

FELIKS POPIELNICKI

Kielce, 6 March 1948, 9.30 a.m. Stefan Młodawski from the Criminal Investigation Section of the Citizens' Militia Station in Kielce, on the instruction of the Prosecutor from the Regional District Court Prosecutor's Office in Kielce, dated 11 December 1947, no. 6/47, with the participation of court reporter Stanisław Kostera, 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	Feliks Popielnicki
Parents' names	Wincenty and Julia, née Krzok
Age	57 years old
Place of birth	Zwierzyniec, Zamość district
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Occupation	office worker
Place of residence	Kielce [...]

I lived at Aleksandra Street next to the Jewish quarter. I noticed that in the Ghetto there were Jews of only Polish and Austrian nationality. There were some 18,000 people in the Ghetto. The Ghetto covered the area from św. Wojciecha Street to Zagnańska Street. It was established on 1 August 1941 and closed in 1942. I cannot tell how many people passed through the Ghetto during the period of its operation.

Upon the liquidation of the Ghetto, from 11.00 p.m. until morning, some 1,000 young pregnant women were executed, and the rest were transported in the direction of Radom.

The Jews worked both in and outside the camp. There were tailoring, carpentry and shoemaking workshops in the camp, and Jewish craftsmen worked in them. Other Jews

worked in the kitchen and performed other maintenance work, and some worked outside the camp in such firms as Ludwików and Henryków.

The Jews were fed very poorly. There was an infirmary in the Ghetto. There was an epidemic of typhoid fever in the camp, and other diseases were also widespread. I don't know what the death rate in the camp was.

The executions took place quite often both in and outside the camp and they were usually carried out at night. These were executions by shooting, but the prisoners were also tortured. The Germans would take the prisoners to the bathhouse in the middle of winter, when the weather was freezing, and after the bath they would make them walk in a circle, naked and barefoot, while the Germans standing inside the circle flogged them with whips. Once I saw how a "Ukrainian" grabbed a little Jewish girl, some 5 years of age by the legs and smashed her head against the rock, killing her on the spot.

The bodies of the executed were buried in the field by the Silnica river and in the Ghetto by the former forestry cabin. When the camp was finally closed, the abandoned flats were recovered by their former owners or allotted to new residents. No material evidence was left behind in the camp.

As for the surnames of the people who were imprisoned in the camp, I cannot recall them now. I don't know the surnames of the camp commander or other German functionaries.

At this point the report was concluded, read out and signed.