



FRANCISZEK BROL

On 13 September 1946 in Gliwice, Regional Investigative Judge Jan Sehn, a member of the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, at the spoken request and in the presence of a member of that Commission, Deputy Prosecutor Edward Pęchalski, pursuant to and in accordance with Article 4 of the Decree of 10 November 1945 (Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland No. 51, item 293), in connection with Articles 254, 107, 115 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, interviewed the former prisoner of the concentration camp in Auschwitz mentioned below, who testified as follows:

Name and surname	Franciszek Brol
Date and place of birth	1 November 1919, Wielkie Hajduki
Citizenship and nationality	Polish
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Occupation	clerk
Place of residence	Gliwice, Wybrzeże Wojska Polskiego Street 7

I was in the concentration camp in Auschwitz from 22 June 1940 to 4 March 1942, as prisoner no. 1159. Initially, I stayed in various blocks and worked in various details.

A few months after my arrival, I was sent together with a group of other Silesians to the penal company, which occupied block 11 (block 13 according to the old numbering system). I suppose that I was assigned to the penal company as a result of an intervention by police authorities from outside the camp, because I had not violated any camp rule. I was to be released from the penal company after three weeks, which would result in my transfer from block 11 to a regular block. However, they kept me there, initially as a room orderly assistant, and then I was told to serve as a block clerk. While working in this

capacity, I was in charge of the ledger of the SK [*Strafkompanie*] and of the bunker, which I have just been shown.

The handwriting in the first volume of this ledger, starting from the entry for 26 January 1941 and up to the entry for 11 February 1942, is mine. The person who became clerk after me was Gerhard Włoch, currently residing in Chorzów. All prisoners mentioned in this book were kept at the time indicated therein in the dungeon in block 11, which was called the bunker. The decision to place a prisoner in the bunker for violating camp regulations was taken by the Political Department or the camp leader (*Lagerführer*). Such punishment was also applied as a repressive measure for the escape of an inmate who lived in a given block. This is also evident in the book that I have been shown. The entry for 24 June 1941 states that ten prisoners from block 2 were placed in the bunker. [They were locked] after the evening roll call at 6.15 p.m. According to the information in the ledger, all of them died on 30 June 1941. I would like to explain that in the case of retaliation for an escape, prisoners locked in the bunker did not receive any food until all of them had died of hunger. The date of 30 June 1941 indicated as the date of death refers rather to the day when the bunker, in which the inmates had been starved, was opened. Prisoners who were placed in the bunker were either released after a certain period of time, or transferred to the penal company, or reported dead.

Working on the ground floor of block 11, I had a chance to see the conditions in which prisoners were kept in the bunker, which was located underground. In the event of the death of a prisoner, I received a notice from the bunker on the basis of which I issued a report about the death of the prisoner, and I sent it to the prison hospital. Three weeks before my release, I was transferred to block 9, where I underwent quarantine, and then I was released from the camp.

The report was read out. At this point, the interview of the witness and the present report were concluded.