



Women in Politics

ANNA WALENTYNOWICZ

simple woman and freedom fighter

First steps

She was born on August 15, 1929 in the village of Sienne in today's Ukraine.

Her childhood was difficult because her parents were poor and didn't have much money and she had five siblings





Education

She finished 4 elementary classes and because of the war and a more difficult family situation, at the age of 12 she had to go to work.

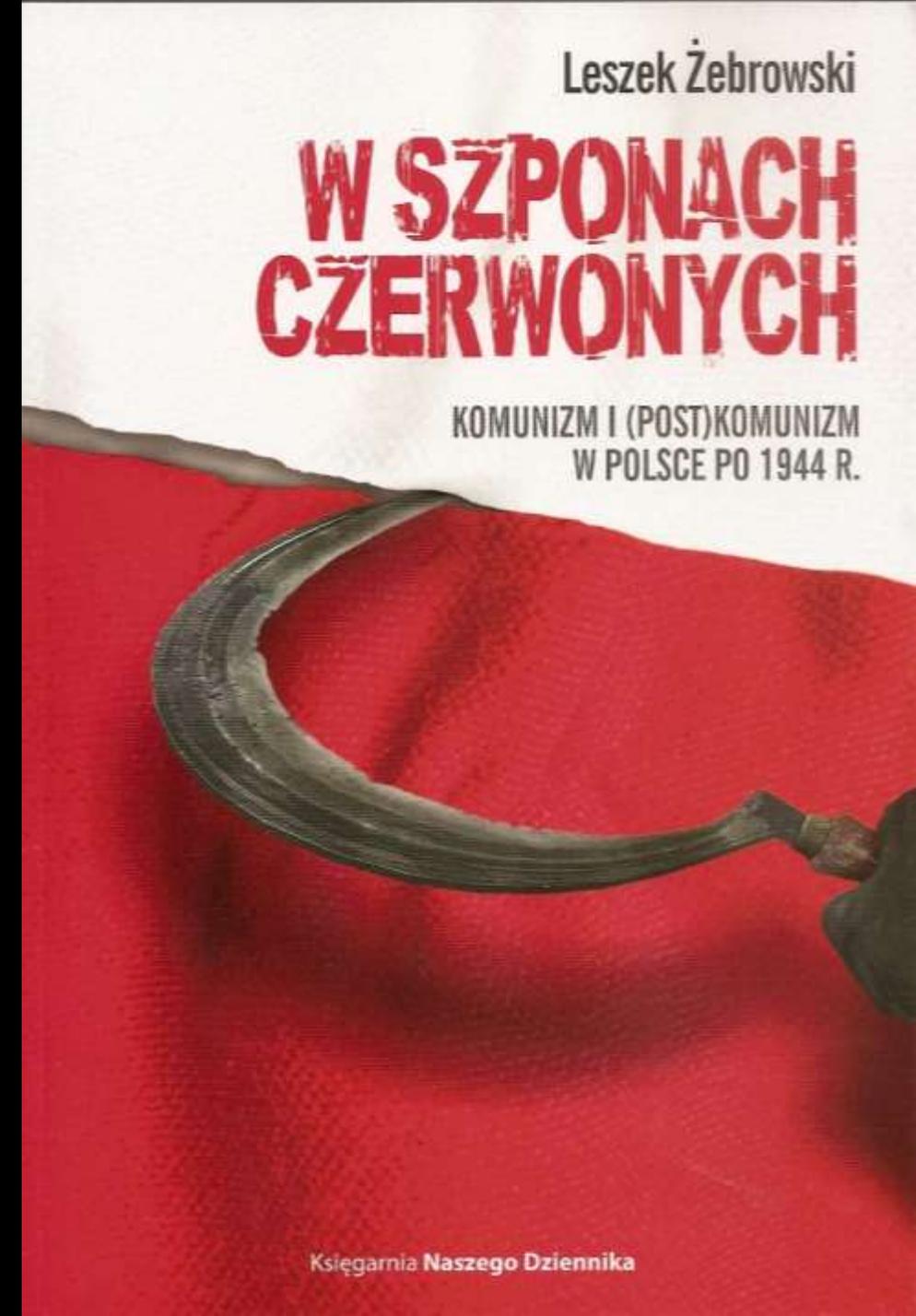


Work in the shipyard

In November 1950 Anna Walentynowicz enrolled in a welder's course and joined the Gdańsk Shipyard. She quickly became a work leader. It was making 270% of the norm. Her photos found their way to the newspapers.

