

Chodakiewicz - from 9

shared his cell with AK soldiers Dominik Sobczyk, Stanisława Rybka ("Szpak"), Józef Bator, and Jan Szela. On December 7, Father Pilipiec was sentenced to death along with his cellmates. The prisoners were shot the same day, except for cadet officer Rybka who escaped from the place of the execution and left the following account of torture:

The priest was unable to stand on his own. We helped him to reach his straw mattress. Then we put him down on it. He was terribly massacred. His cassock was torn in many places. There were wounds all over his body. The skin on his head was broken and a stream of blood dripped from it. He writhed in pain. This must have been some incredible pain as the priest was unable to refrain from crying and moaning.[62]

In March 1945 the Communist secret police boss of Radom, Jan Byk aka Czesław Borecki, arrested the wife of AK-WiN Captain Stefan Bembiński ("Harnaś"). To force the woman to reveal the whereabouts of her husband and his confederates, Byk "beat me with a flat of his hand on my face, breaking my teeth." [63]

On April 18, 1945, the NKVD and the UB seized a few soldiers of the NZW's Emergency Special Action (Pogotowie Akcji Specjalnej - PAS) in Lubaczów, including Lieutenant Konstanty Kopf ("Zawisza"). After three days in local jail, the prisoners were transferred to the UB headquarters in Rzeszów. Tortured from April through October 1945, Kopf recalled that:

The interrogation sessions lasted 24 hours. The UB interrogators applied a variety of physical torture. That included hitting the prisoner, suspending him tied from a bar, tearing off his fingernails, beating him on the soles of his feet, applying electric shocks during questioning, and putting him in solitary confinement [karcer]. This was a closed cell two meters by two with a large, round hole in the middle leading to the septic tank down below which served as the main depository for refuse from the whole jail. The prisoner could only stand up in that cell and walk around that hole. The stench of feces and ammonia caused one's eyes to become infected. Standing caused one's legs to swell. If the prisoner was not able to withstand that kind of torture, he would fall into the hole and drown. There were also instances of the prisoner standing in that cell and they hosed him with water. The present writer was sentenced to 102 hours of solitary confinement.[64]

In December 1944 and August 1946, in Nisko, the UB officer Stanisław Suproniuk arrested Lieutenant Skarbimir Socha ("Jaskółka") of the NOW-AK-NZW. First in Nisko and then in Rzeszów, "Suproniuk beat me with a chain and his assistant Józef Orsa with the butt of his submachine gun." [65] In April 1945 Suproniuk and his underlings arrested Janina Oleszkiewicz, the wife of the NOW-AK-NZW insurgent Major Franciszek Przysiężniak ("Ojciec Jan"). She was in an advanced stage of pregnancy. Oleszkiewicz was interrogated overnight and then taken out for a ride and summarily shot.[66] Other UB-men suspected of crimes at the Security Office in Nisko, include the Młynarskis, father and son.[67]

In August 1945 the secret police arrested Captain Kazimierz Moczarski, who served in the Home Army during the Nazi occupation and afterward in one of its clandestine successors, the Delegation of the Armed Forces (Delegatura Sił Zbrojnych - DSZ). Moczarski was also a liberal and a leader of the center-leftist Democratic Party (Stronnictwo Demokratyczne - SD). As Moczarski recalled, UB Colonel Józef Goldberg, aka Jacek Różański, "told me that... I would go through a 'hellish interrogation' - which really happened later." Różański threatened the victim that he would receive the death penalty. He also explained that "we can always prove that you were a Gestapo agent because we have the blank originals of the official stationery of the Gestapo, their rubber stamps, and the like. We also are holding such former Gestapo members who will very gladly sign a post-dated file prepared by us that you were a Gestapo agent." Although Moczarski was tortured horribly, he refused to confess

his "crimes" but was nonetheless sentenced to death.

