



STANISŁAW RYCAJ

On 29 September 1949 in Warsaw, a member of the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, Irena Skonieczna (MA), heard the person named below as an unsworn witness. Having been advised of the criminal liability for making false declarations, the witness testified as follows:

Name and surname	Stanisław Rycaj
Date and place of birth	14 November 1882 in Hrubieszów
Names of parents	Stanisław and Anastazja, <i>née</i> Sawczuk
Occupation of the father	locksmith
State affiliation and nationality	Polish
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Education	four-grade horticulture school
Occupation	gardener
Place of residence	Warsaw, Krakowskie Przedmieście Street 46/48, flat 19
Criminal record	none

When the Warsaw Uprising broke out, I was in the gardens of Mr. Siniarski at Madalińskiego Street 19/21. On the first day of the uprising, at about 6.00 p.m., the Germans stormed into the premises of our company, which had been captured at first by the insurgents. The residents of our house and those who found themselves at our place by chance, some 70 people in total, were at the time hiding in a tunnel dug under the greenhouses. There were no longer any insurgents on our premises, as they had retreated in the direction of Grażyny Street.



Until midnight, the area was occupied by the Germans, who were shooting in the direction of the insurgent posts. The houses on both sides of Madalińskiego Street, beginning from Kazimierzowska Street where the Germans were stationed in the building of a school, began to burn already in the evening of the first day. Our house was not on fire yet. The next day, on 2 August 1944 at about 5.00 a.m., the shooting along Madalińskiego Street resumed. Our house was also set on fire. At about noon a German tank entered our premises through the entrance gate and stopped by the paling of the abutting property at Madalińskiego Street 17. A unit composed of six soldiers entered our courtyard through a small gate.

I cannot tell what kind of unit these were. I think that they had come from the direction of Kazimierzowska Street. One of them threw a grenade into the tunnel from the side of the cubby-hole, and another grenade was thrown at the other end of the tunnel. In this way a wounded woman with a child was killed before my very eyes. The rest of the people from the tunnel sought shelter in the greenhouses. Together with two little girls and Szpielarski, a carpenter (currently residing on Łyżwiarska Street) – as they asked me to take them out somehow and save their lives (the Germans began to shoot at the greenhouses and throw grenades at them) – I used the second exit to the fields of Siniarski's gardens. From there, unnoticed by the Germans, we went through a stable on the adjacent property on Grażyny Street and reached that street.

In the morning of 3 August, when the Germans had already left the property of Mr. Siniarski, which they had razed to the ground, I went there in order to recover my things from the tunnel. At the entrance from the field into the tunnel there was a pile of charred human bodies. Therefore, I went back to Grażyny Street, as I could not bear to look at that crime.

After the uprising, on about 18 January [1945], I returned to Warsaw and went to the garden. Then I noticed that there were holes made by grenades approximately every three meters in the tunnel, and one could see parts of human bodies through them.

I cannot tell exactly how many people were killed in the execution on 2 August 1944. I think, however, that more than 30 people were murdered.

At this the report was concluded and read out.