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Subject: Inside a Gestapo Prison

I just finished reading *Inside A Gestapo Prison The Letters of Krystyna Wituska, 1942-1944* which was edited and translated by Irene Tomaszewski, published by Wayne State University in 2006. (I can't believe I've had the book that long!)

The book is a translation of hundreds (?) of letters written by Krystyna Wituska between 1942-1944 while she was imprisoned by the Nazis. Krystyna was 19 years old when she was first arrested.

I won't go into too much detail about the contents of the letters but I do have to say that Tomaszewski was able to translate Krystyna's letters (often written in German due to the censors) in such a way as to convey Wituska's personality. The letters were gathered from several people Wituska corresponded with during her confinement.

Regardless of how much you've read about WWII in Poland, this book is worth reading. Krystyna was only 19 YEARS OLD! Her attitude reminded me so much of the saints I read about as a child in Catholic school. I'm not suggesting that Krystyna should be sainted. I'm just saying her attitude was incredible.

Something else worth mentioning. The Introduction to the book is reason alone to read this book. It is filled with little known information. I think most people who read this book will come away knowing a lot more about what went on during WWII as far as Poland and her people were concerned.

<http://wsupress.wayne.edu/books/787/Inside-a-Gestapo-Prison>

As I travel around Poland I take photographs of plaques on church walls and village/gmina memorials which have lists of villager's names. These people are listed as having died at the hands of the Nazis. I've always wondered how that information got back to the family and/or the village. How did a mother find out that her son was killed in front of a Nazi firing squad on a specific day?

The first letter in the Appendix of *Inside A Gestapo Prison The Letters of Krystyna Wituska, 1942-1944* gave me the answer; the Inspectors of the Military Court (or a similar government official) sent a letter to the family announcing the carrying out of a death sentence.