



ADAM WYRĘBOWSKI

28 October 1949, Warsaw. Member of the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, Norbert Szuman, interviewed the person named below as an unsworn witness. Having been advised of the criminal liability for making false statements, the witness testified as follows.

Name and surname	Adam Wyrębowski
Date and place of birth	19 December 1892, Warsaw
Parents' names	Adam and Julianna, <i>née</i> Podgórska
Father's occupation	Technician
State affiliation and nationality	Polish
Religious affiliation	Catholic
Education	University
Occupation	Parish priest
Place of residence	Służew, presbytery
Criminal record	None

Throughout the Uprising I stayed in my parish in Służew. In an effort to consolidate the fighting as much as possible, the Germans isolated the area of Służew up to Idzikowskiego Street. For this reason, on 1 or 2 August 1944, when the insurgents took action in the direction of the Race Track in Służewiec, trying to broaden the area of military operations in order to facilitate the process of supplying themselves with food and so on, the Germans, who saw through the plan, annihilated the insurgent groups in Służew.

At the same time, that is, in the first days of August 1944, the Germans threw the people out of the houses in Aleja Wilanowska, killing the men and setting the houses on fire. The



whole of Służew was subjected to a reign of terror, to which the Germans resorted in order to prevent its people from engaging in any action. First of all, they tried to detain the inhabitants of Warsaw. For this reason, taking advantage of the fact that I had a typewriter of the same type as the ones used for filling out *kennkarten*, I added "Służew" to "Warschau" in every document that belonged to a Warsaw inhabitant.

People from Służew were used to perform all sorts of frontline work such as digging trenches, and various German units were stationed in all the houses. Four soldiers from the Military Communications Service were lodged in the presbytery. They didn't take part in the fighting. The Germans had all kinds of weapons ready on both hills, on Dominican and Służew hills. The artillery was set up behind the church. The German headquarters were set up on the Dominican hill, and that is also where the main German forces were concentrated and from where they launched their attacks against Mokotów, Czerniakowski Fort and Sadyba.

Towards the end of the Uprising, just before the surrender of Mokotów, in the latter half of September 1944, the Germans carried out the final attack on Czerniakowski Fort and Sadyba, and before the attack took place we went through an appalling experience. A German general arrived in the presbytery. We thought it was von dem Bach (I base this opinion on the fact that I have seen a number of his photographs). He called me and the bishop out. The bishop was hiding at my place. As the general came in the company of other soldiers, the bishop came out with me and Rościszewski. The latter had been staying at my place since his house had been destroyed during the Uprising. The general said that the Germans were going to carry out a final attack on the fort and there were lots of Polish youths there. He said that if we wanted to avoid bloodshed we should go to the insurgents and tell them to surrender. We were willing to go as long as the Germans agreed to stop shooting and provide us with an escort to the insurgents and back. The general didn't consent to these demands and, consequently, we also refused to carry out his order.

It took the Germans the whole day and night to capture the fort, even though I can't imagine a fiercer exchange of fire. That night one could hear the groans of the murdered from Sadyba. I wish to note that the Germans paved the way for their final attack on the fort by burning the houses in Służew-Stegny lying at the foot of the hill. Służew's population had already been displaced before that.

At this the report was concluded and read out.