

# German extermination of Polish teachers

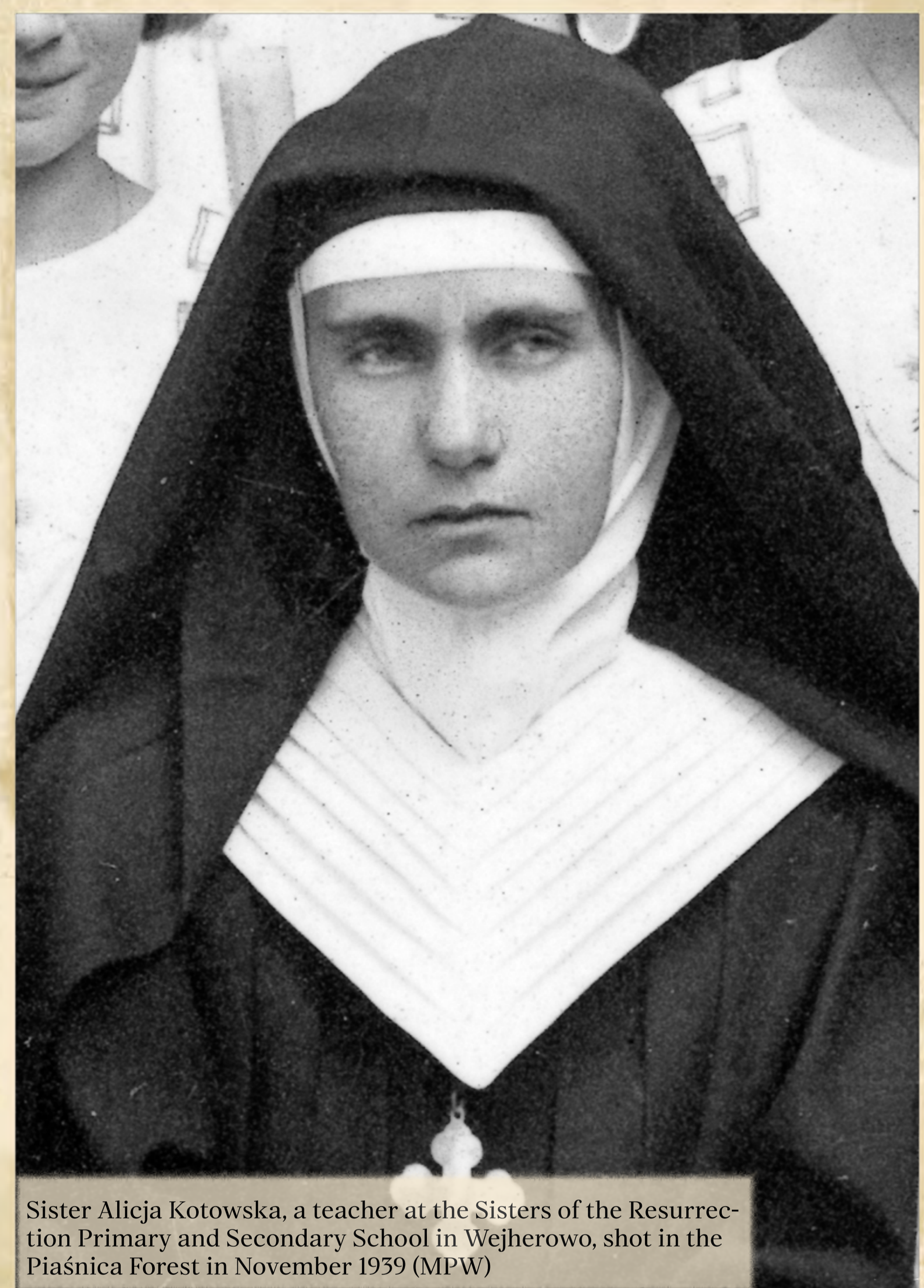


Marian Jurek, a teacher from Bydgoszcz, moments before being shot in the Valley of Death near Fordon, October 1939 (AIPN)

Capture and confine leading Polish intellectuals, including, in particular, teachers, priests, all those with higher education and, if necessary, merchants as well.

Albert Forster in one of the first secret instructions for the civil administration, September 1939

Polish teachers, as promoters of national consciousness, were considered particularly dangerous for the interests of the Third Reich. Had they remained in Pomeranian schools, they would have hindered the forced Germanization of the younger generation. To stop that from happening, the Nazis resolved to eliminate them. Apparently willing to re-open schools and discuss the future of Polish education, they convened "teacher conferences" only to arrest those who attended them. Many were immediately executed, while others endured torture in prisons and concentration camps. This was not a spontaneous action, but a systematic and mass process.



Sister Alieja Kotowska, a teacher at the Sisters of the Resurrection Primary and Secondary School in Wejherowo, shot in the Piaśnica Forest in November 1939 (MPW)

Edyta Czoskówna (bottom row, second from the right), a teacher at a primary school in Szymankowo, shot on 24 November 1939 in the Szpegawsk Forest (SP Szymankowo)

