the list of the Bund, Poalei Zion Jewish Workers' Electoral Committee.

During the German occupation, he became depressed by the tragic reality. He tried to free himself from his apathy by taking part in meetings held in the apartment of Lajbusz Tenenbaum. There, the underground listened to news on the radio and Prędko would provide simultaneous commentary. In the evenings, he would go to Altman's café, where discussions about the current occupation situation were held.

From 1941, Prędko, with his family, lived in the Częstochowa ghetto. In the autumn of 1942 (September-October), with his family, he was sent to the Treblinka extermination camp. He avoided immediate death, because he was selected to work in the camp sorting area. In the camp, he formed a group which endeavoured to make contact with the outside world. Thanks to the activities of this group, it was possible to hide Aron Gelbard (who also worked in the sorting area) and to smuggle him to Częstochowa. Prędko was later transferred to an enclosed part of the camp, where the killings took place. He died there.

His wife was Róża Renia née Celnik (-1942). They had a son, Izio Ozier (circa 1930-1942). They both perished in Treblinka.

Mizgalska-Osowiecka, *Żydzi w samorządzie*, p. 114; Orenstein, *Churban Czenstochow*, p. 170; Sobalski, *Związki zawodowe, stowarzyszenia*, pp. 135, 137. – APCz, AmCz 5412, p. 228, unit No. 1, ref. 8830 (list of conscripts), No. 462.

**Wiesław Paszkowski, Juliusz Sętowski**