



JÓZEF BŁASZCZYK

Warsaw, 26 July 1949. A member of the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, Norbert Szuman (MA), heard 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	Józef Błaszczyk
Date and place of birth	30 March 1923, Warsaw
Names of parents	Roch and Marianna, <i>née</i> Laskowska
Occupation of the father	baker
State affiliation and nationality	Polish
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Education	middle school leaving certificate
Occupation	office worker
Place of residence	Warsaw, Hoża Street 68, flat 46
Criminal record	none

I took an active part in the Warsaw Uprising as an insurgent. On the very first day of the uprising, in the early afternoon, our unit fought a battle with German tanks that were shelling the house at the corner of Słowackiego and Krechowicka streets, where we had taken up positions and which they had surrounded. During the fighting we were forced to retreat, and several of us got wounded. Then the Germans from the tanks opened fire with their machine guns at the wounded people lying in front of the house, who were crying for help and trying to get up. As I lay there, having been wounded myself, I clearly saw them finishing off the



wounded and I barely managed to escape being shot. I also know that a young girl sprang from the above mentioned house to relieve the wounded with water, and the Germans fired a volley of shots at her, shooting her through the groin. As I was wounded, I was later placed in a hospital in the house of the Sisters of the Resurrection on Krasińskiego Street, where I stayed for about two weeks.

Although the Germans knew about the hospital – and this was confirmed also by the German prisoners of war from the unit stationed in the Polish Chemical Institute who were being treated in that hospital – they were shelling the building heavily every day until it was in utter ruins. I myself witnessed two shell explosions bursting in the room in which I lay. From that time I remember that a few days after the outbreak of the uprising, some man, over thirty years old, arrived at the hospital. He was cruelly beaten and battered. He had fled from the Chemical Institute, where – as he told us – he had been beaten and was to be executed by the Germans together with some twenty men taken on the day of the outbreak of the uprising from Burakowska Street, as they had been coming back home, just as a dozen or so of their predecessors had been executed. However, at the moment when he and one other man were being led by two Germans to the execution site on the premises of the Institute, he took flight. Despite being pursued and shot at, several times being slightly wounded, he got to the vicinity of the insurgent posts, but could not reach them due to exhaustion and therefore hid in a nearby rubbish bin, from which he was only gotten out by the insurgents. That man received treatment at the hospital and remained there until the end of my stay.

I know from the account of an acquaintance of mine, Bronisław Kaczyński, that he had spent some time on the premises of the Chemical Institute during the uprising, to which he had allegedly been taken from Powązki. I do not know his current address. Reportedly he lives in Żoliborz, and after the war he had lived in the house of Kocielski at Powązkowska Street 70.

When I left the hospital I still took part in the fighting, among other places on the premises of the Opel factory. Towards the end of the uprising, in the second half of September, a German attack repelled us in the direction of Wilsona square, behind the *Zimowe Leże* cooperative at Słowackiego Street. When some 20 minutes later we regained *Zimowe Leże* in a counter-attack, the civilians who had been hiding in the basements there thanked us for saving them from an execution which had already been prepared by the Germans. More details could be provided by my friend Jan Pater, a cobbler (residing on Barszczewska Street, I don't know the number).



After the surrender of Żoliborz, when the insurgent troops were taken into captivity, I saw that the Germans were beating insurgents who had armbands, and at Wilsona square they shot one insurgent for wearing a trophy German camouflage jacket.

From Wilsona square we were taken to the "Pionier-Park" in Powązki, where in the morning of the following day the Germans robbed us of watches, rings, and some garments, and also asked questions, such as who belonged to the Home Army and who to the People's Army. From Powązki we were transported in cars to Pruszków, where we were detained for two days with almost nothing to eat, and then were put in a train and deported to the Reich in sealed wagons.

At this the report was concluded and read out.