

TENCER Henryk (1914-1943), pseudonyms “Karol”, “Karol-advokat”. Lawyer, communist, a leader of the Jewish Combat Organisation (ŻOB). He was born in Częstochowa, the son of Adolf and Czesława.

In the 1929/1930 school year, together with eleven other students from the R. Traugutt 2nd State Gimnazjum, he was arrested for his activity in the Communist Union of Polish Youth (KZMP). Those arrested included Mietek Percec, Olek Bem and Prusicki. On 31st May 1931, together with a group of students, he was again arrested by the police. He was then expelled from the gimnazjum.

Following his release from prison, he continued being active in the Polish Communist Party (KPP) in Warsaw. He probably matriculated there and later studied law. He was arrested in 1936 and was held in the Mokotów prison, from where he was sent to a camp in Bereza Kartuska. Upon his release, he completed his law studies in 1939 at the Jagiellonian University.

In September 1939, during the war with the Germans, he managed to get into the Soviet Union. In June 1941, he returned to Częstochowa. In the “Big Ghetto”, together with D. Warszawski, W. Celnik and → Szymon Abramowicz, under the name “Dar Narodowy”, he collected money for weapons.

From the beginning of 1942, on behalf of the underground organisation in the ghetto, Tencer maintained contact with the provisional Organising Committee of the Polish Workers’ Party (PPR), which was operating outside the ghetto. In the spring of that year, he joined the PPR Municipal Committee (as the representative of the Jewish quarter). He later belonged to the PPR District Committee.

He worked in the *Möbellager*, thereby avoiding the deportation of the Jewish population, from the Częstochowa ghetto, to the Treblinka extermination camp. He helped people, from the convoy groups, to escape and also hid them.

In October 1942, when the deportations were still taking place, with D. Warszawski, W. Celnik and S. Abramowicz, he began organising the ŻOB fighting group – he was its leader. At the beginning of moving Jews from work places into the “Small Ghetto”, he stood guard at the building at ul. Nadrzeczna 88. (The *Möbellager* workers lived there. It was here that they constructed a bunker for mothers, children and the elderly – those who had been saved from deportation.).

After sometime, he handed over ul. Nadrzeczna 88 to → Liber Brener, while he and his wife moved to the bunker at ul. Wilson 34. From there, thanks to the help of PPR activists, in January 1943, he managed to get into the “Aryan side”, where they continued to be active. (They lived in a rented apartment on 1 or II Aleja). They maintained contact with members of the PPR.

In March, as the result of being denounced by a *Volksdeutscher*, he and his wife were arrested on the street and were taken to the Gestapo headquarters at ul. Kilińskiego 10. They were probably murdered soon after – all trace of them disappeared. At the Częstochowa Jewish Cemetery, his name can be found inscribed on a monument dedicated to the Częstochowa members of ŻOB.

Bąkowski, *Z dziejów walk klasowych*, p. 222. – *Bereziacy*, p. 492; Brener, *Widersztand*, pp. 113–114; *Ten jest z ojczyzny mojej*, pp. 384–385; M. Janikowski, *Próba tamtych dni*, Warszawa 1964, pp. 71, 72; Nazarewicz, *Nad górną Wartą i Pilicą*, pp. 52, 61, 63, 64, 94, 101, 112.

Wiesław Paszkowski, Juliusz Sętowski