



STEFANIA RAPIŃSKA

Warsaw, 5 October 1949. Irena Skonieczna (MA), 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:

Name and surname	Stefania Rapińska, <i>née</i> Janowska
Date and place of birth	30 August 1914, Warsaw
Parents' names	Roch and Helena, <i>née</i> Ciostek
Father's occupation	laborer
Citizenship and nationality	Polish
Religion	Roman Catholic
Education	vocational school
Occupation	office worker
Place of residence	Warsaw, Pruszkowska Street 6, flat 293
Criminal record	none

When the Warsaw Uprising broke out, I was in the house at Pruszkowska Street 6, in the Rakowiec housing estate. Our area was completely free of any armed forces. German units were stationed on the "Agril" estate, which neighbored our housing estate and was some 500 meters away. During the first days of the Uprising, we were unable to move around our area at all. On the roof of the "Agril" house, in the attic window, the Germans had set up a machine gun that was trained on the housing estate the whole time.

The Germans – a detachment of some 20 armed soldiers – entered our area for the first time exactly a week after the first day of the Uprising. They asked whether there were any



insurgents in our area. In actual fact, not only were there no insurgents on our housing estate (seeing as the residents were primarily tramcar drivers and postmen), but it had very few men at all, for many were trapped in the city. Learning this, the Germans allowed us to move about freely, although they warned us that if even a single shot was fired from the area, the entire populace would be executed. We however, mistrusting the Germans, tried not to go outside at all. The gates to our blocks were always manned with guards who did not let anyone into our area. We introduced these safety precautions following the incident which occurred around 10 August. People had been trying to get through to the housing estate from the direction of Mokotów. When they entered the fields, dotted with freshly reaped crops bound into sheaves, the Germans ran out of the "Agril" building and started firing at them with their machine guns. Some of the people hid behind the sheaves, while others approached the Germans with their arms raised. The Germans did not shoot at the latter. I saw this through the windows of our house, which looked out onto Mokotów. The next day, we learned from a woman who had gone to her allotment in the morning (I do not remember her surname) that she had seen dead bodies near the wire fence bordering on our land. We had heard shots in the night. We surmised, therefore, that these were the bodies of the people who had approached the Germans with their arms raised. This conjecture was confirmed by "Agril" employees.

I do not know whether any of the older employees – who could have witnessed the crime – are still working there. However, once I determine whether or not they are still there, I will be able to notify the Commission by letter.

Three weeks into the Uprising, the Germans came to our area yet again. We had a great many people who had left Warsaw after the Germans had granted civilians permission to do so. In consequence, there were some two thousand people on the premises of our housing estate. The Germans ordered all of us to leave the estate, stating that they were issuing this order solely because we were harboring people from Warsaw in spite of their prohibition. We were then led in the direction of Okęcie under an escort consisting of German soldiers. The escort allowed people to ransom themselves and disappear from the column. In this way I and my entire family managed to avoid the Pruszków transit camp. The remainder of the populace – unable to escape – were placed in a shed-cum-carpenter's shop in Okęcie, from where they were transported to Pruszków.

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