



FRANCISZKA OSOWIECKA

Warsaw, 19 February 1946. Judge Stanisław Rybiński, delegated to the Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes, interviewed the person named below as a witness, without taking an oath. The witness was advised of the obligation to speak the truth and of the criminal liability for making false declarations, and testified as follows:

Name and surname	Franciszka Osowiecka, <i>née</i> Biczów
Date of birth	26 January 1893
Parents' names	Władysław and Maria, <i>née</i> Kobuz
Occupation	dressmaker
Education	domestic
Place of residence	Ostróda, Żeromskiego Street 7
Religion	Roman Catholic
Criminal record	none

In 1941 my brother Bolesław Biczow, born in 1900 on 26 January, a confectioner by profession, lived in Warsaw. He did not work as a confectioner at the time, but was employed at a building site. He lived alone, for his wife had left him quite some time ago with their only child, while in 1939 I myself went to Grójec.

My brother was a member of an organisation and had befriended a well-known balloon pilot, one Hynek. On 21 March 1941 he was arrested in his apartment, which he had returned to for only a short while, for he knew he was a wanted man and had gone into hiding. This occurred at 19.00; the Germans came for him only a quarter of an hour after he arrived. He was informed on by the caretaker, who noticed that he had come home. I don't know the caretaker's name. That house (at Wronia Street 23) was destroyed during the uprising in 1944 and nobody lives there now.



My brother's female neighbour, whose name and surname I don't know, but I shall try to establish, told me later that when the Germans came for my brother, they beat him up, and she had heard a scuffle through the door of his apartment. I later learned that they took my brother to Pawiak. On the day following his arrest, the neighbour whom I mentioned above cabled me in Grójec, informing me that my brother was very ill and that I should come over. When I arrived in Warsaw, I was told the truth. Next I went to the VIIth Police Precinct at Krochmalna Street, where officers accepted a parcel that I had prepared for my brother. Thus I learned that he was detained in Pawiak. This was in April 1941, before Easter.

I then received a smuggled message from my brother, who asked me to send him some necessary items. I sent the parcel and I know that it was delivered to him. I subsequently learned that he was lying in bed sick, because he had been beaten so terribly. Then I received a card from my brother, sent through official channels, in which he requested that I send him 50 zlotys. I sent this sum on 7 May, but it was returned to me on 12 May with the note that my brother, Bolesław Biczow, was not present in Pawiak. From that moment I have not received any information concerning my brother, and I do not know what has happened to him.

As regards the caretaker of the house in which my brother lived, I learned from the aforementioned neighbour that both he and his son – a young boy – were in the Gestapo's service, for – after my brother had been arrested – when another female neighbour wanted to take her own belongings from his room, she turned to the police and a detective was sent, and they established that a great many of the items belonging to my brother and to this neighbour were in the caretaker's apartment. The detective then hit the caretaker in the face, considering him a thief. On the next day both the detective and the neighbour who had been demanding her belongings were summoned to the Gestapo at aleja Szucha. There the detective was chewed out for hitting the caretaker, who was 'their man'.

I was unable to regain my brother's belongings. The caretaker would walk about in his clothes and overcoat. The aforementioned neighbour did not get her belongings back, either.

I shall try to establish the names, surnames, and address of my brother's female neighbours, mentioned above, and also the names, surnames and addresses of the caretaker and his son, and inform [the Commission] of any progress made.

The report was read out.