

WAJSLER Eliaszn Nusyn (1889-1966) rabbi and teacher. He was born on 10th June 1889 in Grójec.

Wajsler married in 1908 and moved to Dąbrowa (Dąbrowa Górnicza) where, until 1916, he was a teacher. He later moved to Częstochowa, where he served as a private rabbi, linked to one grouping of Hassidim. He was known for his knowledge and wisdom, as well as for his moderation in matters of Jewish law – which made him very popular in the city. He had many students. He was considered a rabbinical authority and had the right to grant a *smicha* (authority to exercise the judicial power of a rabbi).

During the German occupation, the entire (dozen or so member) Wajsler family lived in the Częstochowa ghetto. In September and October 1942, during the deportation of the Jews to the Treblinka extermination camp, they were in hiding (with the exception of son, Rachmiel Wajsler, and son-in-law, Mosze Berkowicz, who were employed in the *Möbellager*).

Following the creation of the “Small Ghetto”, the Wajsler family were smuggled into a house on ul. Nadrzeczna, where two hiding-places had been especially prepared for them – in the attic and the basement. On 4th or 5th January 1943, during a raid, ten members of the Wajsler family and other relatives were caught by the Jewish Police and were deported to the extermination camp.

On 7th January 1943, Wajsler and the surviving family members left the “Small Ghetto” and moved to the *Möbellager*. After three months living with the danger of being exposed, they moved to the village of Rzerzeczyce near Kłomnice. There, despite the dangers, they survived until the Russians entered.

In January 1945, they moved to Częstochowa, where Wajsler took part in the reconstruction of the local Jewish community. He later served as the rabbi of Częstochowa.

In 1947, he left Poland and, via France, he reached Palestine. He lived in Bnei Brak and, on behalf of the Chief Rabbi of Israel, he served as a *mashgiach* (kashrut inspector). He died in Bnei Brak.

In 1908, in Grójec, he married Chaja Berkowicz of Kamyka, with whom he had several children.

Orenstein, *Churban Czenstochow*, pp. 113–116; *Sefer kehilat Dabrowa Gornicza we-hurbana*, Tel Aviv 1971, p. 541.

Wiesław Paszkowski