



BOGNA JAWORSKA

On 22 August 1947 in Kraków, member of the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, Appellate Judge Jan Sehn, acting at the written request of the first prosecutor of the Supreme Tribunal, this dated 25 April 1947 (File No. NTN 719/47), in accordance with the provisions of and procedure provided for under the Decree of 10 November 1945 (Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland No. 51, item 293), and in connection with Articles 254, 107, 115 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, interviewed the former prisoner of the Majdanek concentration camp named below as a witness. The witness testified as follows:

Name and surname	Bogna Jaworska
Age	22 years old
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Nationality and citizenship	Polish
Occupation	wife of a bank clerk
Place of residence	Kraków, [...]

I was arrested by the Gestapo in Częstochowa on 8 January 1943 and deported to the concentration camp in Majdanek near Lublin where I was detained until 15 July 1943.

I worked in different labor units including the laundry for prisoners, the gardens, and the sewing workshop. The work in the laundry was very hard. The barrack was very cold. Icicles formed on the clothes of those who splashed themselves with water. For a short period of time we were supervised by the defendant Hildegard Lächert, *SS-Aufseherin*. At that time I didn't know her name, but I remember her very well and I had no difficulty in recognizing her in the photo displayed in Kraków to the public. She is in the photo that I have just been shown.

We called her bloody Brigitte. She was very cruel. Always drunk, she beat us on the slightest pretext, for no reason at all.

I was detained in the camp along with my mother, Helena Piątkowska. One day, as we were being issued soup, I realized that I had forgotten to take spoons for my mother and for myself. I ran to get the spoons, having given my bowl to my mother. When Lächert saw my mother holding two bowls, she hit her in the face and upon my return she beat me too. At that time my mother was forty years old. She died during the liquidation of the camp.

On another occasion Lächert beat a colleague of mine, Genowefa Zielińska, because of the cigarette she found on Zielińska. I saw Zielińska after she returned from Lächert's room. She was covered in bruises. Her whole head was swollen.

I also saw Lächert knock down a Jewish woman in the garden. Searching for the hidden valuables, Lächert put a stick in the woman's vagina. The latter groaned and screamed so horribly that we ran away because we couldn't stand watching this. Lächert did this in full view of prisoners working in the garden. The woman was a Polish Jew brought to Majdanek after the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto. I don't know her name.

On 7 June 1943, a Jewish woman was hanged in Field V for attempting to escape. The execution was carried out in full view of all prisoners gathered for the roll-call. Before being hanged, the woman said that she had escaped twice, that she had now tried to escape for the third time and that she would try to escape again if she were still detained in the camp. When she was being hanged, we were herded near the gallows. We averted our eyes to avoid watching the hanging. Standing next to our block, Lächert turned our heads in the direction of the gallows, laughing all the time.

Towards the end of March 1943, Lächert deprived prisoners working in the garden, that is, in the open field, of their sweaters. The sweaters had been officially issued, and the camp authorities allowed prisoners to wear them.

Supervising the work of those who worked in the open field, outside the camp, Lächert behaved in the same way as she did within the campground: she harassed prisoners, making their life miserable at every turn. I haven't heard of any prisoner whom Lächert helped in any way.



It was out of the question to contact the outside world. It was impossible because the fields in which we worked were guarded by SS men.

Information regarding Lächert's behavior in the camp can be provided by the following former prisoners: Urszula Skąpska, Poznań, [...], Zofia Kuklińska, a medical student in Łódź (I don't know her address), Janina Szymczyk, a proxy from Lublin, Władysława and Danuta Kawęckas from Sędziszów near Jędrzejów.

At this the report was read out and concluded.