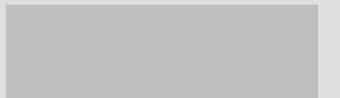
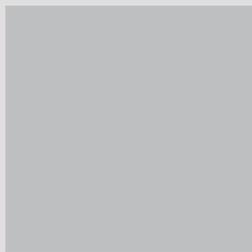
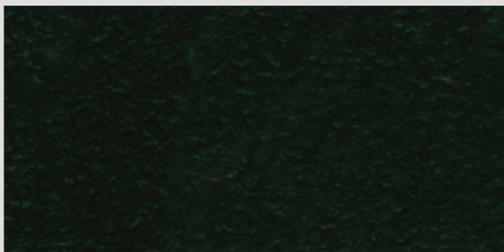


Danuta Siedzikówna *alias* "Inka"



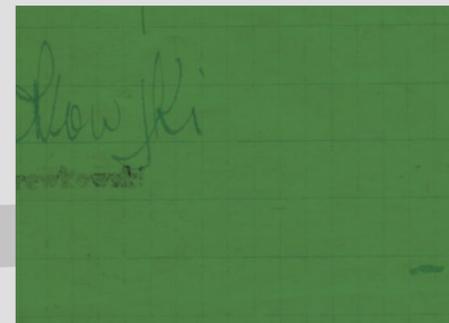
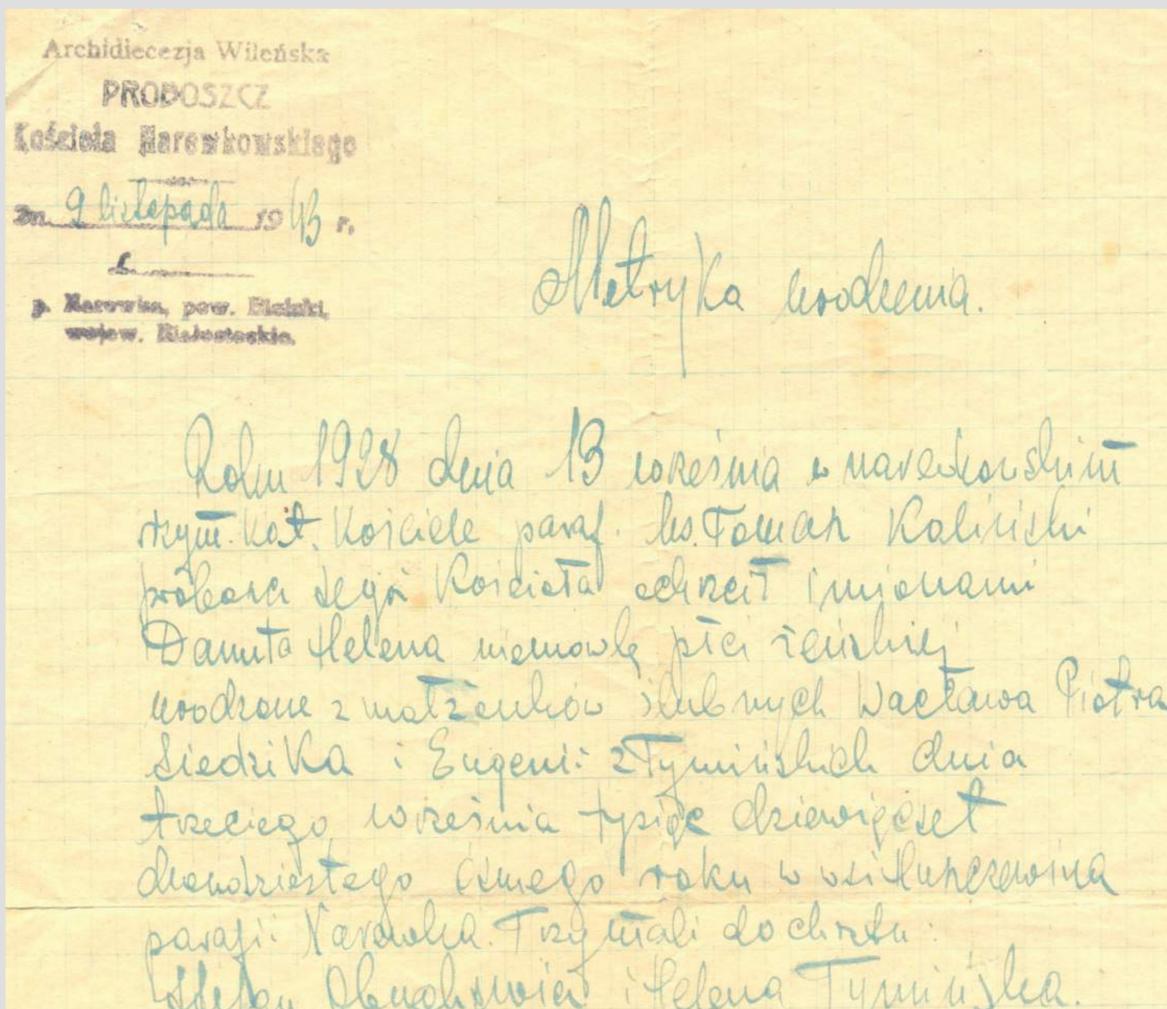
INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

