

BOLECHÓW¹

(includes eyewitness account of 2nd Akcje. Sept, 1942)

Matylda Gelernter, 38 years of age, born in Bolechów, unemployed, father Jonas Haftel, mother Beila from Rettigow. Until November 1939 she lived in Stanisławów, from November 1941 in Bolechów. Currently resides in Katowice at nr. 7 ulica Stawowa [Lake St.].

Around the 9th of November 1941, I arrived in Bolechów from Stanisławów. I moved in with my parents in the west side of the town square. At that time you could still move about comparatively freely in Bolechów. It was forbidden to buy from the farmers in the square and the marketplaces. Jews went out of the town and things for money or by barter. A few farmers did it [i.e. sold to Jews] although there were official instructions and propaganda by word of mouth, not to have any dealings with Jews. It was just ten days after the first action in Bolechów, which took place on the 28th and 29th of October 1941. I told you how people, in spite of everything, put themselves to bed at night normally and woke up in the morning. Admittedly, even then the mayor and Gestapo-men from Stanisławów approached the Judenrat with contributory demands and other trickery.

¹ (Notes: 1. In most cases, the feminine (-owa) version of a surname has been changed into the masculine form, as we would cite it in English (e.g. Gelernterowa → Gelernter). 2. I can't guarantee the spelling of some of the names, since not all of them appear in the nominative. It doesn't help that this document has a vast number of typos compared to the first one. Also, the practice of reversing first names and surnames is sometimes adhered to and sometimes not.)

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A month before the action they also ordered contributions in Bolechów, how many, I don't know. The Germans had decided that Bolechów was a wealthy town (with over a dozen tanneries, sawmills and mills) so they had to give a lot.

The Jews themselves pushed for giving as much as possible, since not long ago there had been an action in Stanisławów because little was given in the contribution. The Judenrat organized collections of money and gold and valuable objects and determined how much each should give. Among others the highly respected rabbi Perlow from Bolechów took part in the collection. With minor exceptions, people willingly gave. Some gave literally all their cash in different currencies. **[PAGE 2]** But even that didn't help them, because an action took place later.

On 28 October 1941 they started taking people out of their homes according to a list. They took:

Dr Jakub Blumenthal, a doctor—for many years the president of the Kehal [??], a public servant. Rabbis: Mendel Landau and Józef Horowitz. Eisyg Feder with his wife—public servant, president of the local Zionist committee. Isaak Landes: merchant and public servant. Leib Rotbard—a Zionist organizer—with his wife and daughter. Motel Kurz, merchant. Oswald Kimelman, an apothecary, with his wife. The eldest son of Hersz Rand, a merchant [i.e. the son is]. Feller the pharmacist. Herman Adler. Dr Blumenthal's wife, the wife of the lawyer Leon Goldschlag, the wife of Józef Schneiweiss, a lady merchant. Witaszko Chane, the wife of Dr Dawid Kurzera with his young son, Wilek Halpern—the son of Aiter and many, many others.

A few were taken and shot incidentally, mostly women, who ran and tried to help those being taken: Balcia Adler the mother of Herman, Binka Halpern the sister of Wilek, the wife of Rabbi Horowitz.

The son of Bencion Schindler was also taken. He escaped naked from the execution ground, Taniawy.

Dr Aron Reifeisen, a lawyer, committed suicide even before the action; he hanged himself on the door in his courtroom.

[PAGE 3] Many hid themselves where they could, but the Ukrainians kept finding them and meanwhile they caught runaways and beat them mercilessly. Everyone was dragged into the Dom Katolicki in Bolechów. There the torture took place for the extended period. The women had to strip themselves naked and sing. The Bolechower rabbis Józef Horowitz and Mendel Landau were especially tormented; apparently, they had to dance naked with their eyes put out. On 29 October, they were all taken on foot and by car to the area of Taniawy about 8 km out of Bolechów and approximately 1,000 people were shot and buried there in a single pit. Among these were many still alive. Dr Blumenthal was released after being tortured. Likewise the pharmacist Feller was released. The president of the Judenrat, Dr Schindler, went on 28 October to the Dom Katolicki to intervene and release Feder as well, but it turned out that he had been shot trying to escape through a window of the Dom Katolicki. In the evening, members of the Judenrat ran to our house so that we would give some coffee and tea to try to buy someone out of the Dom Katolicki [the adverb 'jeszcze' (lit. 'still') implies that it was hopeless].