Subsequently, Moczarski enumerated forty-nine different types of torture he was subjected to by eight officers of the UB during the interrogation which lasted from November 30, 1948, to September 22, 1952. The torture included beating with a nightstick, a piece of wire, and a metal rod on Moczarski's throat, nose, fingers, and feet; tearing out his hair (from his genitals, beard, head, and chest); burning him with cigarettes and candles (on his lips, eyes, and fingers); crushing his toes with jackboots; kicking his entire body; stabbing him with needles; injuring his rectum with a screw and a stool leg; forcing the prisoner to do sit-ups until he fainted; forcing the prisoner to run up and down the stairs for long periods of time; locking him naked in solitary confinement; depriving him of sleep for up to 9 days at a stretch and preventing him from falling asleep by periodically slapping his face; forcing him to stand at attention for hours with his hands raised; and depriving him of food and drink for days. Physical torture was accompanied by psychological torment. It included depriving Moczarski of any contact with his family; informing him alternately that his wife "whom...[he] loved very much" was either dead or cheating on him; writing on the forehead of this famous anti-Nazi fighter the word "Gestapo"; and, finally, locking him in a cell for almost a year with Gestapo men, including SS-General Jürgen Stroop, the executioner of the Warsaw ghetto. All these and other methods were employed to force Moczarski to talk.[68]

In September 1945, the Communist secret police captured insurgent liaison Barbara Nagajewicz- Woś ("Krystyna") of the AK-WiN unit led by Major Heronim Dekutowski ("Zapora"). Despite being tortured for three weeks, she refused to budge and was sentenced to 10 years in jail. According to an account of her torture in Lublin,

This was a terrible night. She was beaten. She screamed.... Investigating officer Maksymiuk beat her with a wire-tipped pole. He threw 'Krysia' over a chair, pulled up her skirt, and whipped her. Then she was prostrated on the floor and the torturers poured cold water into her nose. She lost consciousness several times. 'Will you talk?' they asked her when she opened her eyes. She kept silent. 'Whip her some more!' Maksimiuk yelled. She was thrown back into her cell at 7:00am. She was completely covered in blood.... The beating and torture did not help. 'Krysia' kept completely silent.[69]

In September 1945 in Urzędów an UB expedition caught Mrs. Gajewska, whose son served in the AK-WiN "Zapora" unit. She was tortured in front of her other son, Stanisław, who was 15-years old at the time. UB Captain Pokrzywa attempted to force the boy to reveal the whereabouts of his brother: "Staś did not answer. The scream of his mother, who was being beaten, reverberated in his ears." [70] The same expedition captured at the time several AK-WiN insurgents. They shot three, refused any medical help to two wounded guerrillas, and beat their three colleagues with wooden sticks in front of the villagers of Urzędów-Bęczyn who were forcibly herded to witness the execution.[71]

In September 1945, to discourage support for the insurgents, the UB men in Bielsk Podlaski beat a civilian suspect with a board studded with nails. Then they sent his bloody shirt to his wife as a warning, finally releasing her husband after a while. Consequently, the man told the insurgents: "Gentlemen, please do not stay at my farmstead! Forgive me! Or kill me! I can't stand being arrested again." [72]

Footnotes

[32] See Mateusz Wyrwich, "Zbrodnie nie tylko w celi śmierci," Tygodnik Solidarność, 17 May 2002; Mateusz Wyrwich, Łagier Jaworzno: Z dziejów czerwonego terroru (Warszawa: Editions Spotkania, 1995). See also Bogusław Kopka, Obozy pracy w Polsce 1944-1950: Przewodnik encyklopedyczny (Warszawa: Niezależna Oficyna Wydawnicza NOWA i Ośrodek Karta, 2002). [UP]

[33] See Wojciech Wybranowski, "Potrzebni świadkowie," Nasz Dziennik, 13 May 2002. It was similar in Nowogard and other Communist jails. See Piotr Szubarczyk, "Sprawa Józka Obacza: Młodziżowa konspiracja antykomunistyczna 1945-56," Nasz Dziennik, 19-21 April 2003. [UP]

[34] Witold Kulesza and Andrzej Rzepliński, eds., Przeszłość sądziów i prokuratorów w Polsce lat 1944-1956 (Warszawa: Instytut Pamięci Narodowej - Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni Przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, Uniwersytet Warszawski - Instytut Profilaktyki Społecznej i Resocjalizacji, 2000). [UP]