W E BIOGRAFIE
WYSTAWY
ELEMENTARNE

Background

Danuta Siedzikówna was born on September 3, 1928, in the village of Guszczewina in the Podlasie region. She was the second of three daughters of Wacław and Eugenia née Tymińska. The Siedzik family came from the landed gentry of Podlasie. Her father was a forester, while her mother took care of the house and children. The Siedzik family's home was the Olchówka forester's lodge near Narewka.

→ Birth certificate of Danuta Siedzikówna
📄 N.N., archives of the Pawełek family



→ Wacław Siedzik, Danuta's father, as a high school student - just before being sent off to Siberia
📄 collection of Wiesława Korzeń née Siedzik



→ Eugenia Siedzik, née Tymińska, Danuta's mother, during her childhood years
📄 collection of Wiesława Korzeń née Siedzik



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

A Carefree Childhood

Danuta and her sisters attended a grammar school in Narewka, to which they traveled on horseback. Patriotic values played a significant role in the Siedzik family, passed down from parents and grandparents (especially by both grandmothers - Aniela and Helena). This patriotic upbringing strongly shaped Danuta and influenced her future decisions, especially given the impending war.



↑ The carefree childhood of the Siedzik sisters. From the left: Wiesława, Irena, Danuta. The Olchówka forester's lodge near Narewka, during the 1930's.

📷 collection of Wiesława Korzeń née Siedzik



↑ Danuta's school photograph, from the 1930's.
📷 collection of Wiesława Korzeń née Siedzik



↑ Aniela Siedzikowa
📷 collection of Wiesława Korzeń née Siedzik



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

The Wartime Hecatombs

→ Danuta Siedzikówna with a friend. Narewka, May 1941.

📍 collection of Wiesława Korzeń *née* Siedzik



↓ Grave of Waclaw Siedzik located at the Polish cemetery in Tehran. Waclaw arrived in the capital of Iran together with General Anders's soldiers. "Inka's" father died in 1943 due to his stay in a Soviet labor camp

📍 public domain



🕒 Ichówka came under Soviet occupation, and subsequently, the family suffered repressions from the Second Polish Republic's neighbor to the east. Danuta's father was deported to Siberia in one of the first deportation transports. Danuta's mother and the other daughters had to move to Narewka. After the beginning of the German-Soviet War, Eugenia Siedzik became involved in underground activities of the Union of Armed Struggle - Home Army [ZWZ-AK]. She was later arrested and executed by the Germans in a forest near Białystok in September 1943.

← The last known photograph of Eugenia Siedzik

📍 collection of Wiesława Korzeń *née* Siedzik



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

“I Accept you Into the Ranks of the Home Army...”

At the age of 15, Danuta became an orphan. Raised in the spirit of respect for independence and pride in her country, and following her mother's example, she and her older sister, Wiesława, joined the Home Army [AK] in December 1943. Danuta's sisters took an underground course for medical orderlies and began their service in Stanisław Wołonciej's *alias* “Konus” unit. In October 1944, Danuta started working as a clerk in the Narewka forest management district, where she combined her professional duties with underground activity.



↓ Danuta Siedzikówna (first on the right) with friends. Narewka, 1944 or 1945.

📷 collection of Wiesława Korzeń *née* Siedzik

↑ Home Army soldiers during their oath-taking. Wilno [Vilnius] region, spring 1944.

📷 M. Sprudin, AIPN

↓ Danuta Siedzikówna in front of the school in Narewka in 1944.

📷 collection of Wiesława Korzeń *née* Siedzik



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

“Inka”

In June 1945, Danuta, together with other forestry management workers, was arrested by the NKVD and the UB (Urząd Bezpieczeństwa - Internal Security Agency) on charges of cooperation with the independence conspiracy. During the transport of prisoners, the convoy was attacked by soldiers of the 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army, who freed the prisoners. Under these dramatic circumstances, Danuta joined a unit commanded by Major Zygmunt Szendzielarz, alias “Łupaszko.” She adopted the pseudonym “Inka” - in honor of a friend from her school years.

