

# Clandestine education in the occupied Pomerania Province Chojnice

In the first weeks of the occupation, two former students approached teacher Helena Karczyńska, asking if she could give them German lessons because they were being harassed at work. After a few months, they continued their studies at clandestine classes, completing the pre-war curriculum for other high school subjects.



Franciszka Szablewska, photo from the post-war period (FGIEZ)



The teaching staff of the Primary School No. 1 in Chojnice (Czesław Wycech, school principal in 1932-1937, is sitting fifth from the left), photo by A. Góralski, Chojnice, 1950s (MHEC)

Franciszka Szablewska was born on 3 May 1892, in Łęg (Łąg). She died in 1980. Before the outbreak of the war, she worked in Ryteł and Chojnice. During the occupation, as early as 1939, she organized a meeting in order to establish clandestine education. In the 1940/1941 school year, 12 teachers worked with 63 students. In the following years of the occupation, the number of teachers and students attending clandestine classes steadily increased. Through teacher friends, Franciszka Szablewska inspired the organization of clandestine classes in the Kościerzyna, Starogard, and Tezew counties, and in 1940 she established teacher training courses that lasted until the end of the occupation.



Chojnice, Pierackiego Street, on the left the building of the School of Commerce, 1930s (MHEC)

CHOJNICE. Ul. Br. Pierackiego.



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