



STEFAN WOJTCZAK

Warsaw, 18 October 1949. Judge Irena Skonieczna, 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:

Name and surname	Stefan Wojtczak
Date and place of birth	20 September 1909, Warsaw
Parents' names	Józef and Marianna <i>née</i> Pszczółkowska
Father's profession	laborer
Citizenship and nationality	Polish
Religion	Roman Catholic
Education	3 classes of elementary school
Profession	stoker
Place of residence	Warsaw, Kawęczyńska Street 45, flat 28

When the Warsaw Uprising broke out, I was working on the premises of parliament at Wiejska Street 4. On 2 August 1944 two SS-men brought two men into the courtyard of the parliamentary building. They started beating them up near the enormous tree in the courtyard. Next they led them to the second courtyard, where they were both shot by the wall by another SS man, one Matyjas, an officer of the so-called old school. Matyjas was an officer (I do not remember his rank) of the 22 SS Battalion, who had come to the parliamentary building from the Ghetto just before the Uprising.

A few days later I once again saw the Germans bringing in men – nine this time – from the city. They locked them up in the basement beneath parliament and kept them there

until evening. In the evening Matyjas ordered them to be taken to the trees in the second courtyard and executed them all there. The bodies of the victims lay where they had fallen until 03.30 a.m. the next day. Matyjas then woke us, the physical laborers working at the parliament, and ordered that the bodies be buried. Firstly, we had to search the corpses and remove all their documents, which the Germans then burned.

There were some 300 men gathered on the premises of parliament; all of them had been taken from the neighbouring houses. The Germans kept them on the ground floor, in the carpenter's shop, the windows of which opened up onto the second courtyard. These men were not allowed to move around the premises. They were used to perform difficult work outside the parliamentary building, for example building barricades. Many of them perished while performing these tasks. The male hostages were also forced to bury the dead, both Poles and Germans, on the premises of parliament.

One day Matyjas executed the wife of an electrician who worked in the parliamentary building and had fled just before the Uprising. The Germans had kept the woman in a basement for a few days, beating her so that she would tell them where her husband was hiding. Her body was buried by two hostages. Matyjas ordered that her corpse be dragged to the grave by its feet.

Towards the end of the Uprising, sometime at the end of September, the Germans started deporting male hostages to Pruszków.

I and the other workers, namely the gardener's assistant Henryk Kleczkowski, and the stoker Roman Kuliński, Gołębiowski, who was a hostage and had been assigned to assist us (I do not know their addresses), remained in the parliamentary building until it was evacuated by the SS men, that is until more or less mid-November. I left with them by motor-car for Grodzisk.

As regards other German crimes, I once saw on Agrykola Street, where I would drive to get water, how a German beat up and executed a Pole who could no longer carry a heavy bed with a German corpse in it. The bed had three mattresses, upon which the body – covered with a feather quilt – had been placed. It was carried by four Poles, but the man that I mentioned was not of the appropriate height, for he was tall and the entire weight of the bed rested on him.

At this point the report was brought to a close and read out.