

## Hajkova, Alena

Alena Hajkova was a member of a number of Czech anti-fascist underground organizations. As early as 1940, sixteen year old Alena helped Jews on various errands such as shopping at a time when Jews were not permitted to enter stores, or deliveries to laundromats, which were off limits to Jews. When the Jews were required to wear a yellow star, their need for Alena's services increased steadily. She devotedly delivered letters and money and maintained connections which Jews could no longer maintain without considerable risk. When deportations began, Alena helped the deportees by obtaining essential items for them, by hiding belongings, etc. Not only did she steal into Theresienstadt a number of times to smuggle in food packages for Jews, she even dared to maintain contact with Jews who were sent to forced labor outside of Theresienstadt.

She also helped a number of Jewish youth organizations in a variety of ways. She herself was a member of a group which helped persecuted Jews and non-Jews by hiding them, by providing them with forged papers and by obtaining food and money. In her activity, Alena acted with great courage and resourcefulness. Among other things, she got hold of identity documents for Jews, which she pulled out of workers' clothing which was hanging in the changing room of her father's factory. Alena was exceptionally devoted to rescue activities and transformed herself in effect into a supplier of forged documents and into a go-between for underground organizations and for the persecuted.

After innumerable acts of courage, the Nazis eventually arrested her and deported her to the Ravensbrueck Camp, where she was fortunate enough to survive the horrors of the camp.