[35] A few "normative acts" (akty normatywne) of the Polish Communist secret police formally banned torture (e.g., the orders of June 11, 1949, February 24, 1951, March 3, 1954, and November 19, 1954). For a list of rules and regulations pertaining to the investigative process of the Communist secret police see Antoni Kura, "Represje aparatu bezpieczeństwa publicznego w latach 1944-1956," Biuletyn Instytutu Pamięci Narodowej, no. 6 (June 2002): 29-33. [UP]

[36] See, e.g., cases 3710 and 3710/822, Special Archive of Lithuania, the Committee for State Security (KGB), The Council of Ministers of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Lithuania, in Chodakiewicz, Ejszyski, 2: 49, 59, 62, 82, 94, 98, 114-22. [UP]

[37] See Dekret PKWN „o wymiarze kary dla faszystowsko-hitlerowskich zbrodniarzy winnych zabójstw i znęcania się nad ludnością cywilną i jeńcami oraz dla zdrajców Narodu Polskiego,” 31 August 1944, Dziennik Ustaw, no. 4, poz. (item) 16 (1944); and its modified version in Dziennik Ustaw, no. 69, poz. 377 (1946). For the general background of the Stalinist legal system in Poland see Zdzisław Albin Zięba, Prawo przeciw społeczeństwu (Warszawa: Katedra Socjologii Moralności i Oksjologii Ogólnej, Instytut Stosowanych Nauk Społecznych, Uniwersytet Warszawski, 1997). [UP]

[38] The accused in the trial were charged specifically pursuant to article 1 paragraph 2 of the decree of August 31, 1944. See Sentencja wyroku, Sprawa Bolesława Ramotowskiego i 21 innych, 16 and 17 May 1949, Sąd Okręgowy w Łomży [afterward SOŁ], file Ksu 33/49, 225. Because the pre-war penal code still applied in Poland at the time, and it contained all of the appropriate provisions to deal with a riot that resulted in murder (in particular articles 23, 163, and 225 of the penal code, which included death penalty), non-political laws could have been used to prosecute the suspects in the Jedwabne case. See Juliusz Makarewicz, Kodeks Karny z komentarzem (Lwów: Wydawnictwo Zakładu Narodowego im. Ossolińskich, 1932); Kodeks Karny: Prawo o wykroczeniach (Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Ministerstwa Sprawiedliwości, 1939). [UP]

[39] This frame of mind is reflected fully in the most important internal circulation Communist secret police periodical. See Andrzej Krzysztof Kunert and Rafał E. Stolarski, eds., "Bijące serce partii": "Dzienniki personalne Ministerstwa Bezpieczeństwa Publicznego", vol. 1: 1945-1947 (Warszawa: Rada Ochrony Pamięci Walk i Męczeństwa and Oficyna Wydawnicza "Adiutor," 2001), 352-55, 361-69, 393, 458-60, 484-86, 492-500, 524, 527-28, 536, 551-52, 577, 585, 589, 593, 633 [afterward "Bijące serce partii"]. In relation to the Poles in general, this sentiment was expressed best by Jakub Berman who supervised the secret police in Stalinist Poland. See Teresa Torańska, Oni (London: Aneks, 1985), 274, 290-91, 341, 354-58. Torańska's book is published in English translation as "Them": Stalin's Polish Puppets (New York: Harper & Row, 1987). [UP]

[40] See Wytyczne d/s propagandy, Główny Zarząd Pol.-Wych. LWP pt. „W sprawie mobilizacji nienawiści do zbirów reakcyjnych,” 10 May 1945, Kunert and Stolarski, "Bijące serce partii", 388. („Piętnować z całą siłą zbrodniczą robotę wyrodków z NSZ i AK - naśladowców Hitlera, rozwinać w żołnierzu uczucie nienawiści i rozkołysać aktywność żołnierzy przeciwko reakcji.”) [UP]

[41] The speech of Colonel Mieczysław Dąbrowski during "a gala academy on the second anniversary of the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto" on April 19, 1945, in Kunert and Stolarski, "Bijące serce partii", 382. („Podczas uroczystej akademii w drugą rocznicę powstania w getcie warszawskim przedstawiciel LWP płk Mieczysław Dąbrowski oświadcza: 'Przeciwko powstańcom walczyli: lotnictwo, SS i czołgi niemieckie, chuliganeria polska, reakcyjniści polscy i faktycznie AK.'") [UP]