After the action, it was calm for some time. And that's how it was after my arrival. At that time the matter was getting Bolechów completely out of the *województwo* [administrative region] of Stanisławów and into that of Drohobycz. The Jews really wanted this to happen, because the most terrible and beastly murderer at that time was Kruger in Stanisławów.

With the coming of winter, December 1941 and January 1942, it was announced that the Jews had to give up any furs, common sheepskin and valuable ones. The Jews gave absolutely everything. They inspected their own houses. **[PAGE 4]** At a certain Charak's, an old sheepskin waistcoat was found in a WC. The Germans threatened that they would kill her. She said that she wasn't afraid and would rather they killed her at once, that the Germans hadn't won the war yet and that they would meet the same fate. She was taken under arrest (in the town hall); they beat her and then released her. Until summer nothing important happened, although in Stanisławów in Eref Pesy [?spelling?] in 1942 there was another action. Houses were set on fire to burn the Jews.

On the 3rd, 4th and 5th of September 1942, the second action in Bolechów took place without a list: Men, women and children were caught in their houses, attics, hiding places. About 660 children were taken. People were killed in the town square in Bolechów and in the streets. The action lasted from before evening on Wednesday until Saturday. On Friday it was said that the action was already over. People decided to come out of hiding but the action started up again on Saturday and on that one day more people were killed than in the preceding days. The Germans and Ukrainians preyed especially on the children. They took the children by their legs and bashed their heads on the edge of the sidewalks, whilst they laughed and tried to kill them with one blow. Others threw children from the height of the first floor

[i.e. American second floor], so a child fell on the brick pavement until they were just pulp. The Gestapomen bragged that they killed 600 children and the Ukrainian Matowiecki (from Rozdoły near Żydaczowy) proudly guessed that he had killed 96 Jews himself, mostly children. On Saturday the corpses were gathered, thrown onto wagons, children into bags and brought to a cemetery and this time thrown into one pit. Concerning the fact that this action was to take place, Backenroth, a member of the Bolechów Judenrat who came from Wełdzirz telephoned from Drohobycz.

[PAGE 5] He said that we should expect "guests" on Thursday. But the Ukrainians of Bolechów themselves, not waiting for the Gestapo, started to capture and kill Jews before evening. My father, my child (not quite two years old) and I ran to the house of a Ukrainian we knew who had said at one time that he would let us in. But he didn't let us in. We returned home and hid ourselves in a niche in our house. The child was crying and wanted to drink, but didn't cry out because it was accustomed to this from the previous actions. Even when they shot a certain Jewess in front of the door of our hiding place, the child was frightened but kept quiet.

In the attic of the house next door my mother, brother and sister-in-law were hiding with a few month-old baby. When Gestapomen and Ukrainians appeared in the neighbour's attic, they wanted to escape so they climbed down the stairs from the attic but it turned out that Gestapomen and Ukrainians were sitting in the room getting drunk on cherry brandy [*wiśniak*] which they had found in the basement. They were so occupied with the brandy that they didn't notice the people coming down, who immediately stepped back up into the attic. But the child started to cry. My sister-in-law didn't have any breast milk or anything else that she could use to quiet the child. She covered it with a pillow and it turns out that the child suffocated.

A large number of the Jews worked in factories at that time. **[PAGE 6]** But they were taken from the factories, led to the town square and here they were sorted near the town hall. The most talented according to the advice of the foremen of the factories were released and the rest were kept in custody. Soon they were killed in the town square and the streets. The walls and pavements were literally splashed in blood. After the action, the house walls and pavements were cleaned with the taps of the town hall.