→ The final concentration of the 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army in the Białystok region in the Stoczek grove. “Inka” is shown standing third from the left, in the middle with a gorget of the brigade commander, Major Zygmunt Szendzielarz, *alias* “Łupaszko.” September 1945.

📷 AIPN



↑ Soldiers of the 2nd and 4th squadron of the 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army. “Inka” with an armband with a cross, Białystok region in 1945.

📷 AIPN



↑ Everyday hardships of partisan life - fighting lice. “Inka” in the top row, first on the right

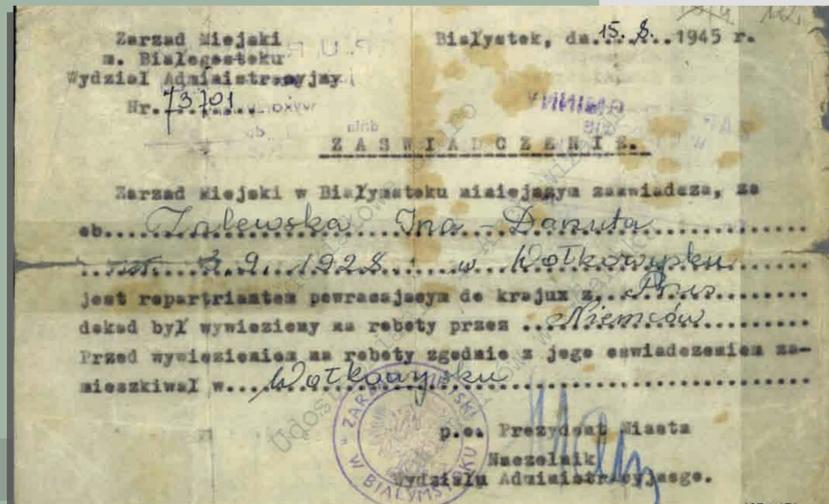
📷 AIPN



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

Attempt to Return to Normality

In the fall of 1945, Major Szendzielarz gave the order to disband the unit for the winter. Danuta attempted to return to everyday life. She started learning in a middle school in Narewka, where she completed two classes. "Inka", sensing a threat from the UB, moved to the Warmia region to the town of Miłomłyn, where her godfather, Stefan Obuchowicz, lived. He found "Inka" a job in the Miłomłyn forest inspectorate and prepared documents for her under a false name - Danuta Ina Zaleska. This was supposed to give the young medical orderly some peace of mind.



↑ Certificate in the name of Danuta Ina Zaleska

📄 AIPN

➤ The Miłomłyn forest inspectorate building, where Danuta Siedzik worked

📄 public domain

➔ Monument to medical orderly "Inka" in Miłomłyn

📄 AIPN



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

Loyal to her Oath



↑ Soldiers of the 4th squadron of the 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army. In the upper row from the left: Lieutenant Marian Pluciński *alias* “Mściśław,” Corporal Henryk Wieliczko *alias* “Lufa,” Stanisław Lipowski *alias* “Lipa,” Platoon Commander Zdzisław Badocha *alias* “Żelazny.” In the middle row from the left: Cpl. Jerzy Lejkowski *alias* “Szpagat,” Zbigniew Fijałkowski *alias* “Pędzelek,” N.N. In the bottom row from the left: Danuta Siedzikówna *alias* “Inka,” Pvt. First Class Bohdan Śmiałowski *alias* “Beduin,” Witold Godzisz *alias* “Radio,” N.N. Białystok region, 1945.

📍 AIPN



↑ Soldiers of the 5th squadron of the 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army in the Bory Tucholskie forest 📍 AIPN

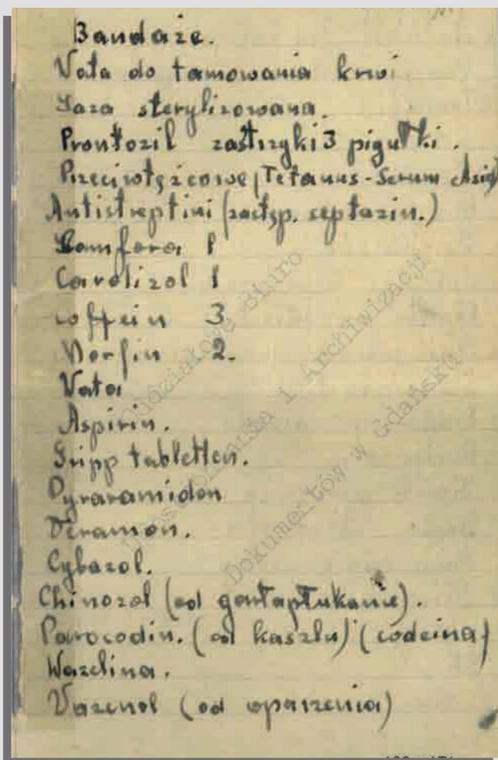
➤ Commander of the 5th squadron of the 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army, Lieutenant Zdzisław Badocha *alias* “Żelazny” 📍 AIPN

