



ZOFIA GASPARSKA

Warsaw, 8 April 1946, Judge S. Rybiński, delegated to the Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, interviewed the person named below as a witness. Having been advised of the criminal liability for making false declarations, the witness testified as follows:

Name and surname	Zofia Gasparska, née Azrilenek
Date of birth	15 May 1889
Parents' names	Jakub and Raisa, née Nowicka
Occupation	doctor of medicine
Education	Medical Department of Geneva University
Place of residence	Piastów housing estate, district of Warsaw, Słowackiego Street 25, flat 2
Religion	Roman Catholic
Criminal record	none

I have been living in Piastów for the past fourteen years. Up until the war, I lived there together with my husband, Tadeusz Gasparski, and two daughters: Halina (born on 27 June 1921) and Krystyna, seven years younger. Halina graduated from the Królowa Jadwiga secondary school in Warsaw in the spring of 1939. After the war broke out, she began giving lessons in clandestine study groups in Warsaw and Piastów. She took no part in political activities, devoting herself entirely to clandestine education. Or so at least she assured me. In 1940 Halina entered the underground university, where she studied history. At the beginning of November 1942, one of her students came to Piastów and asked my daughter to go to Warsaw to give her lessons. My daughter tried to excuse herself. However she finally gave in to the girl's pleadings. This was on the 2 November 1942. When next



day Halina was getting ready to leave for Warsaw, I reminded her to visit her school friend, Urszula Głowacka, about whom I had heard nothing for a number of months.

On 3 November my daughter left for Warsaw and never returned home. We began a search. My husband travelled to Warsaw with our younger daughter, while I remained in Piastów and tried to find the Warsaw address of the student who had asked her to come over for lessons. My husband did not find Urszula Głowacka at her home, and left a card addressed to her in the door. I travelled to Warsaw on the same day to carry on the search. I learned from her student that she had given her a lesson and had left. When I finally arrived at the house where Urszula Głowacka lived, I found the front door closed, but I learned from a man who was putting in a new windowpane in the staircase window that Głowacka and all those who were visiting her had been arrested by Gestapo men; they had set up an ambush and detained everyone who came to visit her. As I later learned, Urszula Głowacka's apartment housed a clandestine scout club and a library. This was why the number of persons arrested was so great, and among them my daughter. A few days later we received a card sent by Halina from Pawiak, and after that a smuggled message. She was trying not to worry us, and wrote that she felt fine, and that she had not even been interrogated.

On 26 November she was transported to Oświęcim along with 56 companions in captivity. From there she sent us one more card, dated 20 December. As before, she tried to reassure us, and asked that we send her a package with foodstuffs. This was the final communication that we received from her. Later, on 6 February 1942, we received a notification from the communal board that, according to information received from Oświęcim, our daughter Halina had died there on 6 January 1942. I could not believe this, for the incubation period of typhus (our daughter was supposed to have died of this disease) lasts considerably longer. Only when Paulina Bocian, a friend of Urszula Głowacka and my daughter from the Królowa Jadwiga secondary school who had been arrested along with them, returned to Poland did I learn with certainty that my daughter had indeed died of typhus, but only towards the end of January 1942. Bocian was kept in the camps in Oświęcim and Ravensbrück for more than two years, and returned to Poland from Sweden only three months ago.

I have not yet spoken with Urszula Głowacka, although she has been back home for more than a year. She currently lives in Kielce and works for the provincial authorities. Bocian also told me that out of the group of 57 women (together with whom my daughter, Bocian, and Głowacka were deported) only 20 are still alive. The rest died of typhus and dysentery.



The camp hospital in Oświęcim did not provide any treatment. No injections were given to maintain the functioning of the heart. The less seriously ill helped those who were gravely sick.

I would like to add that my husband died in Otwock from acute tuberculosis a year ago. I now remain with our younger daughter. We ruined ourselves to ransom our daughter from Gestapo captivity, and we might have succeeded through the agency of the mayor of Piastów if not for the fact that she died.

The report was read out.