

Institute of National Remembrance

She was sentenced to death.... on Women's Day

Lifeguard and liaison agent in the Home Army, Janina Wasałowicz war nick name "Jachna" was one of the few women to be sentenced to death in post-war Poland.

During WWII she served with "Kmicic", "Ronin", "Łupaszka" and her future husband, Lieutenant Leon Smoleński war nick name "Zeus".

In January 1947, Janina fell into a trap set up by the Communist Secret Services. During her interrogations, the young woman was beaten, tortured and humiliated, but she never broke. On March 8, 1949, Women's Day, she received her sentence: twice the death penalty. She was 21 then.

As part of the amnesty, her sentence was changed to 15 years in prison, which she served in high-security prisons - at Fordon and Inowrocław. For women like her, with a heavy penalty, there was additional punishment - she was not allowed to work, have visitors or writing letters.

"It was never enough for them that we were deprived of our freedom, they needed additional harassment while we were still in prison," she testified years later.

Although she was finally released from the wave of the so-called political thaw in 1956, she and her husband remained under surveillance until 1989. They lived in Szczecin. Janina has worked for many years in schools and at the university. She died in 2010 at the age of 84.

For the services provided Janina Wasałowicz was decorated with the Cross of Officer and Commander of the Polonia Restituta Order.



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