A terrible episode happened with Mrs Grynberg. The Ukrainians and Germans, who had broken into her house, found her giving birth. The weeping and entreaties of bystanders didn't help and she was taken from her home in a nightshirt and dragged into the square in front of the town hall. There, when the birth pangs started, she was dragged onto a dumpster in the yard of the town hall with a crowd of Ukrainians present, who cracked jokes and jeered and watched the pain of childbirth and she gave birth to a child. The child was immediately torn from her arms along with its umbilical cord and thrown—It was trampled by the crowd and she was stood on her feet as blood poured out of her with bleeding bits hanging and she stood that way for a few hours by the wall of the town hall, afterwards she went with all the others to the train station where they loaded her into a carriage in a train to Belzec.

In the night after the action, the Ukrainians went looking for places to rob. They went barefoot. Among other things they tried the outer lock of the niche where we were hiding and enclosed. Our hearts stopped beating, we died. My child already made no noise. In the action—September 1942—which lasted three days, 600-700 children were killed and 800-900 adults. The approximately 70 year-old Krasel Streifer was also shot **[PAGE 7]** in her bed then, because she couldn't walk. My

mother-in-law Jenta Gelernter, age 71, also died then. She was taken out of bed in a nightshirt; they didn't allow her to put anything else on. They shot her near the town hall because she couldn't walk quickly. The rest of the Jews who had been captured, approximately 2,000, were taken to Bełżec. During the trip, Stern escaped from the train. She told us that more people had escaped like that. She continued to explain that once at a station along the way, I don't remember where, hot steam was let into the car and people were burned, started to faint and choke. People were terribly tormented by thirst, especially pitiful was the children's situation, starving and dying of thirst. There were incidents of sating thirst with urine. Mrs Stern leapt out of the car leaving behind her four year-old daughter. That same Mrs Stern was caught in her shelter, which had been revealed by the crying and moaning of her two year-old child. When they heard that Germans and Ukrainians were near the shelter, people started yelling at Mrs Stern that her child would give them away. Then she covered the child with a pillow and when the shelter was found anyway, the child turned out to be suffocated.

Ukrainian *Siczowcy* [?this seems to be a name for a police force, but it might have some ethnographic origin?] specially brought from Drohobycz helped with the second action.

During the march to the train station in Bolechów for the transport to Bełżec, they had to sing, particularly the song "Little Town of Bełżec" [*miasteczko Bełżec*]. Whoever didn't take part in the singing was beaten bloody on the shoulders and head with rifle butts.

After this action, besides those hiding in bunkers, there remained in the town legally: [PAGE 8] Jewish workers, whom the German factory foremen had chosen

themselves, the Jewish militia and a few dozen people as well as women selected from among those to be transported under different pretexts by the militiamen and members of the Judenrat. Jewish workers, the distinguished specialists, were able to select their families through their German directors, but in most cases the wives didn't want to stay because their children weren't released with them. Many workers were hidden, so they couldn't intervene.

Jews worked at that time in the following factories: In Frisch and Hauptman's tanneries, in the leather factory of Landes (previously Feder-Rosenstrauch's), Griefla and Laufer-Altman's sawmill, Schorr's barrel workshop, the "Bonoma" chair factory, in Laufer-Altman's mill, Backenroth's refinery, [and] the factory for making wooden sandals—formerly Laufer-Altman's chair factory.

Beyond this, Jews worked in some offices above the factories, mostly as bookkeepers. They also worked as employees of the Strassensektion and Wasserwirtschaft, at road-work and regulation of the river Sukiel. The Germans ordered the Jewish specialists and officials to teach the Ukrainians all these skills which they themselves used by the end of January 1943. It was clear that at the end of January 1943—the 10th anniversary of Hitler's coming to power—they would liquidate everyone.

Even the newspapers proclaimed that running into Jews on the streets of the General-Governorship [i.e. the occupied territory] after January 1943 would be a rare occasion.

