

Jeanne SAUERWEIN

(1912 – 1945)
C3-L13-T22+23



Jeanne Sauerwein enjoyed a quiet, happy childhood with her parents. During the Second World War, she worked as a secretary for the Arlon Red Cross. She was involved in day-to-day tasks, providing medical assistance, searching for the missing, sending parcels, etc. During these troubled times, the provincial Red Cross Committee, led by Mayor Paul Reuter and Doctor Hollenfeltz, played an important role in the town.

A cheerful, dynamic, exuberant and committed young woman, she soon joined the Resistance. She became an active member of the Service de Renseignements et d'Action (Intelligence and Action Service). On 21 April 1943, she was arrested by the Gestapo and deported to the Ravensbrück camp as an "N.N." (Nacht und Nebel – Night and Fog) political prisoner. In autumn 1944, the construction of a vast gas chamber was completed, and 16,000 women were murdered in it. During her time in this hellish environment, she wrote letters describing life in the camp, her hopes and dreams: a sort of diary that began on 9 December 1944 and ended on 24 April 1945. On that day, she climbed into a German lorry that was under Red Cross protection. They set off for Copenhagen via Lübeck. With disregard for all international agreements, German soldiers slotted into the red-and-white column, drawing fire from Allied aircraft. Jeanne was fatally wounded on 25 April 1945 at the age of 33. Her body was repatriated to Arlon..



Sources : Google : Wolluwe 1150.be / Google : Mémorial.b
/ Arlon 1939 - 45 de Jean-Marie TRIFFAUX
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