

(Reprinted from the Częstochowa *Głos Narodu*)

## The Nazi Bandit Shall Hang at the Scaffold



*The murderer Köstner before the court*

Köstner was a typical German gendarme, who willingly volunteered for service as early as 1931. Born in Sońnica [in Wrocław County], Śląsk, he was fluent in Polish. Like all renegades, he was distinguished for his German obedience and heartlessness. Known for being a sadist, with another one of Hitler's bandits, Laszynski, he was appointed to liquidate the so-called "Small Ghetto." His and his friend's qualifications of cruelty and bestiality exceeded those of the hitherto commander of the ghetto, Zoppart. When the

German authorities discovered, in the summer of 1943, that the Jewish Fighting Organisation was preparing for military resistance, they found it necessary to delegate Köstner and Laszynski, as specially-qualified killers, to "liquidate" the remainder of the Jewish populace, which had been pressed into the few narrow streets of the eastern part of the city.

Köstner carried his duties out brilliantly. In his testimony, he declared that he did not remember exactly how many people he had murdered with his own hands. It may have been 300 or even 800 people. At the trial, he became a little more modest and maintained that he had massacred "only" twenty-two individuals. But, over the course of the trial, it emerged that his modesty did not correspond at all with the horrific reality. We heard the statements and accusations of people, who had gone through the whole hell of the ghetto - the bestial terror of the liquidation of thousands of brothers and sisters. With tears in their eyes, Owieczka, Konieczpolski, Szpic, Kromołowski [and] Zerkowicz spoke about the events which they had witnessed and lived through. They had been forced to look on as Köstner cold-bloodedly shot young children and defenceless old people - as the heartless bandit raised a little girl by her hair and, holding her in this manner, shot several bullets into her heart.



*In the courtroom during Köstner's trial  
- the victims present their testimony*

Yet all these incidents are "unimportant" fragments of Köstner's "activities". The prosecutor, Kaszyński, exposed his true face and his bloody role in their full horror. He characterised the whole German nation as a "slavish brute", which carries out any order mindlessly - however inhuman or bestial it may be. Hitler was the one who knew the psyche of the German people best. He, the greatest criminal in the history of mankind, merely continued the lessons of Friedrich Wilhelm [Nietzsche], who maintained that the German people could only be educated with a rod. Amongst the entire German nation, not even a single voice of protest was heard against all these orders of Hitler - orders which were a denial of any human manner of waging war, if war can be [considered] human at all. One, such as Köstner and his fellow countrymen, did not even consider not following their leader's orders - because, then, there would not have been a war at all. For them, "legal" was

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anything that served the German nation according to the principles of Hans Frank<sup>1</sup>, who was hung in Nuremberg (1946) by judgement of the International Tribunal.

The German people's sacred bible was Hitler's *Mein Kampf* - the book which is the essence of hate and murder. It is upon these principles that Hitler set out to build the German Reich, which was to last a thousand years. Fortunately, he did not succeed in this, even with the assistance of those such as Köstner who, without any twinge of conscience, murdered hundreds of people, whose only crime was that they belonged to the Jewish nation.

If the principles of humanity and humanitarianism have any significance at all, such murderers, whose entire activity was so horrendous [and] inhuman, must receive the penalty of being [forever] ostracised from human society - the penalty of death.

After the prosecutor, the lawyer Idzkowski, whom the court had officially appointed to defend the accused, took the floor. He declared that the accused had only been a cog in the heartless Hitler machine, which had murdered millions of innocent people without the slightest scruple. He also attested that the whole world was to blame, for not having halted the gangrene of Hitler's plague in Germany in time, nor afterwards, once it had spread across the globe.

Köstner was sentenced to death.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: Head of the General Government in Poland during the Second World War.]