



STANISŁAW BRELEWSKI

Warsaw, 4 July 1949. A Member of the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, magister [MA] Norbert Szuman, heard as a witness the person specified below; the witness did not swear an oath. Having been advised of the criminal liability for making false declarations, the witness testified as follows:

Name and surname	Stanisław Brelewski
Date and place of birth	5 April 1883, Olsztyn, Częstochowa county
Names of parents	Jan and Tekla <i>née</i> Mączyńska
Occupation of the father	bronze worker
State affiliation and nationality	Polish
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Education	homeschooled
Occupation	clerk
Place of residence	Warsaw, Mickiewicza Street 27, flat 188
Criminal record	none

At the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising I was in my house at Rohatyńska Street 13, which was a part of the so-called Kościuszko Colony comprising 32 properties. This area was outside of the main theater of insurgent fighting and was surrounded with German posts and shelters, such as the anti-aircraft artillery posts on the premises of the Chemical Institute of the SS-*Truppenwirtschaftslager* on the northern side, and the so-called *Pionier-Park* in the buildings of the former Polish military units from the direction of Powązkowska Street. The Germans were shooting from these posts at all people who wanted to leave the colony or who were

passing it when walking from the direction of the town. Some people were killed, and on German orders they were buried by men from the colony who were being forced to work during the uprising in the Go/No Go gauge factory on Duchnicka Street. As time went by, the Germans began to bring more troops and artillery into that area. At that time, one night sometime at the end of the second week of August (I don't remember the exact date), the army set fire to the house on the corner of Krasińskiego Street and Przasnyska Street, and from among its inhabitants only Mr and Mrs Brzeziński managed to survive (currently they are residing on Czerwińska Street, I do not know the number). Some cases of robbery also took place when the German soldiers, among whom there were many "Ukrainians", were requisitioning the houses in the colony in which the soldiers were to be quartered.

On 22 August all the men from the colony were taken by the troops to pull up plants in the garden plots, as they were obscuring the view around the German shelters north of the colony, and the women were ordered to cut down trees and bushes on the colony premises. When I was near the shelters, I noticed that two German officers were interrogating an insurgent with a wounded hand who had been taken prisoner. When they noticed us, these officers forced us away. A bit later, at some distance from the site of this interrogation, just next to Przasnyska Street, I saw that a young man was digging a pit, which looked very much like a grave, under the supervision of two soldiers. There is a mound resembling a grave on that spot to this day. At about 2.00 p.m. on the same day, when we came back from work by the shelters and in the garden plots, all the inhabitants were ordered to leave the colony within half an hour, as otherwise we would be burnt. When I found myself, along with the bunch of people who had been displaced, near the school on Elbląska Street, I saw that the houses in the colony were being set on fire and destroyed one by one with artillery missiles. Some of the inhabitants followed the Germans' order and went to the Bem Fort, from which they were sent to the Western Railway Station and then to the Pruszków camp, but some families, taking advantage of lax supervision, went to the garden plots in the vicinity of Libawska Street and Połajska Street. I was in the second group. We remained there until 1 September.

During our stay in the garden plots we were often searched by the soldiers, and some people were beaten; Vlasovtsy took two girls, and they returned after having been raped. The parents of these girls, L.[...] (residing on Narbutta Street, I don't know the number of the house) and H.[...] Z.[...] (residing at Krasińskiego Street [...]) could testify about these events.



On 1 September at about 10.00 a.m. the soldiers set fire to the gazebos and houses on the premises of the garden plots, and marched all the people who were gathered there to the Western Railway Station, from which we were transported to the Pruszków camp.

As to the burning of the colony, I heard that the German artillerymen had received an order from the SS unit commander from the Chemical Institute.

After the war, I heard from my friends that a common grave containing seven women was found on the square on Czarzoryskich Street, and that their corpses bore marks of torture. The husband of one of these women, a man called Elbe, would be able to provide more details pertaining to this case, and his address can be obtained at a booth with fruits and beverages on Wilson square, which is owned by Katarzyna Ziółkowska.

At this the report was closed and read out.