

Two Prisoners' Testaments from Chelmno

The two following testaments were written by Jewish prisoners in the Chelmno death camp and found there after the war.

[1]

These are the Jews who have worked in Kulmhof (Chelmno) between Kolo and Dabie in the death camp:

Herszkowicz, Josef of Kutno

Plocker, Mojsze of Kutno

Plocker, Fajwel of Kutno

Szlamowicz, Szyje of Grabow near Lodz

Radkiewicz, Nojeh-Wolf of Lodz

Charach, Chaskel of Leczyca

Wachtel, Simche of Leczyca

Wachtel, Jisroel-Chaim of Leczyca

Jastrzebski, Beniek of Leczyca

Sztrasburg, Ojser of Lutomiersk

Stajer, Gecl of Turek

These are the last Jews who worked for the Gestapo in Chelmno, which is situated between Dabie und Kolo. These are the last days of our lives so we give a signal maybe there still will be relatives or acquaintances of these persons. So you shall know all Jews who were sent away from Litzmannstadt (Lodz) were killed in a very cruel manner they were tortured and burnt. Goodbye. If you survive you must take revenge.

[2]

2 April 1943

This note is written by people who will live for only a few more hours. The person who will read this note will hardly be able to believe that this is true. Still, this is the tragic truth, since place your brothers and sisters stayed, and

they, too, died the same death! The name of this locality is Kolo. At a distance of 12 km from this town [Chelmno] there is a 'slaughterhouse' for human beings. We have worked here as craftsmen there [illegible word], I can give you their names.

Pinkus Grun of Wloclawek

Jonas Lew of Brzeziny

Szama Ika of Brzeziny

Zemach Szumiraj of Wloclawek

Jesyp Majer of Kalisz

Wachtel Symcha of Leczyca

Wachtel Srulek of Leczyca

Beniek Jastrzebski of Leczyca

Nusbaum Aron of Skepe

Ojser Strasburg of Lutomiersk

Mosiek Plocker of Kutno

Felek Plocker of Kutno

Josef Herszkowicz Plocker of Kutno

Chaskel Zerach of Leczyca

Wolf Szlamowicz of Kalisz

Gecel of Turek

These are, then, the persons' names which I give here. These are only a few people from among the hundreds of thousands who died here!

Source: Kleinman, Yehudit and Dafni, Reuven (Eds.). *Final Letters – From the Yad Vashem Archive*, London 1991, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, pp. 119-122.