



## WALERIA STRACH

Warsaw, 18 January 1950. Trainee Judge Irena Skonieczna, acting as a member of the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, interviewed the person named below, who testified as follows:

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Name and surname	Waleria Strach, <i>née</i> Samorzyńska
Date and place of birth	1896 in Żbików, county of Warsaw
Parents' names	Stanisław and Teofila, <i>née</i> Kaczanowska
Father's occupation	bricklayer
Citizenship and nationality	Polish
Religion	Roman Catholic
Education	3 classes of elementary school
Occupation	caretaker
Place of residence	Warsaw, Grzybowska Street 18, flat 30
Criminal record	none

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When the Warsaw Uprising broke out, I was in the house at no. 16 Grzybowska Street. From the beginning of the Uprising I ran a kitchen for the insurgents. Once, when I had carried lunches to the barricade at the corner of Graniczna Street (I don't remember the date), I saw a tank driving away from Grzybowski Square, shielded by a group of civilians. I saw this tank from some distance, so it is difficult for me to specify the number of people who were shielding it. The insurgents later told me that the Germans had used women – and even children – to screen the vehicle.

A small hospital – or rather a first-aid post for wounded insurgents – was set up in our house, in the flat of Dr Mirkowski. After being given first aid, the fighters were carried off to

hospitals. Towards the end of the Uprising, in September 1944, Dr Mirkowski (I don't know his present whereabouts) ran a hospital in his flat for the elderly, paralytics, and lung patients. There might have been some 15 patients there.

Already from the first days of the Uprising, the residents of our area would walk towards Wola carrying white handkerchiefs signifying their surrender.

After six weeks or more, I no longer remember the date, but I do know that it was a Wednesday, the Germans occupied our area. They ordered all of the residents of our house to leave the building; the inhabitants of neighboring houses were ordered likewise. The insurgents had left the area earlier, having first surrendered. The Germans led the civilian populace to Wola.

Dr Mirkowski stayed some time longer, for he had to evacuate the hospital. I was not taken to the church in Wola or to the camp in Pruszków, because I was led away by some men who were working on the German trenches. In this way I managed to get out of Warsaw.

I learned from men who had helped evacuate the hospital from the house at Grzybowska Street 16 that all of the patients were taken on carts to hospitals located out of town.

At this point the report was brought to a close and read out.