

WINCENTY STANIK

On 30 October 1947 in Radom, the District Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Radom, in the person of a member of the Commission, Deputy Prosecutor T. Skulimowski, interviewed the person named below as an unsworn witness. Having been advised of the criminal liability for making false declarations and of the wording of Art. 106 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the witness testified as follows:

Name and surname	Wincenty Stanik
Age	54
Names of parents	Walenty and Zofia <i>née</i> Bzduch
Place of residence	Kosów village, Kowala commune, Radom district
Occupation	farmer
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Criminal record	none
Relationship to the parties	none

From October 1939 to January 1945, the Germans carried out executions of Poles in the Kosów Forest. As far as I remember, the first such incident took place in October 1939 – the Germans killed about 25 people with grenades, as the pit was 7 meters long and 3–4 meters wide.

At the beginning of 1940 I drove through the Kosów Forest and again I saw three cars filled with people. Then the Germans forced me out of the forest. As I left it, I heard screaming and machine gun fire, followed by single shots.

I suppose this meant that the Germans were finishing off the wounded.

After the first execution in October 1939 I went to the execution site and saw traces of blood, fragments of human flesh and even arms and legs protruding from the grave. The Germans carried out executions in the Kosów Forest quite frequently, sometimes even two times a week. The executions were conducted by gendarmes whose surnames I don't know. According to my estimates, throughout the occupation the Germans might have killed over 100 people in the Kosów Forest. I also know that the Germans executed about 60 Gypsies in that forest; one Gypsy managed to flee. The bodies were buried on the spot, in pits, but I suppose that in the spring of 1944 the corpses were burned, as the gendarmerie came and surrounded the forest, secured the spot with nets and mats and proceeded to do something there.

The report was read out.