[PAGE 9] In approximately the middle of December 1942 there occurred a barracking of Jewish workers in the factories. To that end, the Jewish houses located

near factories were divided up. The main barracks were located: In Zimmerman's house near the refinery, in the workers' houses of Frisch near Frisch and Hauptman's tannery, in Russian Bolechów in Rosenbau's house, on the street with the streetcar in Ellendman's house and in the synagogue and house of Rabbi Perlow and in the house/tannery [??] of Razjler.

Around the barracks were built high clapboard fences. The Jewish militia monitored and was accountable for the people in the barracks.

Children weren't allowed to wander into the barracks, nor were the wives working yet. It was entirely forbidden for a man to live in one barrack with his wife and children. Many of the children younger than 13 received special permission from the Judenrat and in this way were with their mother regardless of the working status of their fathers. I personally know some examples of this. The wife of Bükl, Sara née Kornblitt, had in this way her little daughter Perla, age 10, with her. The daughter, age 10, of Mandl and Mariem (née Schächter).

It was obvious to the barracked workers that as valuable workers they might be left alone, that there wouldn't be another action and that nothing would threaten them. They were given proper identification and the Ukrainian militia had no jurisdiction over them. They also received patches with 'W' ('Wermacht' [sic]) and 'R' ('Rustung') to wear on their chests. They were forbidden to go far from the barracks. The barracked people were conducted to work under the guard of the Jewish militia. [PAGE 10] Those living outside of the barracks, therefore illegals, weren't allowed to come to the barracks. Indeed, they weren't even allowed to exist, or to be alive at all. Farmers brought food by the barracks for barter or sale, not completely understanding. In the barracks there were kitchens which cooked for all. There were

rations but so little that there wasn't enough for breakfast. Near the barracks there also lived Jewish doctors, who were allowed to live with their families. The doctors healed, gave out certificates of fitness to work; they were also dentists.

The Jewish militia were also barracked together, in Schneeweiss's house. Their families were partially with them. Actually, the Judenrat lost its purpose for existing. I don't remember if it was officially dissolved.

Of the doctors, I remember the following: Dr Dawid Landes at Hauptman's tannery, Dr Rintel [?] at the barrel-factory and sawmill of Griefel, Dr Altman and his wife at the Jewish hospital.

The rest of the Jews, that is, those who weren't workers or militia members, meaning illegals, had to move to the ghetto in Stryj, which happened, I think, near the end of December 1942. But many Jews hid themselves in bunkers and hiding places.

Testified: Matylda Gelernter

Recorded: Dr Abraham Feder

Katowice, 5 July 1946

[PAGE 11] Deposition about Bolechów

During the first action—October 1941—a veterinarian from Bolechów (a Pole, I don't remember his name) went with the militia and with his militia friends secretly warned the Jews and advised them to sell out, which helped in a lot of cases. The Germans themselves were suggesting selling out.

There were many Jews in Bolechów from nearby villages and little towns, where they weren't allowed to live. This reorganization came even before the first action. Thus, Jews from Roźniatów, Sokołów, Mizunia, Wełbirzy, Wygoda, Wyszaków and smaller villages moved to Bolechów. At that time one could only live in towns: Bolechów, Dolina, Kałusz.

During the second action, September 1942, the son of Bencion Schindler was taken again, but he tore the rifle out of a Ukrainian militiaman's hand and escaped through the courtyard and the fence. Afterwards, he was again caught and dragged into the courtyard of the town hall. But even from here, he jumped the fence and escaped again. A search-party was arranged and he was caught again and led to the Gestapo, where the Ukrainians wanted to shoot him. A Gestapo officer who happened by became interested in him and having heard about his escapes, instructed that they keep him alive so that he could take him into custody.