Danuta’s work at the forest inspectorate did not last long. At the end of February 1946, she established contact with the partisans of the 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army. She went to Pomerania from Miłomłyn, rejoining the unit, remaining faithful to the oath taken when she started underground activity. She was assigned to Second Lieutenant Zdzisław Badocha, *alias* “Żelazny’s” squadron. She served as a medical orderly and sometimes as a liaison officer. Badocha’s squadron carried out many combat missions in which “Inka” participated - she dressed the wounds of wounded soldiers. Danuta was liked by the soldiers of the unit and bravely endured the hardships of partisan life.



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

The Last Mission



← The list of medicines that “Inka” was to purchase upon arrival in Gdańsk

📄 AIPN

↓ The conspiratorial premises of the Mikołajewski sisters at 7 Wróblewskiego Street in Gdańsk-Wrzeszcz, where “Inka” spent her last hours of freedom. Contemporary view

📄 OBEN IPN Gdańsk Branch



During the time of “Żelazny’s” absence, the squadron’s command was taken over by Olgierd Christa *alias* “Leszek,” who had sent Danuta on a mission to Gdańsk. On July 13, 1946, “Inka” set out from Lipowa Tucholska station to get medicines, exchange maps, and obtain information about squadron commander Lt. Zdzisław Badocha. The squadron members did not know that he was killed during a round-up on June 28, 1946. “Inka” arrived in Gdańsk on July 19th, where she went to the Mikołajewski sisters’ underground apartment. According to the plan, “Inka” was to return to her unit on July 20th. This, however, did not happen, as UB officers knew about her stay in the city and decided to arrest her.



↑ The railway station in Lipowa Tucholska, from where “Inka” set off on her last mission

📄 public domain



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ



***“She was a very modest young woman.
She was very dutiful. I don’t remember her
ever complaining, although there was no
shortage of long, strenuous marches.”***

- Olgierd Christa

↑ Danuta Siedzikówna with soldiers of the 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army - Bogdan Obuchowski *alias* “Zbyszek” (on the left) and Marek Ordyn-Jankowski *alias* “Marek” (on the right). Pomerania, 1946.

📷 AIPN



**INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ**

The Arrest

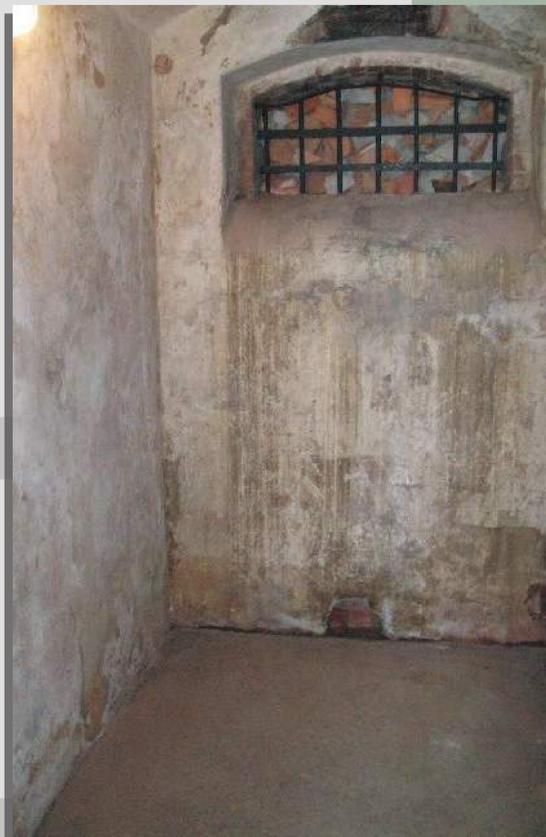
The Secret Police [UB] knew about the whereabouts of Danuta Sedzikówna in Gdańsk, thanks to the denunciations and betrayal of Major “Łupaszka’s” liaison officer, Regina Mordas-Żylińska. Both “Inka” and the Mikołajewski sisters were unaware of the threat of arrest - they spent the night of July 19th-20th together, singing partisan songs, among other things. Around 3:30 a.m., UB officers entered the apartment and arrested Danuta and the Mikołajewski sisters. The women were taken to the Gdańsk prison at 12 Kurkowa Street.



