

## Janina Heschels-Altman (1931- )

Chemist, lecturer, writer



1931: born in Lviv as the daughter of Henryk (editor of the Zionist magazine "Chwila") and Amalia Heschels (nurse).

July 1941: Her father Henryk Heschels is murdered

1943: Her mother commits suicide

1943: Transferred to Janowska forced labour camp

October 1943: Flees to Krakow thanks to the Polish aid organisation "Żegota"

Autumn 1943: Keeps a diary

1946: Publication of the diary

1950: Emigration to Israel

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In 1943 Janina Heschels had to work as a seamstress for the Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke (SS-owned D.A.W., German Equipment Works) in Janowska forced labour camp:

*»The race to meet the quotas then began: every person with a machine had to sew four pairs of trousers, jackets or coats. The helpers had to finish the job by adding buttons and buttonholes. If we didn't finish by 6 o'clock, the work continued until 8 o'clock and the next day the whole group was sent to do dirty or heavy manual work, like cleaning latrines or carrying bricks. Sometimes there was no work to do. We would hold something in our hands, just to give the impression that we were working. The one-and-a-halfhour noon break started at 12:30 ... We arranged ourselves into columns ... we stood in line at the entrance to the dining room. One after the other, the columns went inside to eat. Five minutes later, we already went outside and arrived at the gate of the D.A.W. Here we waited, since the gate was only opened at 2 o'clock. Again we'd work under duress; with clothes drenched in sweat. At 6 o'clock work was over and there was a roll-call inside the D.A.W. Exhausted, we dragged ourselves to the camp« (Heschels, My Lvov, p. 67)*

Source: Heschels, Janina. My Lvov. A Holocaust Memoir of a twelve-year-old girl, 2020