

TORBECZKO (TORBECZKA) Dawid (1881-1941), doctor, city councillor, political and social activist. He was born on 1st November 1881 in Żarnowiec, Opoczyński District, the son of Izer, a merchant in Żarnowiec, and Rywka née Prag.

In 1900, he graduated from the Russian Boys' Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. After completing his military service, he studied medicine at the University of Kiev. In Kiev, in 1909, he qualified as a dentist. He interrupted his medical studies and returned to Częstochowa. There, he worked as a *felczer* [paramedic] at the "Dobroczynność" Charitable Society for Jews (TDdŻ) Hospital in Zawodzie in Częstochowa. For the Częstochowa municipal authority, he served as a sanitary supervisor, responsible for the ul. Prosta and ul. Jatkowa, as well as for the *Stary Rynek* [Old Market Square].

He continued his education. In 1916, he matriculated at the Gustaw Kościński No.1 Polish Gimnazjum. (On 2nd October 1917, at that same school, he passed his examinations in Latin, logic and psychology.) In 1917-1919, he studied in the Philosophy Faculty of the Jagiellonian University.

He was active in politics and in local government in Częstochowa. In 1917, representing the Zionist-Socialist Workers' Party, he entered the City Council representing District VI. He served on several commissions, among them being Regulations & Legal, Unemployment Affairs, Meat and Teachers' Salaries. In addition, he served on a special commission of the TDdŻ Hospital in Zawodzie. In 1919, he resigned as a city councillor in order to take up medical studies at the University of Warsaw.

In 1920, as a volunteer, he joined the Polish Army, serving in the 5th Customs Battalion. Demobilised, he continued studying in the Medical Faculty of the University of Warsaw. In 1925, he interrupted his studies due to a difficult financial situation. He graduated in 1930 and received his medical diploma on 6th July 1934. In the 1934/1935 academic year, he studied in the Mathematics-Natural Sciences Faculty of the University of Warsaw.

As a medical internist and gynaecologist, he ran a practice in Częstochowa. (From 1935, he lived at ul. Ogrodowa 10.) Torbeczko was a co-founder of the Association of Jewish Secondary Schools in Częstochowa.

After the German invasion of Poland, in 1939, he left for eastern Poland. Presumably, in that same year, he worked in a Soviet hospital in Włodzimierz Wołyński. He was murdered by the Germans on 1st August 1941.

His wife was Frajda Frania nee Kijak (1890 Rozprza – 1942 Treblinka), a teacher at the No.12 State Comprehensive School in Częstochowa. They had two children:

- son → Bernard
- daughter Irena (1915 Częstochowa-) who, in 1936, matriculated at the J. Słowacki State Girls' Gimnazjum in Częstochowa and, in the 1936/1937 academic year, was a student in the Law Faculty of the Jagiellonian University. She survived the German occupation.

Corpus studiosorum T-Ż, pp. 116, 117 (phot); Gliński, *Słownik lekarzy i farmaceutów*, vol. III, pp 377–378; Kulczykowski, *Żydzi – studenci UJ*, p. 681 (dovol. córki); *Słownik nauczycieli*, p. 65 (re: wife); Wyględowski, *Almanach lekarzy*, p. 353. – *Urzędowy spis lekarzy 1939*, p. 235 (lekarze). – “Częstochower Cajtung” 1935, No. 23, p. 1; “Godzina Polski” 1917, No. 112, p. 6; “Goniec Częstochowski” 1917, No. 20, p. 4, No. 84, p. 8, No. 199, p. 3, 1918, No. 143, p. 4, 1936, No. 137, p. 5. – APCz, Wydz. Powiatowy w Częstochowie 422, MagCz 4987, k. 55, 5067, k. 6; USC Częstochowa, birth record (Irena Torbeczka) No. 134/1915. – Materials (genealogical) in the ODDC collections.

Andrzej Kuśnierczyk, Juliusz Sętowski