[42] See Głos Ludu, 21 April 1945, in Kunert and Stolarski, "Bijące serce partii", 382. („Zbrodniarze z AK i NSZ działają ręką w rękę z hitlerowcami. I tak też, jak hitlerowski mordercy, powinni być potraktowani.”) [UP]

[43] See Głos Ludu, 19 October 1945, quoted in Kunert and Stolarski, "Bijące serce partii", 457. („NSZ w czasie okupacji stanowiły posiłkową formację SS i Gestapo.”) [UP]

[44] „Pod sąd morderców z AK i NSZ!” Reproduced in Komorowski, Polityka i walka, n.p. [UP]

[45] See Okólnik Ministerstwa Informacji i Propagandy nr 1, 21 April 1945, in Pierwsza próba indoktrynacji: Działalność Ministerstwa Informacji i Propagandy w latach 1944-1947, ed. by Andrzej Krawczyk (Warszawa: ISP PAN, 1994), 74-75; "PRESS CONFERENCE held by M. Bierut at the Polish Embassy in Moscow on April 23, 1945," in Soviet-Polish Relations: A Collection of Official Documents and Press Extracts, 1944-1946 (London: "Soviet News," 1946), 30; Krystyna Kersten, „Polityczny i propagandowy obraz zbrojnego podziemia w latach 1945-1947 w świetle prasy komunistycznej,” Wojna domowa czy nowa okupacja? Polska po roku 1944, ed. by Andrzej Ajnenkiel (Wrocław, Warszawa, and Kraków: Wydawnictwo Zakładu Narodowego imienia Ossolińskich, 1998), 140-50 [afterward „Polityczny” in Wojna domowa]; Marek Michalik, „Wizerunek Zrzeszenia 'Wolność i Niezawisłość' w wybranych tytułach prasy centralnej z lat 1945-1947: Część I,” Zeszyty Historyczne WiN-u 12 (March 1999): 5-42. [UP]

[46] This propaganda ploy therefore required that the Communists effusively play the role of the sole protectors of the Jewish people. On April 17, 1949, the head of the proxy regime in Warsaw, Bolesław Bierut, cynically informed a visiting Jewish-American delegation that "killing a Jew is ten times more of a crime than ordinary killing" and vowed to punish severely anyone responsible for crimes against the Jews. See Joseph Tenenbaum, In Search of A Lost People: The Old and the New Poland (New York: The Beechhurst Press, 1948), 227. Numerous other so-called "pro-Jewish" statements were routinely made to that effect by the Communist officials and the regime-controlled media. See also Simon Segal, "Eastern Europe," The American Jewish Yearbook, 5705, vol. 46: September 18, 1944 to September 7, 1945, ed. by Harry Schneiderman (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1944), 240-44; Raphael Mahler, "Eastern Europe," The American Jewish Yearbook, 5706, vol. 47: 1945-46, ed. by Harry Schneiderman and Julius B. Maller (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1945), 391-408; Harry Schneiderman, "Eastern Europe," The American Jewish Yearbook, 5707, vol. 48: 1946-47, ed. by Harry Scheiderman and Julius B. Maller (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1946), 334-49; Marek Jan Chodakiewicz, Żydzi i Polacy, 1918-1955: Współistnienie, Zagłada, Komunizm (Warszawa: Fronda, 2000), 535-38 [afterward Żydzi i Polacy]. [UP]

[47] Chodakiewicz, Ejszyski, 2: 15, 26, 123-34, 139-40, 144. [UP]

[48] For example, in the sentencing statement we read not only about "the mass crime against the defenseless people who numbered 1,500" at p. 229 of court records, but on p. 225 that the sentenced men were "accused that on June 25 [sic July 10], 1941, in Jedwabne aiding the authorities of the German state, they participated in capturing about 1200 persons of Jewish nationality, who... were burned en masse by the Germans in the barn." See Sentencja