

Witness Zöller

Int.: What did you think when you received the order?

Zöller: That it would work out somehow. I never thought that there would be shots fired or anything like that. That wasn't in my thoughts at all. The thought was, ok, we'll go out and then there will be a handover, they'll fly away and then everything will go back to normal, hopefully. But then we knew that there was the shooting in Connolly Street. Just between us we thought, and we also talked – the president and I – that it would all work out. [...]

Int.: When you arrived there, what do you remember about it?

Zöller: Well the roads were clear. We had the flashing lights on and we had no problems getting to the tower. And the entire command center was set up there. The president said, "Zöller, you wait in the car" – we drove almost to the tower and the helicopters were already there and the airplane that was supposed to fly the hostages out was also already standing by. Was it all already illuminated? I can't say. I don't think it was lit up yet – I just can't say anymore. I've said it before in an interview. But I think it wasn't lit up yet, the helicopter with the hostages and the airplane. So, then I also went in and waited, like the other colleagues, to see what was being discussed and how it should continue. I can't say anymore how long it took until the shooting and the explosion. Half an hour or three quarters of an hour – I can't say exactly. In any case, there were suddenly explosions and there was confusion and orders as to what should be done, which I only heard sort of in the background.

Int.: Do you remember how many people were in the tower with you ?

Zöller: Yes, there were 20 or so. There were so many police chiefs – also from Munich and Upper Bavaria, and then the politicians, who discussed with the police chiefs in advance which measures to take. I did not hear what those measures were. [...]

Int.: What happened after the explosions?

Zöller: After the explosions, the Bundeswehr people, of whom there were many, the ambulance troops, etc., brought in the body of the BGS officer from the police helicopter. He was already dead. And then things happened so fast and suddenly they brought in three terrorists. One was injured and two were uninjured. Then my police chief or vice-president said, "Zöller, you take him and drive him to Stadelheim prison." And he assigned another colleague, I don't remember the name. He was not from here. [...] You two drive this one to Stadelheim now. I put the handcuffs on him. Then they told me not to go out the front, because the press was at the main gate, but to go out the back – the Maisach gate. Well, I knew my way around, because we used to be at the airbase a lot, and so we drove back to the Maisacher gate – it was closed! It was closed and there was no one there who could have let us out. There were Bundeswehr soldiers milling around there but nobody could open the gate. Nor were we supposed to use the police lights. So we took the light off the car and then we said, what are we going to do now? So I just drove out in front gate instead, where the press was. There were pictures in the Stern magazine or somewhere and they took pictures of us. Then we took the B 471 road – the old one – at full throttle and drove out over the autobahn and the Mittlerer Ring road to Stadelheim. I then got angry at him in the car – I saw that he was sitting in the back with his colleague. He was grinning, grinning and laughing. What I said then I can't repeat here. If you see something like that, well. I was still quite young, not yet so mature. Then we delivered him to Stadelheim. I knew colleagues from the penal system there, because I was at Stadelheim from time to time with work.

So I had to sit down for a bit there and have a drink – coffee or water. Then we drove back out to Fürstenfeldbruck, or I wanted to drive back out, but then over the police radio I heard that the vice president had gone to Munich with someone else. So I went home to Winzerstraße, parked the car. I didn't live far away and I went home and of course I couldn't sleep.