← Regina Mordas-Żylińska *alias* “Regina,” a medical orderly of the 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army, who began her cooperation with the UB in the spring of 1946. Her denunciation made it possible to arrest “Inka.”
📷 AIPN



↑ Contemporary view of the prison at 12 Kurkowa Street in Gdańsk
📷 public domain

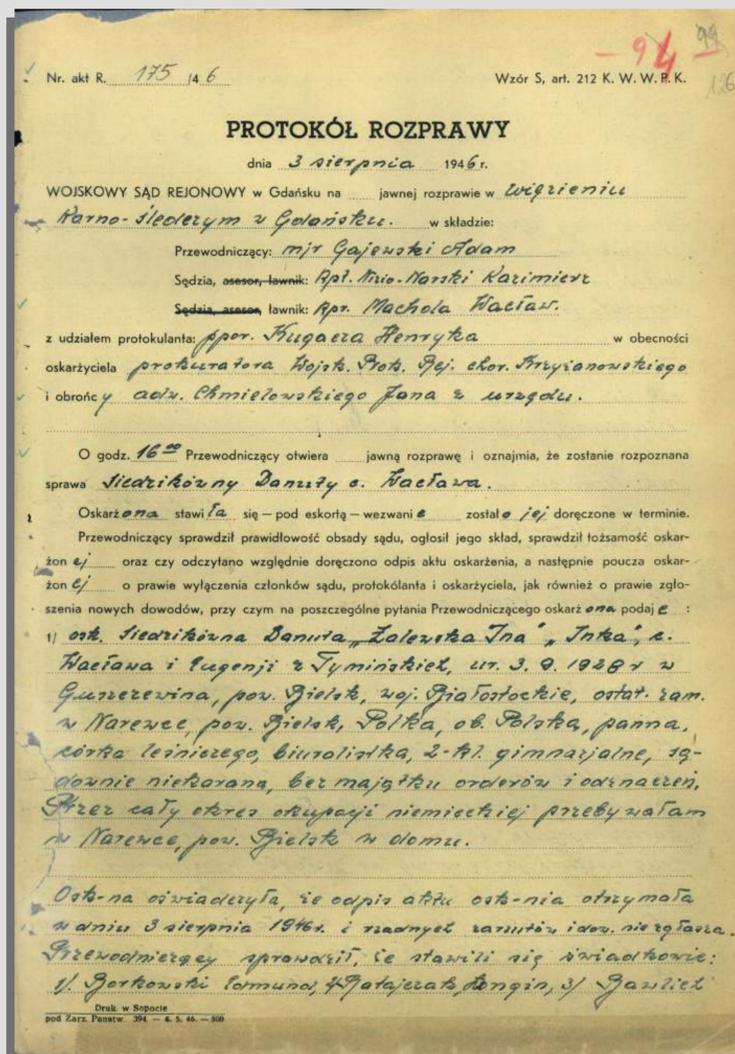


← The prison cell where “Inka” was kept during her imprisonment
📷 AIPN



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

The “Trial”

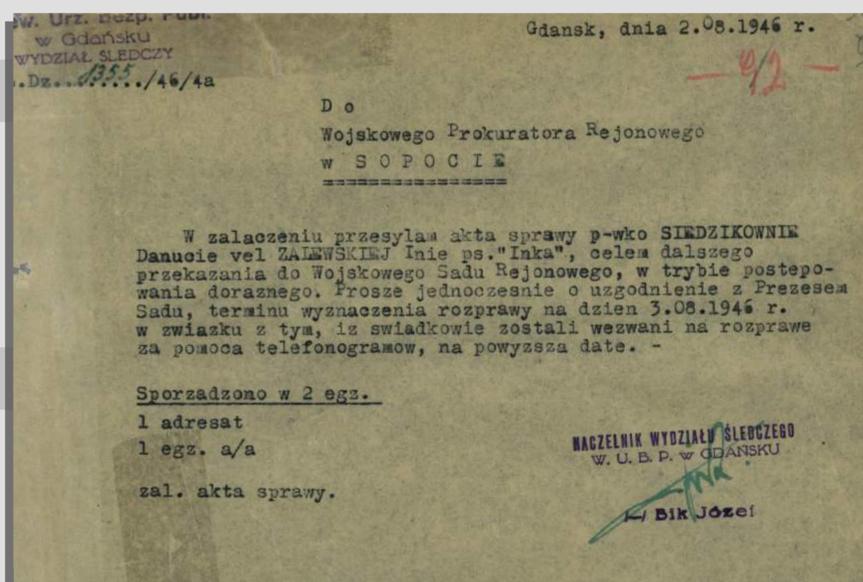


→ Minutes of the court trial against Danuta Siedzikówna
 AIPN

↓ Letter from the head of the Investigation Department of the WUBP in Gdańsk concerning the setting of the trial date against Danuta Siedzikówna
 AIPN

