

ZAJDEN (ZEJDEN) Wolf Ber Bernard (1878-), watchmaker, actor, political activist. He was born on 25th November 1878 in Częstochowa, the son of Aron and Ajdla née Zyss, previously Brandyp. He lived in Częstochowa, working as a watchmaker and then, later, as an actor.

From circa 1904, he was politically active. Together with his siblings, Brandla Bronisława (19th September 1884 Częstochowa -), Jankiel Janek (1886 Częstochowa -) and Tonia, he belonged to the local branch of Social Democracy of the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania (SDKPiL). Underground meetings were held in the Zajden apartment on ul. Krakowska. Family member took part in agitation activities and also in demonstrations, including on 1st November 1904, in the march against the mobilisation of Poles for the Russian-Japanese war.

He was arrested by the police in 1908 and, again, in 1912 (together with Brandla, Tonia and Jankiel), during numerous arrests of members of the Częstochowa SDKPiL. He was kept in custody in Częstochowa and, later, in the Piotrków Governate prison. With the outbreak of war in August 1914, along with other political prisoners, he was evacuated deep into the Russian Empire, where he was maintained in prison.

In August 1916, in the trial of thirty-five members of the Częstochowa SDKPiL organisation, which was held in Moscow before the Warsaw Court Chamber, he was released (his sentence was covered with the time he had already spent in prison). Tried with him, his sister Brandla and brother Jankiel were also released.

“Goniec Częstochowski” 1916, No. 177, p. 3 (info. here also about the siblings – Brandla and Jankiel). – A. Szczawiński, “Moje wspomnienia 1905–1910”, pp. 14, 15, 16, 26, 64 (manuscript copy in ODDC collections). – AP Łódź, Zarząd Żandarmerii Powiatów Częstochowskiego i Noworadomskiego 95, pp. 6, 116 (re: Jankiel), 236, p. 241 (re: Tona), p. 286 (re: Brandla), 236a, p. 318.

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