

SZACHERÓWNA Natalia Nacha (1888-1942) teacher, school headmistress. She was born in Częstochowa on 6th October 1888, the daughter of Jankiel Wolf and Carka née Działoszyńska. She attended a Polish gimnazjum and later gained qualifications as a home teacher.

She began her professional work in 1908. From 1917 to 1925, she taught German at the Jewish Gimnazjum. She later moved to the No.13 Elementary School (at ul. Krakowska 15 and, from 1935 [?] at ul. Narutowicza 19/23), which was only attended by Jewish girls. That decision, to resign as a high school teacher, was dictated by her love for poor Jewish children, who could not afford to attend private schools. "She was like a mother to the children".

In 1937, as a result of her efforts, the school was awarded a banner. Despite the tense atmosphere in the city, following the anti-Jewish incidents and a negative opinion by the police, she led a march of the children, with the banner, through the streets of the city.

On 15th May 1938, she was elected as president of the Częstochowa Friends of Jewish Children Society. For many years, she belonged to the Częstochowa branch of the Polish Red Cross. In October 1938, her 50th birthday and 30th anniversary as a teacher were celebrated. At that time, she was the only Jewish head of a primary school in the city. The school, which she ran, was considered exemplary. In November 1938, she was awarded a medal for her many years of fruitful work in education.

At the beginning of the occupation, she hid the school banner in her apartment, but then handed it over to the German authorities – the banner was lost.

She perished in Treblinka in 23rd September 1942.

She did not start a family.

Spis nauczycieli 1924, p. 175. Orenstein, *Churban Czenstochow*, pp. 37, 382, 383. Anna Kowalińska, Wiesław Paszkowski, *Z dziejów opieki nad dzieckiem żydowskim w Częstochowie w XX wieku*, "Prace Naukowe Akademii im. Jana Długosza w Częstochowie. Pedagogika", vol. XXIV, pp. 613, 614. – "Częstochower Cajtung" 1938 No. 40, p. 5, No. 46, p. 6. – APCz, birth record No. 104 in register 1900.

Wiesław Paszkowski