The investigation of Danuta Siedzik was supervised by Andrzej Stawicki, who drew up the indictment on July 31, 1946; in it, he demanded the death penalty. The case was to be decided by the Military District Court in Gdańsk. The “trial” began on August 3, 1946. The judges team was presided over by Major Adam Gajewski, and the prosecutor was Warrant Officer Waclaw Krzyżanowski. Krzyżanowski went on record, stating that the defendant, “Inka,” did not admit to the charges; nevertheless, the prosecutor demanded the death penalty for her. After the two-hour “trial,” the sentence was passed per the prosecutor’s position. Danuta was the only woman sentenced to death by the Military District Court in Gdańsk.

↓ The seat of the Military District Court in Gdańsk-Wrzeszcz at 5 Batory Street. Contemporary view
 K. Drażba, OBEN IPN Gdańsk Branch



INSTYTUT
 PAMIĘCI
 NARODOWEJ

“Long Live Poland!”

→ Protocol of the execution of Danuta Siedzikówna

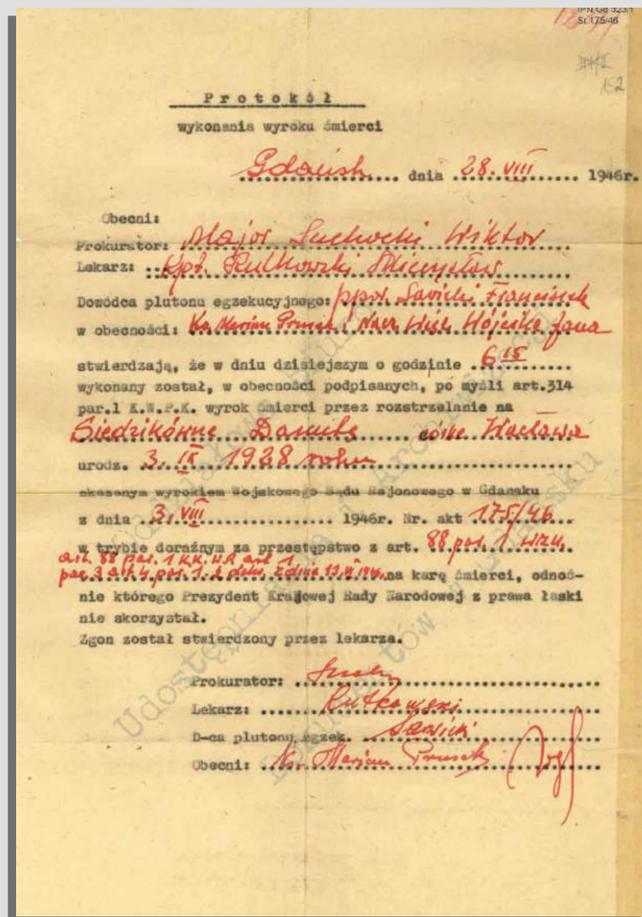
📄 AIPN

↘ Franciszek Sawicki, commander of the firing squad. The man who killed “Inka” with a shot in the head

📄 AIPN

↘ Father Marian Prusak, the last confessor of “Inka,” who was present at her execution

📄 AIPN



After “Inka” was sentenced, her public defender, Jan Chmielowski, formally requested Communist First Party Secretary Bolesław Bierut for mercy. The decision was unfavorable - so it became clear that the sentence would be carried out. Even before her death, Danuta sent a secret message from prison to the Mikołajewski sisters, in which she wrote: “Tell my grandmother that I behaved properly.” On August 28, 1946, around 6:15 a.m., Danuta Siedzikówna and Feliks Selmanowicz were executed in the basement of the prison in Gdańsk, in the chaplain’s presence, i.e., Father Marian Prusak. Before her death, both of the convicted managed to shout the words: “Long Live Poland!”. “Inka” added: “Long live Łupaszko!” The heroic medical orderly died less than a week before her eighteenth birthday.



