

Rescue Family Wojciech Kalwiński



The farmer Wojciech Kalwiński, his wife Katarzyna and their four children live on the outskirts of Lviv

1941: Wojciech Kalwiński as spokesman for the regional farmers' association is the interlocutor of the German occupation authorities.

1942/43: From August 1942 Wojciech hides the café owner Holtz and family. Gradually the number of those hidden grows to 24, with Moses Korn and Leon Weliczker joining them last (11/1943).

1944: Intensified raids in the surrounding area. People sheltering Jews are hanged

The couple Kalwiński are helped by their 16-year-old son Kazimierz, who often sleeps in the stables to guard the entrance to the hiding place and talks to the trapped people

On 23 May 1967 Wojciech Kalwiński and his wife Katarzyna are recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous among the Nations

On November 14, 1988, her son Kazimierz Kalwiński is also honored as a just man

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Moses Korn and Leon Weliczker sought a hiding place after their escape from the "death brigade". Many were afraid of being killed as helpers of the Jews. Moses and Leon found their second hiding place with the gardener Joseph Kalwiński:

»We remain here for three days. After the third day we have to leave without telling Kalwinski, because when we gave him some money for our keep he went to a saloon, got drunk, and never showed up at the barn again. His wife finally told her father-in-law that because of our money her husband hadn't come home for three days. If he didn't return immediately, she said, she would report „his Jews“ to the Gestapo. His father became frightened because he was afraid that if the Germans found Jews at his son's house they might also search his house, where he had Jews hidden, a fact that even his own son and daughter-in-law weren't aware of. In the middle of the night, Kalwinski's father came to our barn and took us over to his house ... In this new hiding place, which was a cellar of about 130 square feet, we found twenty-two other Jews.«

(Weliczker Wells, The Janowska Road, p. 220f.)

Sources: Leon Weliczker Wells, The Janowska Road; Yad Vashem, rescuer story Kalwinski