

**RUBIN** Benjamin Wolf Zew (circa 1896-1942?), clergyman, representative of a Chassidic family. He was the son of Aszer, born in Nowy Sącz.

He probably came to Częstochowa as the result of his marriage to the daughter of a local *tzaddik* Wigdor Szapiro. He lived in the same house as Szapiro, at Senatorska 15.

He struggled to gain importance in the local community. It was only in the 1930s that he became entrusted to oversee the kosher butcher shops and to become a member of the *Beit Din* (rabbinical court). Although, in 1934, in one document, he is referred to as an assistant rabbi (deputy city rabbi), a position which he never held.

He became involved with the *Old Beit Ha'Midrash*, teaching and delivering sermons there, a collection of which (entitled *Tel Hermon*) he self-published and distributed himself in 1933.

He was distinguished by his height (almost two metres), the depth of his knowledge and his insight. His dedication and impartiality were not always appreciated. After one of his [court] decisions, in 1936, he was attacked in his own home, which required him to escape through a window.

During the German occupation, from April 1941, he lived within the Częstochowa ghetto.

His wife was Laja Perla née Szapiro (2<sup>nd</sup> January 1903 Częstochowa-), the daughter of Wigdor and Gitla née Ber. They had a son Awigdor Kalman (14<sup>th</sup> November 1930 Częstochowa-) and a daughter Jochewed Matla (1<sup>st</sup> July 1933 Częstochowa-).

In 1942, the whole family would have certainly perished in the Treblinka extermination camp.

Orenstein, *Churban Czenstochow*, pp. 351, 352. – “Częstochower Cajtung” 1931, No. 7, p. 4; 1933, No. 52, p. 1; 1934, No. 8, p. 6; 1936, No. 52, p. 5. – APCz, unit No. 58, birth record No. 450/1930 and 261/1934 (re: children).

**Wiesław Paszkowski**