

## JANINA RACZYŃSKA

On 12 July 1947 in Staszów, the District Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes of the District Court with its seat in Radom, Branch Office in Staszów, Judge Albin Walkiewicz, an attorney in Staszów, interviewed the person mentioned hereunder as an unsworn witness. Having been advised of the criminal liability for making false declarations and of the wording of Article 107 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the witness testified as follows:

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Name and surname	Janina Raczyńska
Age	41 years old
Parents' names	Wojciech and Maria
Place of residence	Staszów, ul. Kościelna 30
Occupation	teacher
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Criminal record	none

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I personally witnessed the following events: 1) in winter 1942/1943, the German gendarmerie from Staszów brought a Jew called Wittenberg, who was tied up, near the gendarmerie headquarters, where he was left by gendarme Fencke; 2) while the Jews were being displaced from Staszów in November 1942, there were corpses of Jews killed by the Germans on all the streets of the Jewish district and beyond, 3) in Ostrowiec, where my husband was kept in prison and I waited whole days to see him during a walk, I saw a German hit a prisoner with a bullwhip with a lead ball at the end – it cut the prisoner's clothes and probably also his skin – only because the prisoner, who was tied up, was unable to quickly get in a cab. Then Milberłówna, the daughter of a doctor from Sandomierz who had been killed in a German camp, was hit with the same bullwhip, 4) in 1943, several Jews, who had been hiding in the

forest, came to Szpitalna Street, asking for bread; a man called Andrecki, who probably lives in Poland, because he was seen in the summer of 1946 in Kraków (he came from Silesia) reported them to the gendarmerie – and the gendarmes shot them dead. The mentioned Andrecki would beat Poles without mercy, for example, he beat Józef Gadzwon from Staszów-Stanówek. I saw Stanisława Szeleś and Stefan Ćwikła being arrested by the gendarmerie; they were then murdered by the Germans in Kurozwęki. I saw the body of Kazimierz Kownacki from Staszów, who had been shot dead near the church by gendarmes from Staszów.

My husband, Ignacy Raczyński, was arrested in 1940 by the SD from Ostrowiec. The reason for the arrest was the fact that he was the mayor of Staszów and a social activist. My husband was taken to Buchenwald, then to the camp in Ravensbrück, and in December 1940 I was notified of his death.

The head of the gendarmerie station in Staszów was commonly known and cruel Ripper (or Rippert), who would personally shoot people. It was him who took Szeleś and Ćwikła to Kurozwęki and he personally – as people said – shot them.

As for the quota – I had a piece of land, less than an hectare, and the crops from the land were not enough to fulfill the required quota – therefore, I was forced to buy the missing crops and give it up as part of the quota, although nothing was left for me.

We lived in sheer terror. When we heard a shot in the town, we knew for sure that the Germans had killed someone – and we were right. I have nothing else to add.