



STANISŁAWA ROGALSKA

Warsaw, 26 March 1946. Investigating Judge Alicja Giermasz, delegated to the Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes, interviewed the person named below as a witness. Having been advised of the criminal liability for making false declarations and of the significance of the oath, the witness swore an oath and testified as follows:

Name and surname	Stanisława Rogalska <i>née</i> Szajkowska
Date of birth	14 November 1899 in Iwowe, district Łuków
Parents' names	Stanisław and Maria
Occupation	shop owner
Education	six grades of elementary school
Place of residence	Dembińskiego Street 2/4, Warsaw
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Criminal record	none

I lived with my family in our own house at Dembińskiego Street 2/4. It was relatively calm in our neighborhood during the first phase of the Uprising. We could hear sounds of the fighting coming from afar. There were about 200 people in my house – residents of two houses located on my premises and a number of people who had sought refuge there. Women and children made up the majority. There were no insurgents.

On 14 September 1944 at around 2 p.m. the fighting suddenly intensified. I went to the roof of my two-story house and saw a lot of German soldiers and tanks moving along Dembińskiego and Marii Kazimierzy streets. I rushed downstairs to warn everybody. We all climbed down into the basement. A few men fled the house. After a while we heard the

Germans banging on the door onto Dembińskiego Street, shouting to us in German to come out. When that failed to happen, they threw grenades at the door. After breaking it down, they threw grenades into the basement, still shouting for us to come out. Then people began to come out. After taking a few steps into the street, they were shot by soldiers standing at the door or, when they missed, by those standing further away from the door. From the basement I could see that almost all of the people coming out into the street fell, either wounded or dead. I and my son were the last to go out. However, I went out alone, having hidden him in the basement. I walked up to the soldier standing in front of the door and began to tell him that there were no insurgents in our house, only civilians. I asked why they were killing us. The soldier did not shoot at me, but instead told me to go down Dembińskiego Street towards Bielany. The street was filled with tanks and soldiers. Following the soldier's instructions, I got to the end of Dembińskiego Street to a place known as "the ponds." There were ponds there, but they had dried up and now there is a meadow. In one of the pits there was a group of people consisting mainly of women and children (neighbors from Marymont with whom I was acquainted). There were three men in the group. One of them was my husband, who had left our home before I did. Hardly had I managed to greet him when a German soldier took him and two other men behind a knoll. After a short while, the sound of machine gun shots could be heard coming from that direction. Some time later, soldiers brought a dozen men more. New groups of women were coming in from Marymont. At night we were all taken to the Central Institute of Physical Education and then to the Bielański Forest, from where I fled to the monastery in Bielany.

Among those who were killed in front of our house in Bielany I recall the following people: Michał Kuczyński, Józef Kuczyński, Barbara Kuczyńska, Stanisław Pietrucha, Widulski (I cannot remember his name), Franciszek Fronczyk, Gąsiorowicz with his wife (I don't know their names), Wigiliusz Arkita with his wife Regina and two children, seven-year-old Zbigniew Arkita (his mother Maria survived, I don't know her address), Kobus (I don't know his first name) with his seven-year-old charge, Mystkowska (I don't know her first name) with her daughter and her two granddaughters, Strzelczyk (I don't know his first name), Wacław Zientara with his wife and child, Kazimierz Tchor, Artur Wysocki, Chmielewski (I don't know his first name), Tokarski (I cannot remember his first name), Wincenty Grabowski with his wife, Buhatewicz with his wife and son (I cannot remember his first name), Gajkowska, Furmanik (I cannot remember their names), Eugeniusz Dudzik, Jan Walczak, Stanisław



Krawczyk, Alfreda Wróblewska and Izabella Wróblewska. I cannot remember any other names now. More than 200 people were killed. In April, I was present at the exhumation of the bodies of those buried in front of our house. The exhumation was carried out with the assistance of the Polish Red Cross. During the exhumation, I recognized the body of my son Stefan Rogalski. Stanisław Zawadzki, Eugeniusz Dudzik and my husband Piotr Rogalski were executed at the ponds. I saw their bodies upon my return to Warsaw in January 1945. Their corpses were lying on the ground with other dead bodies, some had been shallow-buried (their hands and legs were protruding). I buried the body of my husband in the garden. The rest of those killed were exhumed in April 1945 with the assistance of the Polish Red Cross. I watched it from the window of our house. All the dead bodies from the ponds and from the front of our house were buried in a mass grave on Marii Kazimiery Street near the former number 47. From among those who were in our house a few survived: Aniela Dudzik (I undertake to provide her address), Władysław Gąsiorowicz (Bieniewiecka 4). I cannot remember other names.