



JERZY BLINSTRUB

On 25 January 1946 in Radom, Investigating Judge Kazimierz Borys of the II District of the Regional Court in Radom with its seat in Radom interviewed the person mentioned hereunder as a witness, without taking an oath. Having been advised of the criminal liability for making false declarations, the witness testified as follows:

Name and surname	Jerzy Blinstrub
Age	25 years old
Parents' names	Władysław and Aniela
Place of residence	Moniuszki Street 4, Radom
Occupation	office worker
Religion	Roman Catholic
Criminal record	none
Relationship to the parties	none

During the German occupation I lived in Firlej. The first execution that I witnessed took place on the sands of Firlej on 4 April 1940. On that day at around 6.00 a.m. our house, located on the edge of the Firlej sands, was visited by a few Gestapo men, who demanded that we provide them with spades. Having received what they requested, the Germans proceeded in the direction of the sands, and started doing something behind the hillock. Later, some more Germans – in SS uniforms – arrived. Around 12.00 p.m. I noticed that the Germans were leading bound people from the direction of the highway. A detachment of soldiers armed with rifles stood on the hillock, some 200 – 250 meters from our home. The people being led in the direction of the knoll upon which the soldiers stood would then disappear in the small valley behind it, and a salvo would sound. The group of soldiers would also pass from sight in the gully. I observed the execution for some four hours. I counted that 144 victims had been led from the direction of the highway and executed in the sands. There were only men. After each



salvo, soldiers with spades, standing nearby, would run down the hill, obviously in order to bury the dead. On the same day, after the first execution ended, I went up to the execution site and saw – in addition to traces of blood on the sand – fragments of bone and human bodies, and also shreds of clothing.

The next execution took place a week later. Some 20 people were then killed. I watched the shooting from a considerable distance. I didn't have a very good view.

In 1940, the executions were held on average twice a month. These were, however, mass killings, and they were conducted in great secrecy. In successive years the shootings became very frequent, and would take place two or three times a week, at various times of the day. But they were carried out without the same secrecy as in 1940. In addition, the numbers of victims were smaller. Sometimes, the Gestapo men would bring a few people (or even a single prisoner) in a taxi, uncuffed, and then – without taking any care to ensure that they were not seen – lead the victims to the sands and shoot them.

Between the autumn of 1943 and the spring of 1944, the Germans evicted local residents whose homes were located near the sands. They busied themselves with burning the bodies of those murdered in Firlej, and also of people executed elsewhere. I cannot provide any details concerning these incinerations, for I didn't see them close-up. In addition, the location was screened with mats. But you could see the smoke and smell the stench of burning, decaying human flesh.

The process was supervised by gendarmes commanded by one Juliusz Günther from Berlin, an officer of the gendarmerie. I know his surname because once, when drunk, Günther showed me his membership card.

The executions went on without pause throughout the period of incinerations. You could see trucks carrying people towards the sands and clearly hear the shots.

The shootings continued thereafter, too. While in preceding years the pits would usually be dug a few hours prior to the killings, later on they were readied immediately before executions. Or even the victims would be shot first and the holes organized next.

In July 1944 I saw how people were shot. Namely, they were ordered to jump into a pit and then killed with a sub-machine gun. On that occasion 13 people were killed right before my



eyes. I didn't witness this execution from the very beginning, however, for I stumbled upon it when the events were unfolding. Thus I am unable to say how many people were murdered.

The last execution took place a few days before the arrival of the Red Army.

The report was read out.