



MELANIA GNIADEK

Warsaw, 25 March 1950. Janusz Gumkowski, acting as a member of the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, interviewed the person named below, who testified as follows:

Forename and surname	Melania Gniadek, <i>née</i> Surgiewicz
Date and place of birth	14 March 1907, Warsaw
Names of parents	Tomasz and Marcela, <i>née</i> Gąbin
Father's occupation	engine driver
State affiliation	Polish
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Education	elementary school
Occupation	social insurance office worker
Place of residence	Marywilska Street 3, flat 7
Criminal record	none

When the Warsaw Uprising broke out, I was at home at Marywilska Street 3. My house is situated next to the Toruń highway, which was used by the German tanks. Young boys, insurgents from Annopol I think, were shooting at them. On 2 August 1944, German tanks drove up the highway. The boys started shooting. Since our house was a high, two-storey one, the Germans approached it thinking that the shots were fired from there. They burst into our courtyard and threw two grenades into the entrance hall. They started shouting for everyone to exit the building. Since all the men had passes (*ausweis*), and we thought that the Germans wanted to take us for work, we came out. The Germans, together with



"Mongols" in SS uniforms, separated us, the women, from the men. They ordered the women to go along Wysockiego Street in the direction of the tram terminus. We entered one of the houses standing there. After some time my son, 13-year old Tadeusz, ran up. Due to his age, the Germans had allowed him to join the women. Through the window in the attic of Drożewski's house, which we had entered, I saw that our house started to burn. The tanks left in the direction of Pelcowizna. We then came back to save our house. The men were nowhere to be found. I thought that the Germans had taken them for work. After some time, however, one of our neighbors, Eleonora Woźniakowa (currently resident in the house at Marywilska Street 3, flat 4), ran up and showed me the location where the Germans had committed their crime.

At the corner of Marywilska and Toruńska streets, near the sheds next to one of the houses, all eight of our men were lying in a potato field, dead. My husband, Wacław Gniadek, father-in-law Jan Gniadek, Marian Pawłowski, Antoni Bielawski, Wacław Śmieszek, Roman Woźniak, Leon Białek and Babiński.

The Germans did not allow us to reclaim the bodies of the murdered men for three days. We were finally successful when a priest from Annopol helped us, and we buried the bodies in our courtyard.

Towards the end of August or maybe in the beginning of September, I no longer remember the date, the Germans deported all of the men from our area, from the whole of Bródno, Annopol and Pelcowizna, to Germany, displaced the women and children and set the houses on fire. Some of the residents, however, managed to hide and wait it out until the Soviet army entered our area. I was among them.

At this point the report was concluded and read out.