



MDSM—IJBS—IYMC

FUNDACJA NA RZECZ MIĘDZYNARODOWEGO DOMU SPOTKAŃ MŁODZIEŻY W OŚWIĘCIMIU
STIFTUNG FÜR DIE INTERNATIONALE JUGENDBEGEGNUNGSTÄTTE IN OŚWIĘCIM/AUSCHWITZ
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MEETING CENTRE IN OŚWIĘCIM/AUSCHWITZ FOUNDATION

Short biographical information about Ms Anna Szałańska:

Anna Szałańska was born on 31 October 1926 in Chryplin in the Stanisławów Voivodeship (now Ukraine).

In 1943, Anna Szałańska was arrested by the Gestapo and taken to prison in Tarnów, where she was brutally interrogated. Since she did not confess, she was subsequently deported to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp (inmate number 47628).

In 1944, she was housed in the prisoner infirmary in Birkenau. Thanks to the help of a nurse, she received a so-called 'exemption card,' which exempted her from participating in the daily roll calls. Due to a leg amputation as a result of a bombing at the beginning of the war, Ms. Szałańska has worn a prosthesis ever since.

In August 1944, she was deported to the Ravensbrück women's concentration camp, where she was put to work in the Siemens factories. In April 1945, as part of the Swedish Red Cross relief effort led by Count Folke Bernadotte for victims of the Nazi regime, she was able to leave for Sweden, where she found temporary refuge.

In the summer of 1946, she returned to Poland, completed her secondary education at the Lyzeum for adults and passed her A-levels in 1948. She then moved to Poznań and began studying musicology.

In 1959, she settled in Warsaw, where she worked at the Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) and specialised in ethnic musicology. Particularly noteworthy are her three years of field research in the Bieszczady Mountains and several radio programmes she hosted on this topic.

Anna Szałańska was involved in remembrance work for many years. She often met with young people and talked about her experiences during her imprisonment in Nazi concentration camps. As often as her health permitted, she was a guest at the IYMC Oświęcim. She is the protagonist of the film 'Anna Szałańska's Christmas Eves' ('Wigilie Anny Szałańskiej'), which was produced in collaboration with the IYMC Oświęcim.

Today, Ms Anna Szałańska lives in Warsaw.