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ



“I am sorry that I have to die. Tell my grandmother that I behaved properly.”

↑ Danuta Siedzikówna in front of her family house, probably in 1938.

📍 AIPN



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

Worthy of Commemoration

After years of communist propaganda and slander against Danuta Siedzikówna, the time came to restore her to her rightful place in a free Poland in the collective memory of all Poles. On June 10, 1991, the Criminal Division of the Provincial Court in Gdańsk annulled the death sentence previously passed by the Military District Court in Gdańsk. In 2006, President Lech Kaczyński posthumously decorated "Inka" with the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta. Currently, in many places in Poland, the heroic medical orderly is the patron of schools, streets, or commemorated in another dignified form.

→ A monument to the heroic medical orderly in the Jordan Park in Cracow

📍 AIPN

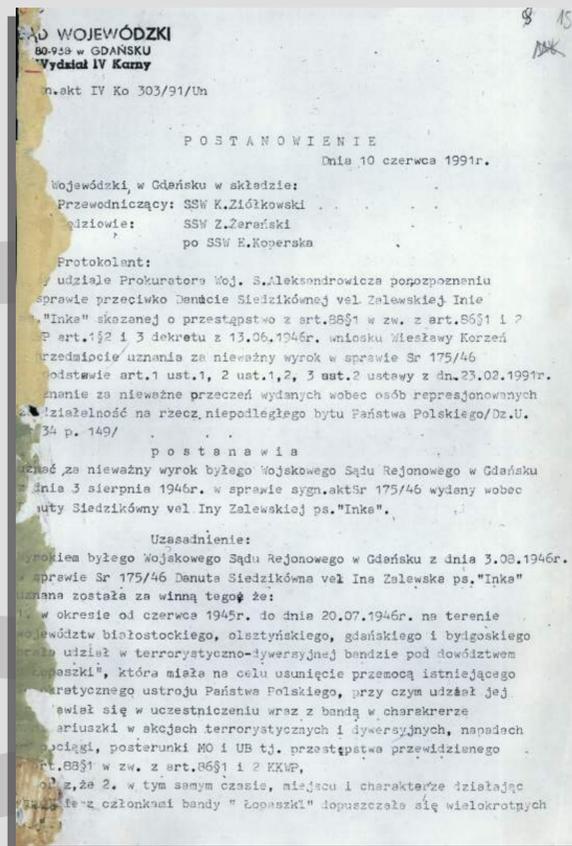
↘ "Inka" in mass culture - T-shirt and pin with her image

📍 K. Drażba, OBEN IPN

Gdańsk

↘ Verdict of the Provincial Court in Gdańsk, nullifying the 1946 conviction of "Inka"

📍 AIPN



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

Years Later a Proper Funeral



↑ The remains of a young woman and a middle-aged man are buried together. Genetic tests confirmed that they are of “Inka” and “Zagończyk.” September 12, 2014.

📍 AIPN

For many years, the hiding place of the medical orderly’s remains was unknown. This changed in September 2014, when a team led by Prof. Krzysztof Szwagrzyk of the Institute of National Remembrance [IPN] found the place with the buried remains of “Inka” in the Garrison Cemetery in Gdańsk. On March 1, 2015, at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, Danuta Siedzikówna’s family members received a note confirming that the remains of medical orderly “Inka” were among those found. On August 28, 2016, a state funeral of Danuta Siedzikówna and Feliks Selamanowicz was held at the Garrison Cemetery in Gdańsk with the participation of Poland’s highest authorities. Both were buried in the quarters of the distinguished.



↑ Danuta Siedzikówna’s aunt, Hanna Pawelek, receiving the official remains’ identification note. Warsaw, March 1, 2015.