The beginning of the fight against communists

- In 1951 she joined the Women's League. As an activist of this organization, she began to strive for the rights of workers. It was then that her troubles with the Public Security Office began.



Leszek Żebrowski

W SZPONACH CZERWONYCH

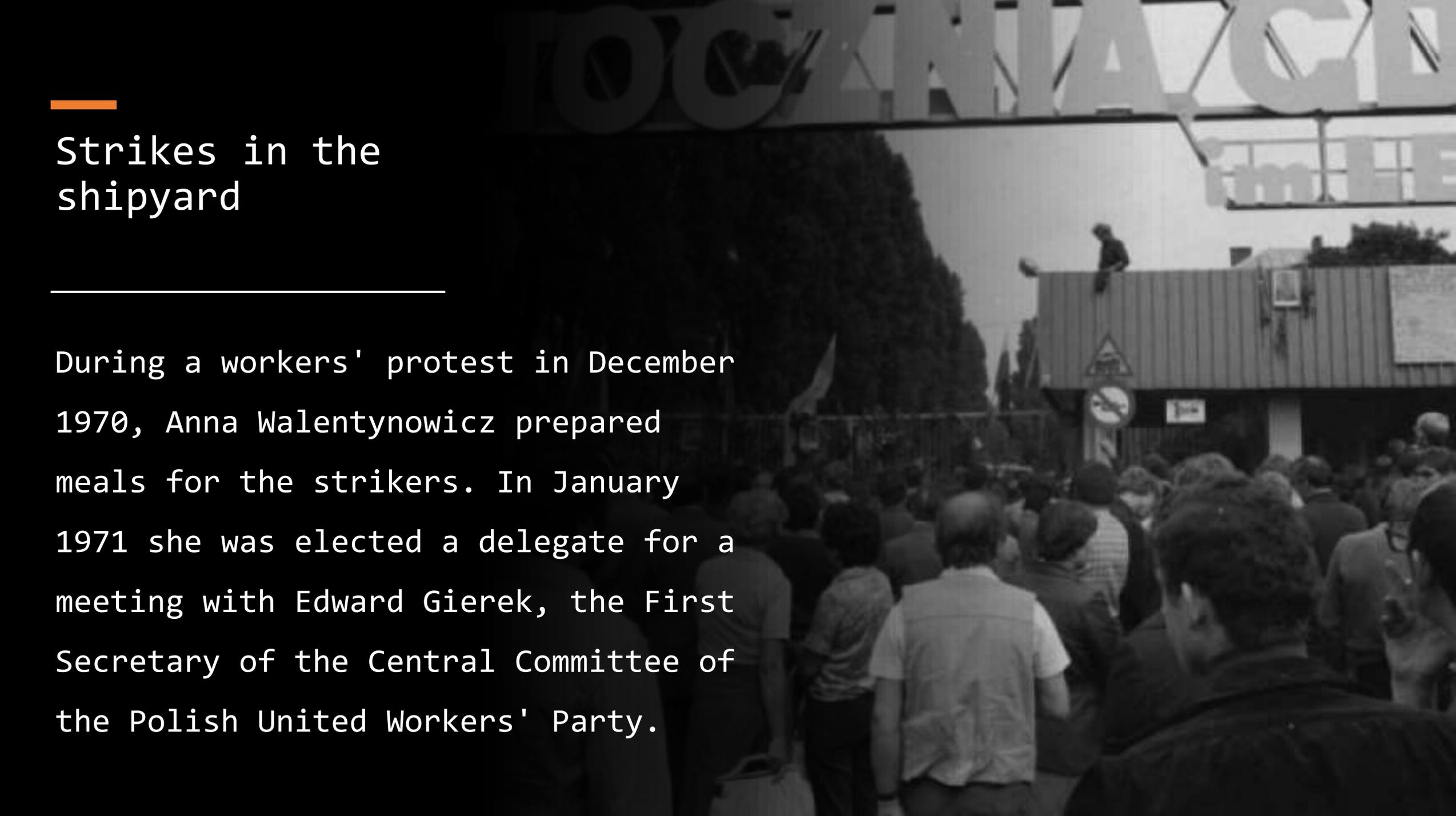
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Księgarnia Naszego Dziennika

Health problems



Anna Walentynowicz's hard work ruined her health, but she did not want to retire, but converted to a crane work which was easier.

