



SZCZEPAN ŁABĘDZKI

Warsaw, 22 December 1947. Judge Halina Wereńko, a member of the District Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes, interviewed the person named below as an unsworn witness. Having been advised of the criminal liability for making false declarations, the witness testified as follows:

Name and surname	Szczepan Łabędzki
Names of parents	Unknown and Franciszka Łabędzka
Date of birth	4 July 1905 in Warsaw
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Education	three grades at elementary school
Occupation	laborer, employed at the water supply and sewage treatment plant
Place of residence	Warsaw, Grójecka Street 93, flat 12

When the Warsaw Uprising broke out, I was in the flat at Opaczewska Street 26. Even before the Uprising, the school at Grójecka Street 93 had been used as a German storehouse, and a Wehrmacht unit had been stationed there. In the early morning of 5 August 1944 this unit withdrew, taking all of the equipment with it. I then hid in the school, where a group of civilians had already gathered. At around 7.00 or 8.00 a.m. (I do not remember exactly), I left the building as a truck arrived with soldiers from the unit that had previously been stationed at the school. Upon my departure I saw that a young woman, around 19 years old, had remained there (I do not know her surname). The soldiers stayed in the school for maybe one hour, and then left. I immediately returned to the school and on the second floor I saw the body of the young woman, the one who had stayed. Her clothes were torn at the front, while her body was cut open from the neck right down to the legs; I think this wound was



caused by a bayonet. I hid in the basement and shortly afterwards, at around 10.00 a.m. (I cannot give the exact hour, for I did not have a watch), I saw units of soldiers in German uniforms advancing from the direction of Okęcie. The nearest insurgent point of resistance was in Siewierska Street, and [thus] the units could enter Grójecka Street undisturbed. At no. 104, the soldiers threw grenades into the basements, and then entered Opaczewska Street. They talked in Russian, and people said that they were from Kamiński's brigade.

Through the basement window I saw the soldiers bringing in groups of civilians from Grójecka and Opaczewska streets, leading them to the allotments near the Zieleniak. They took eight men from the second group and executed them in these allotments with hand-held machine guns.

I do not know the surnames of those men. They were selected randomly. The soldiers also put my brother in a group that was executed just a while later, but he managed to take a few steps back and hide in the crowd. Around noon, the people were led to the fort roadway, and from there to the Zieleniak, through the gate in Grójecka Street. At the gate the soldiers searched and robbed them, while in a few instances they took people aside, next to the gate, and shot them. I later saw some ten bodies lying there. On the night of 5/6 August I went to the house at Opaczewska Street 26. I found that the house was burning out, and that the residents had already been displaced. Next day I joined a transport of civilians that was being led along Wawelska Street and soon found myself in the Zieleniak, where I remained for three days.

On 10 August 1944 I was sent in the fifth transport to the Pruszków transit camp.

In the Zieleniak the entire square was occupied by civilians right up to the spot where the paved section begins. Vlasovtsy [Russian Liberation Army soldiers] were bustling among the detainees, selecting, for work as they said, young women, practically children. At nights we often heard their screams. Some of the abducted women returned, telling us that the Vlasovtsy had raped them. I once heard a shot near the school, immediately after a group of women was taken there. The detainees said that the Vlasovtsy had shot a woman.

The people gathered there did not receive any food. On the fourth day after the camp was set up, the soldiers allowed some of the people to go to the allotments and dig for potatoes. There was no water in the square; small quantities were carried in from the direction of the school.



There was no organized medical assistance. The doctors and hospital personnel who had been brought in with the civilians tried to tend to the sick, but they had no dressing materials.

I do not remember the date, but I saw how one of the women in the square gave birth to a dead child. I do not know what fate befell her.

On another occasion I witnessed how a doctor present at a childbirth asked the soldiers for some water and dressings. In response, a soldier beat up the doctor and shot the woman.

On 10 August 1944 (I do not remember the exact date) I saw how soldiers gathered some 80 sick and wounded people (men and women) near the fence, close to the school from the direction of Rakowiec, and executed them. The bodies were taken to the gymnasium in the school near the Zieleniak, placed on a pile and incinerated. The corpses were carried by civilian men, unknown to me, who were commanded by the soldiers.

After I returned to Warsaw at the beginning of 1945, I saw the remains of furnaces, ashes and small charred bones in the gymnasium and in the plot behind the school fence. In the children's garden on the property adjacent to the school I saw the bodies of a man and a naked woman. I recognized the bodies as those of laborers from the Social Care Center, whom I knew by sight.

At this point the report was concluded and read out.