📍 P. Życieński, BEN IPN

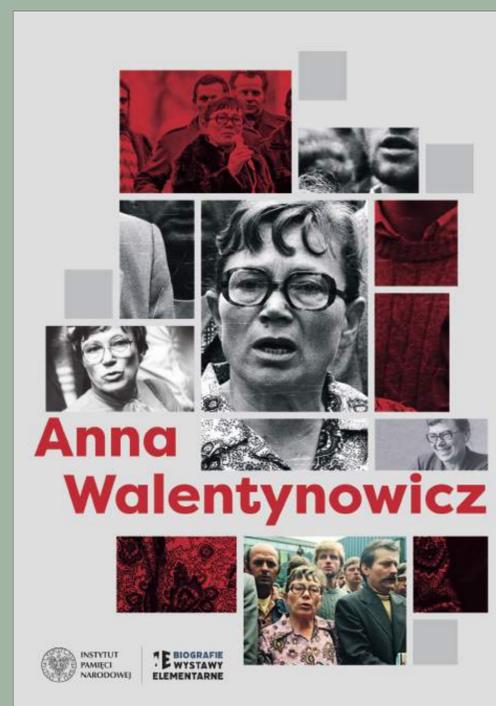
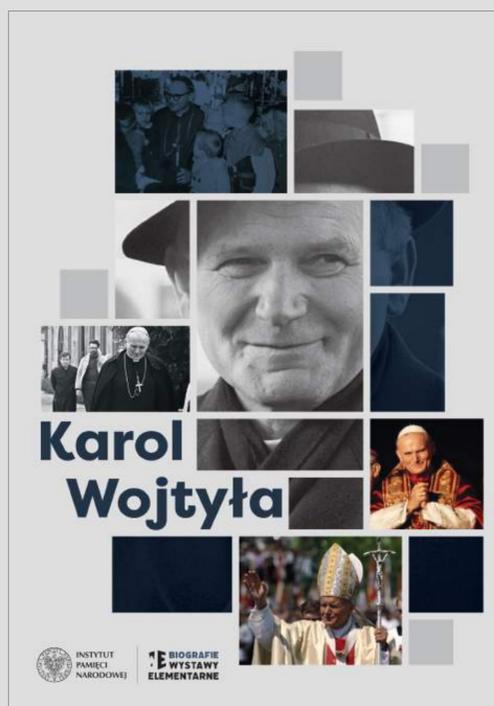
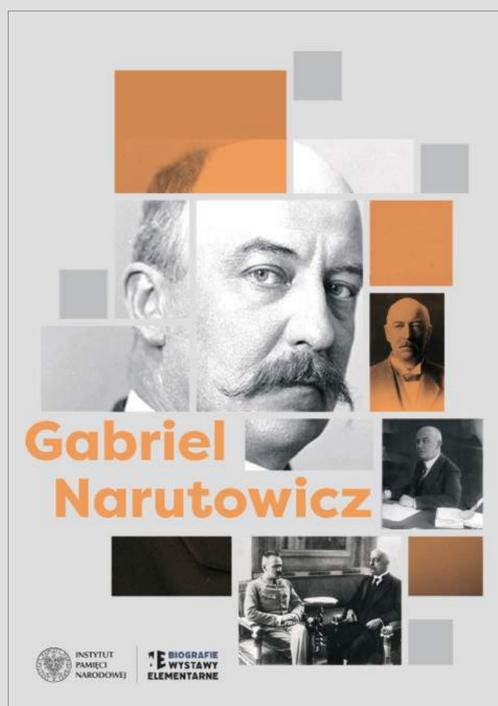
→ State funeral of Danuta Siedzikówna in Gdańsk, August 28, 2016.

📍 AIPN

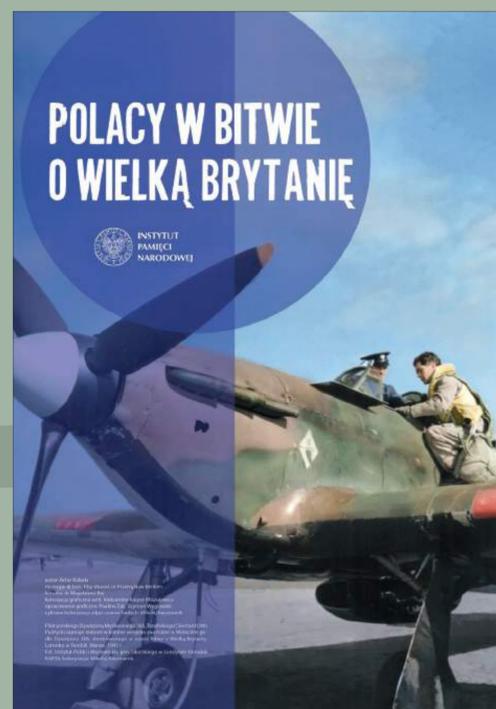


INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

See more exhibitions in the series at:
www.edukacja.ipn.gov.pl



See more exhibitions in the series at:



Author: Artur Chomicz

Reviewed by: dr hab. Marek Gałęzowski
dr hab. Piotr Niwiński

Translation into English: Jan Czarniecki

Proofreading: Jan Czarniecki

Graphic concept of the series: Paulina Żak

Printing/typesetting: Piotr Wiejak

Photographs used in the exhibition: The Archives of the Institute of National Remembrance, public domains, and from the private collections of Wiesława Korzeniowa and the Pawelek and Tymiński families.



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