A black and white photograph showing a large crowd of people gathered in front of a building. The building has a sign that reads "OCZYNIAĆ" in large, bold letters. The crowd is dense, and many people are looking towards the camera. The scene appears to be a protest or a public gathering.

Strikes in the shipyard

During a workers' protest in December 1970, Anna Walentynowicz prepared meals for the strikers. In January 1971 she was elected a delegate for a meeting with Edward Gierek, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party.

The first trade union

In 1978, he became one of the co-founders of Free Trade Unions.

This brought harassment against her by the Security Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs: sale for 48 hours, search, threats of sale from work.



One of the benefits of the strike

On August 8, 1980, five months before reaching retirement age, Anna Walentynowicz was disciplinarily dismissed from work and was accused of conspiracy against the Communistic Poland.

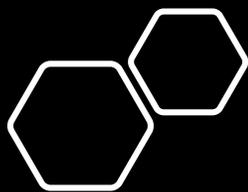




Strike breakout

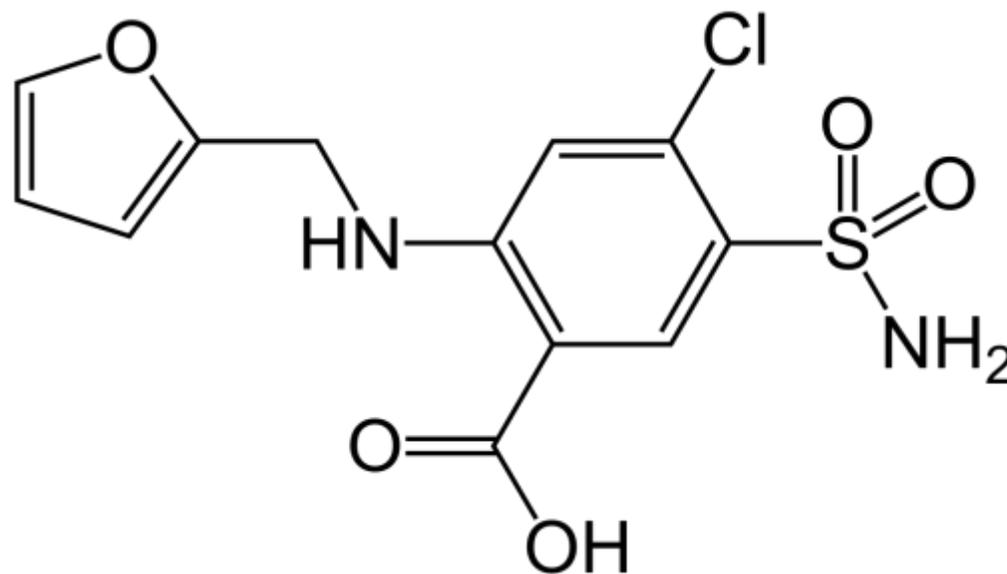
This decision resulted in the outbreak of the strike on August 14, which resulted in the establishment of the NSZZ "Solidarność" Trade Union.

The first postulate of the protesting workers was to bring Anna Walentynowicz back to work.



Unsuccessful attempted murder

In 1981, during a meeting with workers in Radom, two SB functionaries attempted to murder Walentynowicz - using the drug furosemide to cause fatal dehydration.



Martial law in Poland 13 December 1980



During martial law she suffered a lot of injustice – she was haunted, often interrogated by the military forces and finally imprisoned.



Leader of the protests

On February 18, 1985 a charismatic priest Jerzy Popiełuszko was brutally murdered by communists. She started a hunger strike in the church. The goal of the hunger strike was also a protest against the prison of Andrzej Gwiazda. The protest, initially small, turned into a large hunger strike.





Political views

Anna Walentynowicz criticized the soft policy of letting communists stay in public life and business.

She demanded full decommunization and prison for criminals from

Security Services who broke people in communist Poland.



Fight for compensation

- Being in a difficult financial situation, in 2003 she applied for 120,000. PLN compensation for the persecution in the 1980s, although it previously ruled out such a step. In February 2005, the court in Gdańsk refused to grant benefits due to the limitation of claims. After that, A. Walentynowicz refused to accept a special pension from Prime Minister Marek Belka. Finally, in the next instance on February 22, the court awarded her 70,000. PLN compensation.

Tragic death

On April 10, 2010 she died in Smolensk in the plane crash which is still not fully explained. She was on the way to the celebration of the 70th anniversary of The Katyn Massacre – mass murder of Polish officers done by russians.



the end