

SZMULEWICZ Eliezer (1915-1943), pseudonym “Malaj”. Zionist, fighter. He was born in Częstochowa, the son of Lewi and Hinda née Berkowicz. His father was a grain trader and was also known as a Chassidic following of the Wieruszów Rebbe.

Szmulewicz was raised in a religious spirit and first attended the *cheder* of Chil Grylak. Later, he attended a primary school. He developed an early interest in social issues and joined the Zionist scouting organisation *Hashomer Ha'Tzair*. Here, he found a second home and devoted all his free time to social activities and in taking part in conventions and conferences. In the organisation, his nickname was “Malaj”.

In [?], he began learning the printing trade, working in the Potasiewicz printing house. He also learned various foreign languages. After learning his trade, he began work at the editorial office of the Zionist weekly “Unzer Weg”, taking part in the publishing of this newspaper.

In 1936, he went to the *hachshara* (agricultural school) *kibbutz* in Mława. He intended to prepare to leave for Palestine, but he fell ill. After undergoing surgery, he returned to Częstochowa. Here, he completed the *Hashomer Ha'Tzair hachshara*. During the anti-Jewish disturbances on 19th June 1937, he took part in defending the agricultural farm.

During the German occupation, after the introduction of forced labour for Jews, he was one of the most active organisers of *Arbeter-Rat* [Workers' Council]. During the deportation of the Jews from the ghetto, on 22nd September 1942, he lost his large family. Together with his brother Zyskind, he was camped in HASAG-Pelcery.

Later, he then met → “Mojtek” Zylberberg and, together, formed a resistance group. After three months of military training, he was sent to the “Small Ghetto”. An underground organisation was already existed there, comprising *He'Chalutz* and radical youth. All the activities were re-organised and the groups merged. Szmulewicz was one of the most active members of the technical group which produced grenades.

On 24th June 1943, a group of German policemen, headed by Degenhardt, entered the “Small Ghetto” and arrested him (as well as anyone with the surname “Szmulewicz”). The organisation could not manage to release him as,

two days later, the “Small Ghetto” was liquidated. He was shot by the Germans on 26th June 1943.

Brener, *Widersztand*, p. 117.

Wiesław Paszkowski