

SZPERLING Ignacy Icek (1907-1945), doctor. He was born on 25th May 1907 in Kłobuck, the son of Boruch, a tinsmith and Judessa née Kurcbart.

He probably studied abroad because, he graduated from the University of Warsaw's Medical Faculty on 11th January 1932 and, by 1933, he received his medical diploma with a specialisation in surgery.

He worked in Częstochowa in the surgical department of the Holy Virgin Mary Hospital and then in the hospital of the "Dobroczynność" Charitable Society for Jews. From 1933, he ran a free practice at ul. Joselewicza 6. (In 1939, it was at ul. Garibaldiiego 20 and, at the beginning of the occupation, back again at ul. Joselewicza 6).

In 1942, shortly before the commencement of the liquidation of the Częstochowa ghetto, he joined the Jewish Police, where he was appointed as head of the temporary hospital in "Metalurgia". While performing this function, he showed great commitment, even helping to smuggle Jews, from the ghetto streets, into the factory grounds where they could hide.

During the period of the "Small Ghetto", he worked together with Dr. → Rachela Wajsberg, in a hospital set up in the premises of a former hostel at ul. Garncarska 67. During the liquidation of the camp [the "Small Ghetto"], on 25th and 26th June 1943, they tried to hide some of the Jewish children in the hospital premises, but they did not escape death.

He was the head of the hospital in the HASAG-Pelcery factory camp. At that time, he changed his attitude towards the Jews – he became tyrannical towards his subordinate doctors and refused to treat any patients. He did, however, maintain exemplary order in the hospital such as would please his German overseers. He was completely submissive towards the Germans.

In order to impress the head of the camp guards (who was a *felczer* by profession), he performed demonstration operations. Since these lasted longer than the usual treatments, he ordered increased doses of anaesthesia to be administered - which often cost the patients their lives. (The death of Bronka Bauk, who died several days after her operation, particularly outraged the prisoners.)

Szperling refused to dispense, to the sick, medication from the hospital pharmacy. He even distributed the most expensive medicines to the Germans.

He despised his fellow intellectuals, preferring the company of uneducated or uncouth people. He also liked to show off his unrefined concepts and his exceptionally rich and vulgar vocabulary. He was one of the few Jews, in the camp, who was surrounded by the universal hatred of the prisoners.

On 15th and 16th January 1945, he avoided being forcibly deported to Germany and, on the night of 16th January, he left the HASAG camp. Fearing revenge, he and his wife joined the Red Army and soon left Częstochowa.

At the end of the War's hostilities, he worked in a military hospital in Bydgoszcz. There, he was tracked down and was shot on 31st August 1945. This execution was probably carried out by members of the Częstochowa ŻOB [Jewish Combat Organisation] or by some party militia.

On 31st December 1934, he married Regina Gina Rywka née Kuczyńska (11th August 1909 Częstochowa – 31st August 1945), the daughter of Abram Moszek and Gitla née Kajman. She perished together with her husband (probably only because she witnessed his murder). The Szperling couple were buried in the military cemetery in the Smukała district. During its liquidation, Gina's remains were moved to the military section of the municipal cemetery in Bydgoszcz (at ul. Ludwikowo). His grave was probably destroyed.

Wyględowski, *Almanach lekarzy*, p. 333; Meirtchak, *Żydzi – żołnierze wojsk polskich*, p. 361; Brener, *Widersztand*, pp. 79, 111; Einhorn, *Wybrany*, p. 114; Kromołowski, *Wspomnienia*, p. 421; Paszkowski, *Żydowska służba zdrowia*, pp. 59, 66, 68. – "Częstochower Cajtung" 1933, No. 50, p. 1. – Urzędowy Spis Lekarzy 1939, p. 225 (doctors); *Verzeichnis*, pp. 16, 92. – APCz, marriage record 9/1935.

Wiesław Paszkowski