

WOLBERG Adam Ajzyk (1894-1943), Polish Army officer, military doctor, social activist. He was born on 16th June 1894 in Częstochowa, the son of Aron Berek Wolberg and Hanka née Hirsberg (18th December 1862 Tomaszów-), the brother of Juda Lejb (1898 Częstochowa-), nephew of → Aleksander Wolberg.

Wolberg graduated from the government Boys' Gimnazjum in Częstochowa, receiving his matriculation certificate on 19th June 1914. In 1915, he began his medical studies at the University of Warsaw. After completing the 1916/1917 semester there, in 1917, he transferred to the Faculty of Medicine at the Jagiellonian University.

From 1918, he served in the Polish Army, while still continuing his studies. On 1st June 1919, he was promoted to the rank of second-lieutenant and served as a dentist in the Sanitary Reserve Company. In the 27th Infantry Regiment (?), he took part in the 1919-1921 war with the Bolsheviks. He served as adjutant to the head physician of the 7th Infantry Division (Captain Wacław Kaliński). In 1921, he was granted leave to complete his medical studies.

For one semester in 1921/1922, He also attended classes in the Philosophy Department of the Jagiellonian University (UJ). He received his discharge in 1922 and, on 10th June VI 1925, received his medical degree from the UJ, specialising in skin and venereal diseases. From 1924, he was assigned to the 10th Medical Battalion with the rank of lieutenant. (He was promoted on 1st March 1921.) He worked in the Jarosław District Hospital, a branch of the hospital in Rzeszów.

From the beginning of 1926, he served as a doctor in the 27th Infantry Regiment in Częstochowa. From September 1929 to July 1931, he was municipal sanitary doctor (a position from which he resigned). He also ran a private medical practice at ul. Kościuszki 1. From 1931, with the rank of captain (promoted on 1st January 1931), he served as chief physician in the 27th Infantry Regiment in Częstochowa. He belonged to the Częstochowa branch of the Association of Polish Legionnaires.

He was involved in health-promotion activities. He served on the board of the Society for the Protection of the Health of the Jewish Population TOZ. He lectured during the Anti-Tuberculosis Day and also delivered lectures on hygiene and health for non-commissioned officers and officers of the Częstochowa garrison.

From 1st September 1939, in the 27th Infantry Regiment, he fought in the war with Germany. During the fighting, he displayed exceptional dedication in

rescuing the wounded. On 8th September 1939, he was mistakenly declared dead – he was probably taken prisoner. From the end of 1939 (or at the beginning of 1940), he worked in Częstochowa as a doctor at the Polish Red Cross hospital for prisoners of war, which was located in the NMP Hospital at II Aleja 17. From the beginning of 1940, he was vice-chairman of the Society for the Protection of the Health of the Jewish Population TOZ, where he was head of the Sanitary Department.

In 1941, he was forced to live in the Częstochowa ghetto. (Reports say that he always wore his officer's uniform.) At his initiative, TOZ launched kitchens for the poor, organised day care for children and conducted cultural activities. With a group of co-workers, he published the illegal magazine "Rasta" (from the Council of Elders). He avoided the deportations to the death camps in September and October 1942. Later, he lived in the "Small Ghetto". Despite frequent offers, from friends on the "Aryan side", to hide outside the ghetto. He remained in the camp.

On 18th June 1943, he was murdered by a Schupo officer in the gateway of one of the tenements on ul. Garibaldię. Along with twenty workers from the police warehouses ul. Garibaldię, he was buried in a mass grave in the local Jewish cemetery. His name can be found on the grave's memorial plaque (No.1220 I).

He was awarded the 1918-1921 War Medal and the Cross of Valour (for the 1939 war).

His wife was Małgorzata Debora née Oderfeld (5th August 1899 Częstochowa - after 1961), the daughter of → Dawid Hipolit. Their daughter was Gustawa Jadwiga Bernardyna (18th January 1929 Częstochowa – 10th July 1996), married name Galewska.

Corpus studiosorum T-Ż, p. 616; Gliński, *Słownik lekarzy i farmaceutów*, vol.III, p. 406; Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, vol.I, p. 8. – *27 pułk piechoty 1918–1928*, Częstochowa 1929, p. 28; J. Kapsa, *Tradycje częstochowskiej medycyny. O dwóch "legunach"*, "Medycyna i Farmacja" 1997, No.7, p. 9 (supplement to "Gazety Częstochowskiej"); Mastalski, *7 Dywizja Piechoty*, p. 151; Mielczarek, *Dzieje prasy częstochowskiej*, pp. 134, 146. – Rybicki, *Pod znakiem lwa i kruka*, pp. 77, 80; P. Szymański, *27 pułk piechoty w kampanii wrześniowej pod Częstochową*, Częstochowa 1998, pp. 28, 111, 115, 119, 121–123, 142 (tu błędna inform. o śmierci pod Szydłowcem 8 IX 1939). – "Częstochower Cajtung" 1931, No.28, p. 6; "Express Częstochowski" 1929, No.194, p. 2; "Głos Wolności" 1931, No.93, p. 3; "Goniec Częstochowski" 1930, No.3, p. 3; "Kurier Codzienny" 1926, No.58, p. 4; "Nad Wartą" 1973, No.1, p. 7; "Słowo Częstochowskie" 1932, No.4, p. 4. – *Rocznik oficerski 1923*, pp. 1180, 1207, 1924, p. 1011, 1074, 1089, 1928, p. 717, 740, 1932, p. 331, 557; Rybka, Stepan, *Rocznik oficerski 1939*, p. 373, 726 (incorrect here that, in 1939, he was the chief doctor 7 pal); *Spis oficerów*

służących czynnie w dn. 1 VI 1921, p. 458, 952. – APCz, MagCz 5460, Starostwo Powiatowe Częstochowskie IV/803, k. 33; USC Częstochowa, death record No.907/1961 (here, the DOB is given as 27th June 1894). – Materials (extracts from civil registers) in the ODDC collections.

Juliusz Sętowski