

Anna Mielczarek RG-50.028.0090.01.01

Summary of Interview

Anna Ludwika Mielczarek, born on April 3, in Schodnica, Poland. She was the 13th and the last child of Paulina Hewryk (Chedryk) and Dymitri Kuźmina of Ukrainian decent. Names of other siblings are unknown. Biological parents died early, so Anna was raised by her uncle and aunt. She was baptized as a Catholic. After she had finished her primary school she started to study with Jehovah's Witnesses. It was the time when brother Ludwik Kinicki arrived in Bolesław. He gave her a copy of the Bible which she had during the whole time she has spent in concentration camps. In 1924 she was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. In 1930 she got married and left for Warszawa. In 1937 with her husband she moved to Pustlenik near Warszawa.

After the outbreak of the World War II they continued to live in Pustelnik. There was a local congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. As the Witness activity was banned at the time, they were always ready to be arrested.

In 1944 a few days before the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising Anna and her seven year old son, Franciszek, visited her brother-in-law in Pruszków. On the day when the uprising started she was on her way back to Pustelnik in order to pass on food coupons to her grandmother. She intended to return quickly to her son, whom she had left with her relatives in Pruszków. At the hour when the uprising began she was at the Kierbedz Bridge. The roads were blocked and she did not reach her home; she was also unable to return to Pruszków. She was forced to remain in Warszawa with other civilian population of the city. She was taken to a hotel at Kozia street where she stayed for some four weeks. When the uprising fell Anna, who was 29 years of age at the time, was transported by the Germans from Warszawa to Pruszków. After two or three days together with other Witness families she was relocated in cattle boxcars to Mauthausen. In one boxcar there were some 70 persons: men, women and children. Anna spent some three weeks in Mauthausen. This was a time of selection: men were incarcerated in KL Mauthausen, and women relocated by railway in so called Pullman coaches to a place they had no idea about at the time. Ludwik Kinicki and Wojciech Jordani with his sons were among brothers who stayed back in KL Mauthausen.

At the end of August or at the beginning of September 1944 Anna arrived in Ravensbrück. For some there days she has waited to be registered in the camp. During that time she and other prisoners spent nights outdoors on bare sand. After three days of waiting she got a prison number and as one of Jehovah's Witnesses [Jehovas Zeugen] a purple triangle. Then she was taken to a collective bathhouse. After the shower the prisoners had to undergo a procedure of delousing. Anna had no lice and consequently she was not shaved. At that time there were 585 Witness women in Ravensbrück. They stayed together until the time when the camp authorities found out about it due to the activity of a spy. Then there were split into groups of two or three and transferred to various camp blocks.

In Ravensbrück Anna worked at deforestation; then she had to load and transport sand that was used to build roads. Her next assignment was cleaning in IKL - Inspektion der Konzentrationslager. It was possible because the camp authorities trusted Jehovah's Witnesses. IKL was a part of KL Sachsenhausen.