



ANIELA PRZYBYLSKA

Warsaw, 18 March 1946. Investigating Judge Alicja Germasz, delegated to the Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes, heard the person named below as a witness. Having been advised of the criminal liability for making false declarations and of the importance of the oath, the witness was sworn and testified as follows:

Name and surname	Aniela Przybylska, <i>née</i> Pasek
Date of birth	19 July 1895
Names of parents	Maria and Leopold
Occupation	dressmaker
Education	three grades of secondary school
Place of residence	Warsaw, Twarda Street 15
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Criminal record	none

When the Warsaw Uprising broke out, I found myself by chance in the house at no. 151 on Wolska Street, in the flat of my cousin Stanisław Przybylski. During the first days of the uprising, there was neither fighting nor insurgents on the premises of our property, consisting of three courtyards and four houses. Some residents were staying in flats, and some in shelters.

On 3 or 4 August, as we were in the flat, we heard shooting from the first courtyard (the windows of our flat looked out onto the second courtyard). I ran out to the staircase and from the window I saw that there were a few SS men in the courtyard who were shooting all around with light machine guns. The corpses of women and children were lying there. Many women



and children were spread about in disorder around the courtyard. I didn't see any men except for one who lay dead. I quickly fled to our flat. I heard the Germans going upstairs, shots, screams of people being killed. I heard the Germans hammering on the door of the adjacent flat, I heard screaming and shooting from there. Finally they started whacking on our door and shooting through it. Eventually they left. This happened several times that day. In the afternoon an incendiary grenade was thrown into our flat and the flat began to burn. Then we decided to escape through the attic to the second staircase of our house. At the time many flats in our house were already ablaze. We could constantly hear screaming and shooting from the courtyard and the staircase. Having left our flat, we managed to hide in one of the flats in the second staircase. I hid in the toilet, and my cousin lay on the kitchen floor, playing dead. Being there, we could hear the Germans yelling, shooting, and the screaming of Poles being killed, and these sounds were issuing all the time from the courtyard and individual flats. The Germans were constantly roaming and looting the flat in which we had hidden. At one point I heard that they entered the adjacent flat. I heard a woman scream, "don't kill me!" and then the sound of a body falling down the stairs and a single shot. In the evening we went from that flat back to ours (on my way I saw the body of a woman on the stairs, and I think that it was the one who had been pushed down the stairs and shot by the Germans). Our flat was completely burnt down. We walked quietly down the stairs, hoping to reach the basement. On the ground floor in the staircase I saw a dozen or so bodies of women and children. When I saw that the German soldiers were approaching, we lay among the bodies of these killed people. The soldiers did not notice us. Then we hid in the basement under the stairs. We could still hear the voices of the Germans from the courtyard and the staircase, and we could still hear shooting. On the fourth day of hiding there we felt an enormous heat and heard the roar of fire. We recognized from the sound that the corpses from the staircase were burning. On the following day we went to the attic of the house. Passing by the ground floor, we saw charred human bones with no flesh, as there were no longer any bodies there.

From the attic we observed the Germans trying to save as much from the house as possible. They were taking out suitcases and bundles from the basement. Besides, for many days, trucks were coming to the courtyard of the house, and the soldiers were loading them with machines and components from the workshops situated in the second courtyard of our house. One day I saw that an older woman, who was lying in the courtyard and who begged for water, was killed with a revolver shot by some soldier.



When I was leaving the attic to sneak around and find some food, I saw burnt human bones also on the ground floor of the second staircase.

We stayed in the attic until 24 August, when we were discovered by the Germans. At first a soldier pointed a gun at us and was about to shoot, but then he yielded to our begging. Eventually we were escorted to the church in Wola, from which I was sent to Pruszków, and my cousin was taken for forced labor.

I have not heard from him to this day.

As I learned from the following residents of the house at Wolska Street 151: Piętoszewska (I don't know her current address), Stefańska, Jordanowa, Sugielowa (all domiciled at Wolska Street 151) and Marian Krygiel (Grochów, Pustelnicka Street 14, flat 9), almost all the women and children from that house (I did not know them as I didn't live there) were killed, and the men hid in one of the basements in the house and thus survived.

The report was read out.