

Local stories from World War II

Life in the Polish countryside during World War II was full of difficulties, fear, and uncertainty.

People had to face constant danger from the occupiers, repression, hunger, and the struggle to survive.

The war especially affected farming families, who suffered from robberies, deportations, and executions.

People had to take care of their homes and belongings, but also hide from the Germans, escape to the forests, and protect their children.

The following stories of my ancestors show the dramatic fate of families who fought against the cruelty of war.

Grandmother Ala's Memories

One of my grandmother Ala's stories is about her mother, who carried her daughter Marysia to church in Rudotowice for baptism during the war.

In the background, there were sounds of war – gunfire and bombings.

Fear was present at every step, but despite that, my great-grandmother decided to fulfill her religious duty and baptize her child.

This situation shows how much courage ordinary people needed to keep their traditions and family values despite the danger around them.

Even more dramatic were the experiences of grandmother Ala's family when German soldiers entered their home.

During the war, soldiers often searched houses, took food, cattle, and sometimes decided about the life or death of the people inside.

At that time, the father hid, afraid of repression, and the mother was left alone with the children.

The Germans were close to executing them, and my great-grandmother, full of pain and despair, said:

"When God went to His death, He was also afraid."

These words touched one of the soldiers, who convinced the other to leave and spare the family.

It was a moment when courage and inner strength saved them from a tragic fate.



Photos show Grandmother Ala and her parents



Stasia's Grandmother memories

The second story comes from my grandmother Stasia and is about her grandparents, Władysław and Maria Kałamarz.

Władysław had a great musical talent – he learned to play instruments by ear and even made them himself.

Among them were small cymbals and drums, which he valued very much.

Music was his escape from everyday worries and a way to keep his identity during difficult times.

During the occupation, the villagers had to run to the forests, where they had earlier dug bunkers with their own hands to hide from enemy soldiers.

Grandfather Władysław always took his instruments with him while escaping, not wanting them to be destroyed or taken away.

His determination shows how important music was to him, even in the face of danger.

The Germans looted villages, taking everything, and people ran away, carrying what was most valuable to them – not only cattle but also symbolic objects like Władysław's instruments.

This story shows the determination of people who, in times of danger, tried to save what was most precious to them.

The fate of my family is an example of the harsh reality that Polish villagers had to face during the war.

Constant fear, the struggle for life, the need to hide, and protecting loved ones were part of everyday life.

Despite these tragic experiences, people found the strength to survive, keeping their faith, traditions, and family values.

The stories of my grandmothers are not only a testimony to history but also a warning for future generations, to never forget the bravery of ordinary people in the face of war's tragedies.



Pictures show Grandmother Stasia and her parents.



The Bells of Victory – The History of the Parish in Rudółowice

During World War II, the parishioners of Rudółowice showed great courage and patriotism.

They supported soldiers by providing them with civilian clothes, and the local priests – parish priest Stanisław Lechicki and vicar Stanisław Pyrkoś – conducted secret lessons for children and young people in the rectory.

This was an act of resistance against the occupiers and a sign of care for the future of the nation.

In 1941, the Germans stole the church bells, trying to destroy the community spirit.

However, after the war ended, the parishioners funded new bells, which were hung on May 8, 1945 – the day of victory over Germany.

Each bell was given a name and special inscriptions.

The bell "Maria" carried a prayer to the Mother of God for blessings for the homeland, while "Stanisław" honored the priests and the generosity of the parishioners.

It also had the words: *"Let my voice reach the sinner's heart,"* emphasizing the spiritual role of the bell in the community's life.

This story shows the strength and faith of the people of Rudółowice, who, despite difficult times, managed to keep the spirit of patriotism alive and rebuild the symbols of their identity.



fot. Dzwon Maria



fot. Dzwon Stanisław

Source: [Historia | Parafia Rudółowice](#)