

Type of document: Handwritten letter to attorney Estera Epstein, written by Henryk Gliksman

Language: Polish

Date: March 11, 1949, Bad Nauheim, Germany

Dear Mrs. Attorney Epstein,

In connection with my hearing in the Jewish Court of Honor I would like to notify you that I received a call from the local Jewish Community. They interrogated me today. They read me the entire series of (...) accusations and I responded to them one by one. I have to emphasize that none of the accusations were true and some of them contain ridiculous lies. I am asking myself for what purpose I am accused of such things. On an allegation, that I was hitting people with a truncheon, shouting, "sons of bitches you do not want to work." I refused to respond to such absurd allegations. Another allegation relates to my activity as a foreman at the Ostbahn (Eastern Railway). The accusation lies in the premises that I sent contingents of people to exhaustion. It is so insolent that it is hard to respond to that. Everyone in the ghetto knew that sometimes after a group of people left the main gate, part of the group was taken away, I think, if I am not mistaken, it happened twice, but always two of us, Zopast, and I were powerless as foremen.

One of these two groups was sent to Skarzysko and the other one to Bliziny. This accusation relates to my work at the Ostbahn, owing to which I gained so much recognition and built trust with the ZOB (Zydowska Organizacja Bojowa) or the Jewish Combat Organization. I was dedicated to sacrifice. Next accusation encompassed the issue of hard labor. They presumed that I gave preferential treatment to people with money and would send poor people to hard labor in Rakow concentration camp. I can assure you that you will not find even one Jew from Rakow concentration camp who would testify under oath that they ever had given me even one grosz (cent) for a better treatment. My hands are completely clean. As I already told you before, the financial matters were handled by a designated group of people. I was not part of that group.

Next accusation dealt with my refusal of providing clothes and giving haircuts to the laborers returning from the forest works. Owing to their appearance they could be easily recognized by German inspections. I remember this accident very well. This was in the early days of regimentation. All of us were in the stables and workshops. Many people came from the woods and from the ghetto's hideouts. They managed to stay in safety in Rakow labor camp.

These two laborers and that is confirmed by the witnesses were noticed by Germans who entered the camp. The Germans made a big deal out of it and assembled everyone for inspection. The Germans found them and took them away.

In those days an old forarbjaters (Sic!) were in charge. I just came to Rakow concentration camp only a few days before that and Wermachtleiter (Sic!) didn't want to recognize me as a foreman. I had to do regular work, in particular it was unloading wagons. Then we did not have clothing warehouse or barber or even a (...). How anybody can make me responsible for that. When it was possible to help somebody I always did everything I could to help. For example, at the Railway station I took from the train bound to Auschwitz Dr. Rusiski and his wife. I gave them working clothes and tools and after that brought them to the camp.

Next accusation relates to inhuman treatment of people and sending a group of laborers to Skarzysko to work without proper clothes. It was, however, oppositely, I took care of those with the whole dedication. I brought extra food and hot water from a Polish kitchen and in a short time put these people back on their feet. Every misery and pain troubled my heart and I did everything I could to improve the situation. I also helped with the organization of preferential care and feeding of the medical patients. Unfortunately, I could not dress them better. We lacked clothes and shoes. I am sure you are aware of other accusations against me. I responded to them in my statement, which I submitted to the local community. This document was also passed to Munchen. I am referring to a number of witnesses, mostly from Munchen, who can testify about my role truthfully.

I will be waiting for your instructions of what I suppose to do now. If you need me to come over for further explanations I will come in no time.

Sincerely,

Henryk Gliksman