

WAGA Szlomo Stanisław (1899 - after 1966), engineer, industrialist, Zionist, Częstochowa *landsmannschaft* activist, author of memoirs. He was born on 20th December 1899 in Częstochowa, the son of Jakub Hersz Waga and Bajla Gitla née Binder, the brother of → Chaja Rotman.

In 1918, he graduated from the local Crafts School for Jews. In 1919-1922, he worked as a mechanic in Dortmund, at the same time studying in the evenings. He graduated from the Dortmund Technical College in 1922.

After returning to Poland, in 1922-1924, he served in the Polish Army - in a motorised battalion in Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki. He then also graduated, with honours, from the officers' school.

Upon being demobilised, he returned to Częstochowa and, until 1931, together with his father and brother Mojżesz, ran a glass grinding workshop. Later, he opened a factory (equipped with machines that he had constructed), which produced steel insulating pipes. It was one of only three such factories in Poland.

After the Germans had entered the city in 1939, they requisitioned the factory. On "Bloody Monday", 4th September 1939, he was arrested by German soldiers and, for more than a month, was held as a hostage. During the first period of occupation, he worked as a specialist in the factory, which he had previously owned and which had been taken over by the Germans.

In September 1942, he managed to avoid the selections, however his parents and his brother Mojżesz's entire family perished in the Treblinka extermination camp. In March 1943, he escaped from the "Small Ghetto", together with his wife Rena and son Ludwik. For payment, Poles hid them in a hideout in the suburbs of Częstochowa, until the entry of the Soviet army.

Upon emerging from the hideout, he began being socially active in various areas. At the request of the head office in Łódź, he founded the Częstochowa branch of the Keren Hayesod (Palestine Reconstruction Fund). After just one month, it had 144 members and had already collected over one million złoty.

In December 1948, he came to Montreal. Immediately after his arrival, he began being active in the local Częstochowa *landsmannschaft*, serving in several leading positions – as chairman, secretary, spokesman and others.

He also worked together with the Częstochowa *landsmannschaft* in New York. He published memoirs in both the press and in collective publications. At the end of April 1958, he moved to Toronto, but continued to actively work with the committee of the Montreal *landsmannschaft*.

During his time in the hideout, he wrote down his own wartime experiences, as well as the accounts of witnesses and of event participants. (The manuscript comprised 600 pages.) His book, *The Destruction of Częstochowa*, published in Buenos Aires in 1949, consisted of a selection of his memories.

Czenstochow (The Destruction of Częstochowa) published in Buenos Aires in 1949. *Czenstochower Landsmannschaft in Montreal*, pp. 87-101; Paszkowski, *Kronikarze częstochowskiego getta*, pp. 72, 73, 76. – APCz, section No. 58, birth record No. 492/1899.

Wiesław Paszkowski