

RAJCOM (REICOM) Czesław Becalel (1881–1942), engineer, owner of a technical office, sports activist, communal activist. He was born on 18th May 1881 in Warsaw, the son of Pinkus and Regina, the brother of Pinkus (17th May 1881-), an electrical engineer.

In 1906, he graduated from the Karlsruhe Polytechnic. In 1910, together with the engineer Adolf Peltyn, he managed the electro-technical department of the Częstochowa branch of the Stanisław Ginsberg's Industrial and Technical Bureau in Zawiercie. It was located at ul. Dojazd (Piłsudskiego) 10.

From circa 1912, he ran his own technical office in Częstochowa at ul. Mikołajewska 14 (Strażacka 14, later Katedralna 7). His company dealt with a variety of electro-technical projects including designs for electrical installations, lighting installations and telephone [networks]. He also sold electric motors, dynamometers, locomobiles and, from the 1920s, machinery for the processing of metal and wood. From circa 1928, he ran the representative office, in Częstochowa (at ul. Kościuszki 24), for the Ford Motor Company. In 1939, he was the owner of a technical office at ul. Kilińskiego 14).

Rajcom was a well-known sports activist in Częstochowa. From 1921 (until at least 1927), he was president of the "Warta" Częstochowa Sports Club (CKS). In 1933, after the founding of the "Makabi" Jewish Gymnastics and Sports Association (ŻSGS) – which included "Warta" CKS - Rajcom was elected as president of "Makabi" (on 5th December 1933). At the end of the 1930s, he was a board member of the "Makabi" Association. In 1936, for services to the club, he was awarded the title of "Honorary President".

Rajcom was involved in charitable and communal activities. He belonged to the "Dobroczyńność" Charitable Society for Jews (TDdŻ), assisting it financially. In 1913, he donated 25 rubles, on the occasion of the opening of the TDdŻ Hospital in Częstochowa. From September 1914, he financially supported the Emergency Aid Committee. Prior to 1914, he was a board member of the Commercial and Industrial Workers Mutual Aid Society and, in the 1930s, he was a member of the audit committee of the Association for the Construction and Operation of Theatre in Częstochowa. In the second half of the 1920s, he belonged to the Częstochowa Anti-Tuberculosis Society. (He was a supporting member.) In 1927, representing the Independent Jewish Intelligentsia, he stood for election to the Częstochowa City Council – without success.

Circa 1914, Rajcom lived in Częstochowa, at ul. Mikołajewska 14 (Katedralna) and, at the end of the 1930s, at ul. Kilińskiego 14.

His wife was Teresa née Goldsztaub. In 1927, she was one of the people who conducted the Social Club at "Warta" CKS. In September or October 1942, during the liquidation of the Częstochowa ghetto, Rajcom and his wife were deported and murdered at the Treblinka extermination camp.

In 1932, their son Kazimierz (27th October 1914, Częstochowa-) graduated from the R. Traugutt No.2 State Gimnazjum in Częstochowa and later attended university. After 1945, he lived in London and then in Lille.

Czech, *Kalendarium przemysłu*, p. 138. – Orenstein, *Churban Czenstochow*, p. 29; Gąsiorowski, *Oddział częstochowski Stowarzyszenia Elektryków Polskich*, pp. 215, 220, 257; Małolepszy, *Kultura fizyczna*, p. 74; "Traugutt", p. 233; (dot. syna). – A.R. Sroka, *Przemysł fabryczny w Królestwie Polskim 1910*, No. 6504. – "Express Częstochowski", 1927, No. 262, p. 3 (re: wife), 1930, No. 123, p. 2; "Goniec Częstochowski" 1914, No. 268, p. 2; "Nasz Głos Powszedni" 1936, No. 1, p. 3; "Nasz Świat" 1957, No. 1 (9), p. 9 (re: son); "Nowy Express Częstochowski" 1926, No. 282, p. 3; "Ostatnie Wiadomości Częstochowskie" 1934, No. 18, p. 6; "Słowo Częstochowskie" 1934, No. 14, p. 3. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, pp. 194, 303, p. 52 (advertisement); *Kalendarz Handlowo-Przemysłowy 1927*; *Spis abonentów sieci telefonicznych 1939*, p. 52; *Sprawozdanie Częstochowskiego Towarzystwa Przeciwgruźliczego*, p. 28; *Sprawozdanie Towarzystwa Dobroczynności dla Żydów 1913*, p. 21. – APCz, AmCz 5412, p. 228, Zespół record No. 8/1, ref. 5894, book 28; unit No. 1, ref. 8861, No. 936 (re: son) – Materials in the ODDC collections.

Juliusz Sętowski