



JAN BOGDANOWICZ

On 9 April 1946 in Piotrków, Investigating Judge P. Królikowski heard the person named below as a witness. Having been advised of the criminal liability for making false declarations and of the importance of the oath, the witness was sworn and testified as follows:

Name and surname	Jan Bogdanowicz
Age	52 years old
Names of parents	Edmund and Maria
Place of residence	Piotrków, Rycerska Street 8
Occupation	pediatrician
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Criminal record	none

1) From 1 to 7 August 1944, there were no insurgents, resistance points or reinforcements on the premises of Karol and Maria Hospital. The insurgent lines of defense were behind the hospital, along Żytnia and Karolkowa streets. Not one shot was fired at the Germans from the hospital premises.

The hospital admitted wounded civilians, wounded people from insurgent troops, and wounded German prisoners of war.

2) The removal of the staff from Karol and Maria Hospital was connected with an assault action on Karolkowa Street carried out by the Germans from the hospital premises. The Germans dug trenches on the hospital premises, blew up one building and placed medium machine guns and a grenade launcher on the premises.



3) The first German units arrived on the morning of 6 August (they claimed to be Azerbaijanis, special assault forces of the SS; they spoke little German and almost no Russian, but spoke a special dialect called "ajami." The officers were Germans).

First they took the staff from the maintenance building and led them out of the city, and then they ordered the staff from the surgical ward to take the wounded people on stretchers. Due to staff shortages and lack of stretchers, only some of the wounded people were taken. On the way, at the corner of Młynarska and Leszno streets, Dr Kmicikiewicz was told to step out from the group, for no reason at all, and was then executed by the wall. The escort stopped the column from time to time, ordered the staff to stand by the wall and threatened them with execution. When they reached Wolski Hospital, the sick people were allowed to lie down, but shortly afterwards that order was called off and they had to be taken back. (A few wounded people managed to find hiding places in the building). The staff was ordered to leave the wounded people by the hospital gate and to go back inside. Those wounded people were executed (according to the civilians who were forced to take the wounded to another place). Anyway, when the surgical staff was told to leave the hospital again, there were no people by the gate.

When the surgical ward was emptied of staff, the Germans proceeded to burn the hospital down. The surgical ward was set on fire despite the presence of patients. As I was the hospital director at the time, I wanted to stay to the end with the sick children, and I was at ward S2. When Dr Gacówna informed me that the surgical ward was on fire, we rushed to rescue the wounded people. When we got five wounded people outside, the Germans threw us out of the ward, and we barely managed to save those who had already been taken outside from execution. Some of the wounded people crawled out on their own. Fortunately, the fire did not spread, and only the surgical theater, doctor's office, plaster room and the kitchen were burnt down. As we did not have access to the building for several weeks, it is difficult to say what happened to the rest of the wounded people from that ward.

In the morning, before the Germans entered the premises, they showered the hospital with grenades. Nurse Stobierska got gravely wounded then, and on the following day the Germans finished her off.

When they burnt down the surgical ward, the Germans set fire to the maintenance ward with the nurses flats (having first looted it), and then the diphtheria ward and the observation ward (both were devoid of patients).



At the close of 6 August, only one pavilion of the whole hospital was standing – the 5th pavilion with 40 children, including eight babies. The children had nothing to eat or drink. When I asked permission to fetch some food from the maintenance ward (before it was burnt down), I was told that I might send “a young nurse.” As one of our nurses (Mrs. K.), who had left the building alone, had been raped, I did not agree to that, and the Germans did not want me to accompany the nurse. As the fire from the adjacent buildings threatened the 5th pavilion, we decided to take the children and some of the wounded people outside. At night, we were forced to take the children in and out two times. The Germans did not care a bit about their fate, and retreated for safety to the outpatient building at the rear of the hospital premises.

On the morning of 7 August, the Germans set fire to the corner of building no. 5 (the laboratory). Children and wounded adults (some 105 people) were thrown outside in two groups – one to the left, and the other to the right of the hospital buildings.

At that time, the Germans resumed the attack on Karolkowa Street (it lasted without break for the entire 6 August, that night and 7 August). During shooting from both sides – the Germans placed their machine gun among the children lying on stretchers – some children and sick people were killed, and two nurses, Dąbrowska and Broniewska, were wounded.

During heavy shelling, the Germans allowed one of the groups to leave the hospital as early as 7.00–8.00 a.m., but they managed to take only some of the children with them – the ones who could be carried in arms and on the one stretcher that they had.

Having reached Wolski Hospital, that group organized a female sanitary patrol (the Germans did not allow the men to leave the building), which made several rounds under fire that day and saved a few surviving wounded adults and the rest of children (three were shot).

Nurse Dąbrowska, who stayed with the second group until 3.00 p.m., was accused of spying when she went to fetch water for the wounded people and was barely saved.

4) The officers – the SS – were Germans, and the soldiers were from the group of auxiliary divisions (Tatars, Azerbaijanis).

5) As from the morning of 6 August on I was with the children in the 5th pavilion, I have provided the above details pertaining to the surgical ward in accordance with what I learned



after leaving Warsaw from my friends, especially Dr Tadeusz Hroboni (Warsaw, aleja Niepodległości 132, or Wolski Hospital). In particular, data concerning the 5th ward.

6) As above (Dr T. Hroboni), or else Andrzej Tymowski (Faculty of Law of the University of Warsaw, Scholar's House, Polna Street 50).

7) As above (Dr T. Hroboni).

8) Nurse Dąbrowska (nurse at a sanatorium in Otwock).

9) The following were stolen, looted or burnt: large stocks of food and pure alcohol for medical uses, the kitchen, surgical equipment, two X-ray machines; the laboratory was burnt down, all private flats of the staff were looted and burnt down, hospital equipment was completely destroyed.

The data which I have provided must be complemented by the data in possession of Dr Tadeusz Hroboni, nurse Dąbrowska, and a wounded survivor, Andrzej Tymowski (addresses provided in the account).

The above is an accurate transcription of my testimony. The report was read out.