

Zofia Orłowska – nauczycielka i wychowawczyni na uchodźstwie

Zofia Orłowska – a Polish teacher in exile

Summary

Zofia Orłowska, a Polish teacher, was deported into the Soviet Union during the Second World War. From there, she was able to go to Iran and then to India, where, for a short period of time, she was working with refugee children at the Polish children's camp in Balachidi – Jamnagar. Next, in 1943, she arrived with a group of refugees to the settlement of Santa Rosa in Mexico, set up during the war for Polish citizens, where she was head of an elementary school, and a secondary school teacher. After closing the Santa Rosa settlement on 31st December 1946, she helped the former Polish refugees who decided to stay in Mexico improve their everyday living conditions. During the years 1947–1952, she was the director of the Polish shelter for mothers with children in the largest administrative borough of the Federal District of Mexico City called Tlalpan, where she gave them a decent standard of living. At the same time Zofia Orłowska met Father Józef Jarzębowski who was working in Santa Rosa and in Tlalpan. Soon she became his close collaborator. At the end of 1952, she went to the United States and after a short stay there, she went to Great Britain. With great commitment she accompanied Father Józef Jarzębowski in his educational work with young people at the Stanislaus Kostka's Boarding House in Lower Billingham near Hereford in western England. At the end of the Fifties, she found employment at the Divine Mercy College in Fawley Court near London, where she worked until the closure of the school in 1986. In all those institutions she proved herself to be an outstanding teacher and class tutor, respected and loved by young people. She died in Fawley Court in 1995.