

BARBARA ŚWIĄTKOWSKA

Class 6

Łuków, 24 June 1946

My wartime experiences

On Saturday, 21 July 1944, a siren started wailing in the evening. The Germans were observing the whole sky, we all went down the shelter. Several hours after the alarm, the German planes appeared and dropped two bombs onto the town.

On Sunday, 22 July, before noon and afterwards, the Germans were preparing to flee. The whole street was blocked with cars, some carrying German families. It was raining, so the Germans were going from one apartment to another, looking for accommodation. In the afternoon, mom and I went to Łazy. Dad stayed at home.

On Monday, the Germans bombed Łuków at night. I was at the Aleksandrów fields at the time. I saw a group of Germans walk past. They asked how far it was to Łuków. I was with my mommy and two paternal uncles. I could see Łuków burn, the sky was red. Daddy came to us in the morning and told us how he had survived the bombing. He also brought sad news – our house had burned down the night before. Then we all walked to the village of Hermanów. We stayed there, while daddy went to Łuków on the same day. Several days later, mommy and I went as well. When I arrived, all I saw was the rubble and ruins, and plenty of mines scattered all around. The Germans burned down our town as revenge.