



## FRANCISZEK CZARNECKI

5 November 1949, Warsaw. Irena Skonieczna (MA), acting as a member of the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, interviewed the person named below as witness, who testified as follows:

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Name and surname	Franciszek Czarnecki
Parents' names	Antoni and Elżbieta, née Kucharska
Father's occupation	Laborer
State affiliation and nationality	Polish
Religious affiliation	Catholic
Education	Secondary
Occupation	Mechanic
Place of residence	Warsaw, Nowowiejska Street 22

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At the moment when the Warsaw Uprising began, I was at the Institute of Heat Engineering at the Warsaw Technical University. Until 19 August, the entire Technical University remained in the hands of the insurgents – the 161st Anti-tank Platoon commanded by Major “Antoni”. One company, under the command of First Lieutenant “Wagner”, was stationed in the Institute of Heat Engineering, while the other one, commanded by First Lieutenant “Bopp”, took up positions from the side of aleja Niepodległości. On the night of 18 to 19 August, at about 4.00 p.m., the Germans from the *Kraftfahrpark* (the present-day Ministry of National Defense), soldiers of the 4th Rhineland Armored Division, launched an attack from the direction of aleja Niepodległości. (I know it was the 4th Division because as we were being led out of the area, I heard a German soldier mention the name to a general). The aerodynamics building was assaulted first (the witness drew a site-plan, marking the

directions of attack with arrows). Building "A", machining and mechanics, was the next to be attacked. From building A, the Germans moved against the building that housed the Institute of Electrical Engineering, and from the machining building they assaulted the physics department. The insurgents withdrew from the mechanics building into the building housing the chemistry department, from where some of them went further back to Noakowskiego Street and some got to the University's main building, where they held out until the evening of 19 August. Eventually, however, the latter were also pushed back to Noakowskiego Street. Of the insurgents who withdrew last, Hencel (he lives at Wawelska Street 19) or Tadeusz Sieczkowski (he lives at Piaskowa Street 14) could provide more detailed information. About 40 people were pulled out of the basement of building A. I, my wife Aniela, my daughter Alicja and Professors Huber, Grabowski, Wojno and Broszko were among the latter group. German soldiers, all of them drunk, lined us up against building A and aimed machine guns at us from three sides. As we were being robbed by the soldiers, an officer appeared to whom Prof. Wojno explained that we were civilians and that there were professors, their assistants and other workers of Polytechnic, along with their families, among us. The German officer, who turned out to be a professor himself, ordered one of the soldiers to take us to the *Kraftfahrpark* (while talking to the general, the German soldier mentioned the name of the division entrusted with the task of capturing the Technical University). From there, we got to the dormitory at Narutowicza Square. For five days I was employed, along with other men, in burning the bodies lying near Narutowicza Square. My family and the whole group of those with whom I was escorted out of the University, along with five other men whom the Germans held captive to do the same job as I, was on the same day – 19 August 1944 – sent away to Pruszków, which I also reached after five days.

After the Uprising, when I returned to Warsaw, I learned from Bronsława Zielińska, who worked at the technology building, that the people taken from the aerodynamics building were escorted to the *Kraftfahrpark*, where the men were separated from the women. The women were sent to Pruszków and the men were detained. After the Uprising, the families of the detained men found their bodies lying in some pit, covered with a thin layer of soil. Seven men were killed during the execution of 19 August 1944: Boguszewski, Woźniak with his son (a worker at the city streetcar company), Stanisław Zieliński, his brother Witold Zieliński with his son (both former workers of the Institute of Aviation), Grzelak (a janitor at the Institute of Aviation, present-day Institute of Aerodynamics). I don't remember the



name of one of those killed. Two men who were in the aerodynamics building managed to survive by hiding in the central heating system – Wysocki, a professor at Gdańsk Technical University, and his assistant, engineer Antoniuk.

At this point the report was brought to a close and read out.