At the time of the shootings in Taniawa, near Bolechów, (October 1941) everyone had to strip and lay out everything they had with them. The Ukrainians, particularly the *siczowcy*, beat Jews over the head with stones. **[PAGE 12]** Those who were shot fell into the prepared grave, but many of them were only wounded. On the third day after the massacre in Taniawa, the mayor of Bolechów, the German Keller, approached the Judenrat to assign people to tidy up the grave. It soon became clear that the layer of earth, which had been poured over the grave, had been disturbed, mostly because of the swelling of the corpses. Only then did the people of Bolechów learn of the fate of the Jews who had been led into the forest. When the Jews were led to Taniawa to be shot, no one cried out, wept or begged for mercy. They even talked among themselves. On the "little bridge" the Jews threw torn up money, gold coins, watches and luxury items into the river.

Testified: Matylda Gelernter

Recorded: Dr Abraham Feder

Katowice, 8 July 1946.

BOLECHÓW Second Deposition of the testimony of Matylda Gelernter

In the first days after the departure of the Soviet forces, in the beginning of July 1941, when the occupying power still hadn't organized, the town's Ukrainians began to arrange things on their own, that is, to arrange pogroms. Jews were caught a few at a time, beaten in the streets, dragged to the courtyard of the town hall and walloped mercilessly. Certain people, especially young Jews, were specially sought out and killed. Łajka Szyndler, the daughter of Bencion, was killed then, taken out of her house in the evening. Her body was found on the street the next day. Gartenberg the wood merchant, Jojne Greenberg's son Lejzor.

They were called to the town square of Bolechów. Several thousand people gathered, most of them from villages. There were speakers, Ukrainians from town, among others, the physician Dr Harasimów, the Ukrainian priest and others. The priest said that the Jews are an accursed race, from accursed origins, a dangerous element, that they had to be destroyed. The Ukrainians decided on their own that Jews were allowed to walk in town one or two hours in the afternoon. The song "Death, death to the Jews" was sung.

Regarding the episode about the Grinberg's daughter, I remembered, that she was named Buzia Grinberg née Laufer from Russian Bolechów, wife of Srula Grinberg, sons Wolf and Bera Grinberg.

The Ukrainians' governance on their own lasted a few weeks. In the beginning, there were no Germans at all. Only Hungarian forces arrived and there were often even clashes between individual Ukrainians and Hungarians, who sort of kept the Ukrainians from murdering. [PAGE 2] Actually, the Ukrainians thought that they [the Hungarians] had more rights and could talk because they were themselves "Germans." Among the Ukrainians there were a huge number of armed people; even teenage boys carried rifles and were looking for opportunities to use them. Their moods usually got better for a few days before actions, which they knew about in advance.

In the period between the first action (October 1941) and the second (September 1942) the Germans always found some pressing tasks, like: cleaning the town, tidying up the ruins, cleaning out WCs, repairing bridges, etc. For this purpose, they demanded people from the Judenrat every day. The Judenrat had to arrange groups of Jews to work. Indeed, civilian Germans and Ukrainians had the right—and used it—to turn to the Judenrat for workers for their concerns. Beyond that, at this same time, the Germans demanded "teams of people." Everybody knew that these "teams" had been marked for death. The Judenrat itself organized searches and capturing of Jews from their hiding places and sheds, later from bunkers. The same "teams" were sent from smaller towns and all were sent to Stryj, where they were liquidated.

Incidents in which captured Jews escaped were very rare. This was mostly because people's spirits were broken and they were resigned to their fates. Besides that, the prospect of saving one's self by escaping was fleeting. Even if one was able to get out of places [PAGE 3] where escapees were hunted, then a just pace further one was threatened by the patrols, the Ukrainian militia and above all, armed youngsters. The civilian population also willingly informed on the escapees and helped capture them.

During the period when there was an order to turn in furs (Winter 1941), as a guaranty the Germans demanded that the order would be carried out without the other people, by hostages from the Judenrat. The Judenrat selected about a dozen people, among others: the lawyer Zalmen Szuster, Haftla Hersz's son Jonas, Jäckel Harak's son-in-law Dawid Nims, Brückensztein's son the haberdasher. The Germans held them for the period of the fur collection, 14 days, and then for a several day period to repeat. The category of "fur" was even understood as a collar of cat fur on the coat for a few year-old child. In this approximately 16-18 day period when they held the agents, they were replaced twice. Jews gave everything, they pushed for it themselves and monitored [the word 'kontrolować' is like German 'kontrollieren' and has that same untranslatable meaning] it by fits and starts, in order to save the town from disaster. It was on pain of death. It presumably had to do with fur that had to be given up. Also in the winter of 1941/42.

