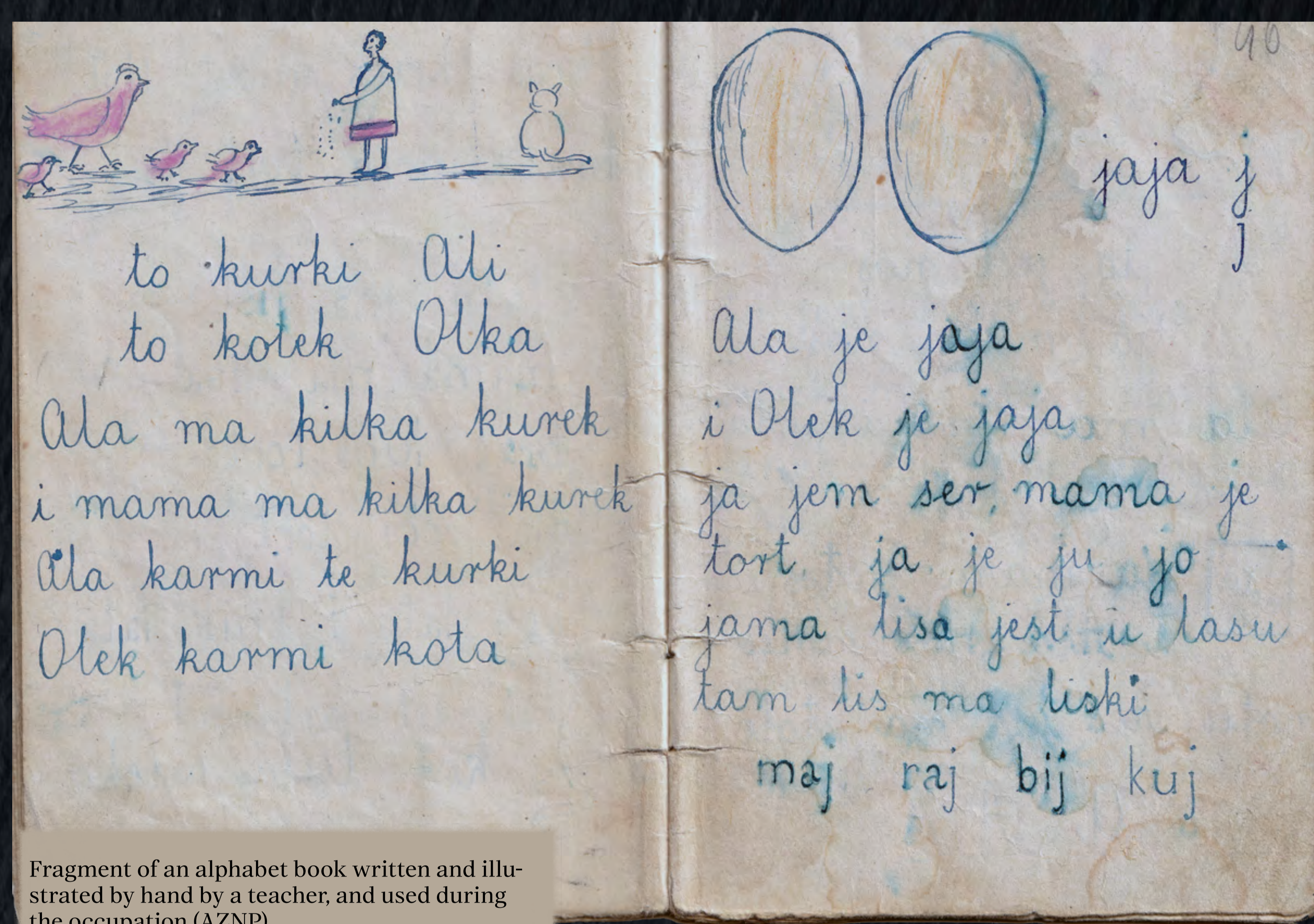


# Organization of clandestine education



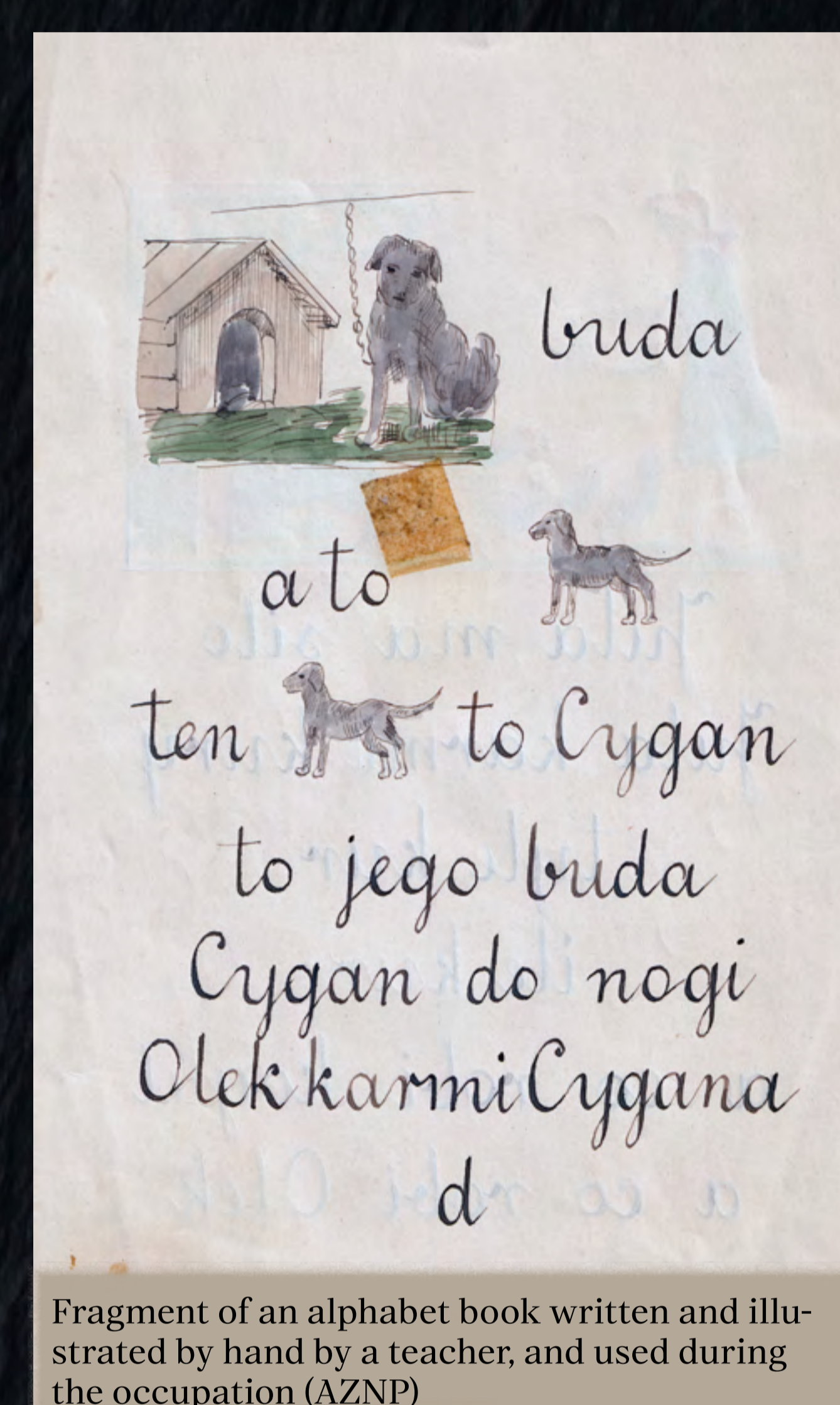
Fragment of an alphabet book written and illustrated by hand by a teacher, and used during the occupation (AZNP)



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Classes took place at different times and on different days. I didn't want the Germans living nearby to notice any regularity in my visits to the Sabots' house. I visited them with my little daughter under the pretext of wanting to sew various little things for her on their machine, which created a natural reason for our presence there. I would sew the clothes and have my daughter try them on by the ground-floor window for all to see. Needless to say, I was taking a very long time sewing each tiny item.

The account of Barbara Deregowska, a teacher from Bydgoszcz



Fragment of an alphabet book written and illustrated by hand by a teacher, and used during the occupation (AZNP)

Despite the difficult conditions and dangers associated with clandestine education, the Polish population undertook an effort to oppose the occupier's Germanization policies. It started with a grassroots initiative of parents and teachers. Teachers participating in clandestine education had no contact with the clandestine educational authorities within the Polish Underground State. The District Office of Education and Culture at the District Government Delegation for Pomerania was not established until late 1942/early 1943, with Zygmunt Sulczyński as its head.

Before the outbreak of World War II, the German population constituted 9.8% of the population of the Pomerania Province. Germans, familiar with the customs and daily behavior of their Polish neighbors, posed an additional threat to the clandestine classes. Therefore, the teachers met with their students in small groups, a maximum of 5-6 people, and no student records were kept. Because possession of Polish textbooks was prohibited, and many of them were destroyed, teachers created their own teaching aids.

Polish language lesson at a clandestine class led by Jadwiga Sokirkówna in Łopienik Górny in the Lublin region, 1941. Clandestine classes were conducted in a similar manner in territories incorporated into the German Reich (Ryszard Kurowski's collection)



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