



## KAZIMIERA BRZEZIŃSKA

Warsaw, 27 July 1949. A Member of the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, magister [MA] Norbert Szuman, heard as a witness the person specified below; the witness did not swear an oath. Having been advised of the criminal liability for making false declarations, the witness testified as follows:

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Name and surname	Kazimiera Zofia Brzezińska <i>née</i> Mandes
Date and place of birth	24 February 1897, Warsaw
Names of parents	Jan and Małgorzata <i>née</i> Żukowska
Occupation of the father	gravedigger
State affiliation and nationality	Polish
Religious affiliation	Roman Catholic
Education	two grades of elementary school
Occupation	housewife
Place of residence	Warsaw, Czerwińska Street 28
Criminal record	none

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At the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising I was in my own flat, in the house at Duchnicka Street 13, in the vicinity of the Go/No Go gauge factory. On the factory premises there were German troops who were guarding the factory facilities and supervising the Soviet prisoners of war who were performing various tasks. A short, fat Captain whose name I don't remember but who enjoyed a good reputation among the Polish people was commander there.

On 5 August [1944] at dusk, some uniformed Germans whom we did not know got out from the cars of a train which was passing by our house, roamed close to the house and left, only to



come back within a short period of time. Then they surrounded our house and began to throw grenades through the windows. I sought shelter in the basement along with my husband, but our daughter, 23-year-old Henryka, stayed in the flat with the Chojnacki family, consisting of three members: a mother and two sons. As I was in the basement, I heard yells of "Los!" from the house and shots which were following them. We stayed in the basement until the shooting ceased and it was dark. We felt, however, that the house was on fire, and although the troops were still around, we decided to leave the basement. At the moment we were leaving the building, the troops were going away. As soon as we left, the burning house collapsed.

A few days later my husband, who – as he told me later – had noticed upon leaving the corpse of one Chojnacki lying in the yard under the window of our flat, went to the site and found there, under the rubble on the stairs in the hall, the partially charred corpses of our daughter, Chojnacka, and her second son. Neither then nor later, however, did we find any trace of four people who had been in the second basement – Urbaniak with his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Kosik. During the Uprising, I heard from one of the inhabitants of the Kościuszko Housing Estate, I do not remember which, that someone had allegedly seen the Germans pull Mrs. Urbaniak and Mrs. Kosik from the basement of our house and throw them into the fire. I also heard that, in response to questions asked by Polish people, that German Captain had told them that he had received a decree or notice concerning the burning of our house and that there was nothing he could do, although he himself believed us to be good people.

At this the report was closed and read out.