In the first action (October 1941), on the 28th about 1,200 people were led to the Dom Katolicki and after Rabbi Landau's eyes were gouged out, he was ordered to dance. He did this macabre dance naked with the wife of the lawyer Leon Frydman, with

Szancia from the house of Rajzler, also stripped naked. After the dance, Rabbi Landau was led and thrown into the loo several times in a row and taken out. I don't know where he died. But I was told about what happened in the Dom Katolicki by ?..epka? Halpern, who got herself out of there.

[PAGE 4] About 2,500 people died in the second action. Among others, there died: The sister of Frydman the lawyer — Mr Frydek Frydman [i.e. the 'mgr.' means that he has a master's degree], with her child and mother, Hunie Neumann, the mother of Rabbi Horowitz, two sisters and his son, Bajnisz Fruchter, Gecel Türkel, Juda Diamant, Jakub Krauthammer with his wife and sons: Neche?mie?, Wolf and Srulo, (his fourth son Iro, a lawyer, died before this from tuberculosis). Rokach — son-in-law of Majer Krauthammer with his wife and children and sister-in-law, the barbers Gertner Rosenberg and Zwiling. Zeli Kaufman was taken to be beaten but he died in the presence of the Gestapo-men of a heart attack. In the contingent action, Dawid Minc and Ajzyk Rottweld were taken. Dr Grünberg, Kurzer's son-in-law died in hospital in Stryj, Lejzor Landau — the rabbi's brother — asked the Jewish militia if there was any hope that he would be released and took poison. In 1942, Gestapo-men from Drohobycz arrived and took Jews individually. Bumo Krauthammer, Pipes, Jankel Rottweld were taken that way with many others to Drohobycz. Some, thanks to the efforts of the Judenrat of Drohobycz were bought back (Krauthammer) and stayed in Stryj.

The Judenrat had its own warehouses and storerooms. They sent carts to other towns for goods with Jewish people who received special passes for this reason. A lot of people were hungry, and even died from hunger and exposure. The Judenrat managed a public kitchen in a synagogue on Kazimierz Street, "Poilische Klotz." [??] The Germans gave rations at stiff prices. The Bolechów Judenrat received goods for

Stryj. There were many who need and took advantage of the kitchen. Generally it was soup without "slop"-grease, just warm liquid. Long queues stood outside the kitchen. [PAGE 5] There were big-time merchants, traders, even lawyers, like Dr Bickel. It was no less a great help for the populace. A few were ashamed to stand in the queue, like Ajzyk Schorr, the Bergers. Others took soup and carried it to these people. Many went to houses to beg a piece of bread or food. Some of the Bolechów Jews gave out bread a few times a week: the dentist Majer Tepper, Adolf and Srulo Adler, the wife of the militiaman Lejzor Rotbaum from Słobody. Dentists were doing well because they had a gentile clientele. They also sold gold crowns that Jews had removed and traded for cash.

After each action, the Germans thought, and the Ukrainians rejoiced, that there would be more products now for Aryans because the 'jüdisches Gesindel [Jewish mob]' wouldn't swallow so much any more. People were swollen and many fell dead on the streets from hunger.

