

This is the story of Anna Mass: „My father's apprentice“



In 1939 the II World War broke out. In September, German soldiers entered Lublin and from that time the extermination of the Jewish population in Lublin began. This is the story of Anna Mass (Szwarc) and her family. The memories she remembered from that time are presented below. War is a cruel time that deprives people of humanity.

May we never experience it again.

„...One day it was so: it's after curfew, and there's a knocking on the door. A soldier. He must have his watch repaired because tomorrow he goes to the front. And the keys are with my boyfriend in the Jewish quarter at the other side of town.

We tell him it's after curfew. He'll accompany me. So my mother begs him to then escort me back, because what, I'll have to sleep at the shop?

And so we're walking, in the night, through the town, there are guards everywhere, with dogs, German soldiers, and time after time they stop us. Those dogs were trained: the dog stands in front of you, sideways, so that you can't pass. When the guard had been through - he talked only to the soldier, not me - he patted the dog, the dog stepped back.

When we got close to the Jewish quarter, there was no ghetto yet, it was really swarming with them. They were staging pogroms, all kinds of things. I went into the alley where my boyfriend lived. I started calling him in Jewish. Finally someone answers me. Who am I? I introduce myself with my full name and say I want to talk to Berek. 'Just a moment.' A gate opens, they let me in. I say, 'You have to go with me.' He told the others he might have to spend the night at my place, and off we went.

He put that watch together, and the soldier saw me off.” - said Anna many years after that events.”

Anna Mass, <https://www.centropa.org/biography/anna-mass#During%20the%20war>



Lublin, 1938

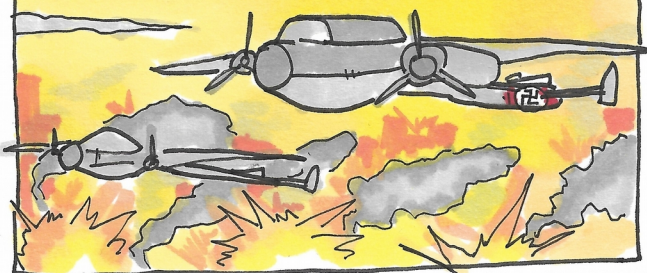


Mr. Swarc is a watchmaker, he works on Pijarska Street.



Two apprienteces work with him. One of them is Anna's friend Berek.

In September, 1939 the World War II began. German attacked Poland.



German soldiers entered Lublin. Everyone was very scared..



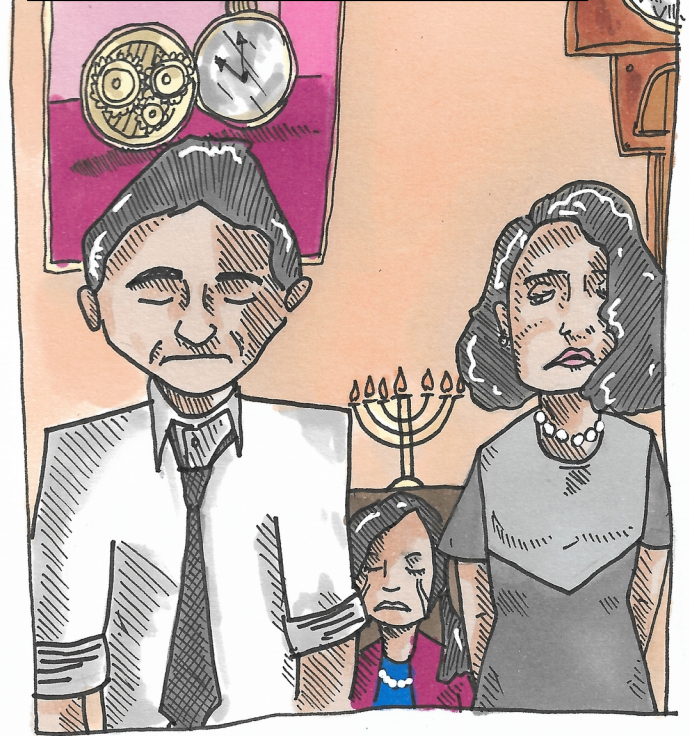
Anna, the daughter of Mr. Szwarc lives here with her parents and sister.





A curfew has been introduced. It was not possible to leave the houses at that time. It was very dangerous!

Anna's father, Mr. Szwarc decided to leave the country to save his life.



He escaped to USRR.

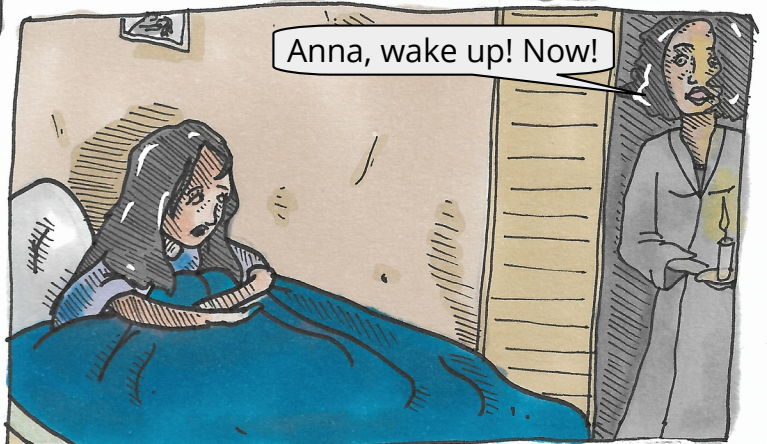


It was a dark and quiet night ...



It was the middle of the night. Anna has been sleeping for some time ...

Suddenly someone knocked on the door!



Anna, wake up! Now!



It was a German soldier!