Thus, for example, Srul the son-in-law of Jojł Szpigel, the lawyer Iro Krauthammer (who died of Tuberculosis), Łacja Epstein, N.A. Engel. The Jews who had been driven into Bolechów out of the neighbouring area hungered especially and starved to death. They usually didn't have anything to sell or indeed to trade. The contingents [*kontygentowcy*], who were usually kept for a few days, so the majority of Jews from Bolechów and the neighbouring areas had been taken, also starved and fainted, because they weren't given food or drink. They pleaded to be shot, because they couldn't stand the starvation and thirst. The Judenrat and the Jewish militia, in whose ranks there were people who were tormented because of this, were in no state to help. They were threatened with death for it by the Ukrainian militia, who were just waiting for such opportunities. In terms of one's morals, one forgot about that

capacity. **[PAGE 6]** There were very often dissolutions of young marriages; after the wives split from their husbands, they lived with the militias—Jewish and Gentile—but with those who had power or lots of money. Nobody was bothered by this, not least because this was a very common and everyday occurrence.

The main issue indeed, after hiding one's self and constantly waiting for orders, which always brought some misfortune—was food, a piece of bread. You could see people and children, who were so thin that the skin on their faces—on the rear-ends of the children—was hanging so that it looked like a thin piece of dirty canvas. The children's legs were thin sticks, it was strange that they could move around with these hands and feet. Their colour was doughy-yellow, and it happened that children died after eating a large piece of bread. Their heads were almost completely bare craniums, with faded balls in their eye-sockets.

The local boys brought various things into town after the actions: watches, glasses, necklaces, purses and so on. These were the property of those from the town who were imprisoned or had been killed, given away before the shootings or thrown along the road as they were led. It was only after the first action that the Jewish populace convinced itself that people were being led not to work, as we had been deluded before, but really to death.

[PAGE 7] The members and functionaries of the Judenrat before the second action (September 1942):

Chairmen [abrv. for Obmänner]: Dr Israel Szindler (lawyer) and Dr Leon Goldszlak (lawyer); Prof Pasternak (headmaster of the school [*gimnazjum*]); Israel Landes

(important merchant and trader); Ozjasz Kurz (trader); Sejlig and Lejzor Gruss (traders); Szulim Ungar (trader); Hersz Klajnbart (trader); Dr Isaak Szuster (lawyer); Mgr Załman Szuster (lawyer)—all Zionists except for Lejzor Rothbaum from the village of Słoboda near Bolechów and Backenroth from Weldziza—independents.

The Militia, up to the second action:

Head: The lawyer Pressler, Hersz Grinberg, Hersz Kaufmann, who was killed by the Ukrainian militia with rifle butts during the time of his servitude. Weissbard from Russian Bolechów, Dolek Kopel, Richter the son-in-law of Händel, Josel Wilf, Mendel Papper, Szyje Artman, who was killed in December 1942—because two illegals had been found in the barracks; at night he was led in his underwear to the cemetery and killed there. Punio Haftel, taken to the Gestapo in Stanisławów on the charge that he bribed the Ukrainian militia; Lejzor Reiss, [handwritten:] Jakub Freilich, ... [unreadable]. Finally, these following four are those who acted miserably in the book of the Jews of Bolechów: Izio Schmer, Henek Kopel, Elo Feintuch ('der bejder' [?Yiddish word?]), Josberg Bumo. [handwritten:] And Freilich (Jakub's brother).

After the second action, approximately in November 1942, when the Judenrat became irrelevant and it seems that after it was eliminated, they went from the Judenrat to the Militia: Dr Leon Goldszlak, Prof Pasternak, Hersz Kleinbard, the Gruss brothers and Lejzor Rotbaum, who was particularly solid and honest, bought back Jews with his own money. **[PAGE 8]** His wife baked using her own funds and distributed it to the needy. There was often a queue in front of her door. The whole time he kept "a barrack" and didn't eat regularly.

Besides him, it seems that the behaviour of the Jewish militiamen Hersz Grinberg and Dolek Kopel was good.

Some of the barracked people who worked: Dr Dawid Kurzer, who worked in the mill; Józef Landes, who worked in the tannery; Elo Ellenman in the printer's; Mojżesz Rottfeld, Józek Laufer and Mrs Grinberg, the daughter of Abraham Kurzer.

Recorded:

Dr Abraham Feder

Testified:

Matylda Gelernter

Katowice, 6 August 1946