

Grojanowski Report

Report on the extermination of Jews in Chelmno, written in 1942 by the *Oneg Shabbat* Archives of the Warsaw Ghetto. The report was based on the statements of Jacob Grojanowski, the first person to escape Chelmno.

In January 1942 Grojanowski was rounded up with other Jews from his hometown and deported to Chelmno, an extermination camp near Lodz, Poland. He was forced to work there burying the Jews and Gypsies who had been murdered in gas vans. In February Grojanowski escaped the camp and traveled to the Warsaw ghetto. He then gave testimony to the ghetto's archives, headed by Emanuel Ringelblum, regarding his experiences in Chelmno. This included a detailed description of the way people were murdered in gas vans, and the procedure that followed—including the removal of the corpses from the vans, cleaning the inside of the vans, and burying the bodies in large pits. Grojanowski also described his escape, the bleak condition of the prisoners forced to deal with the dead, and the brutality of the murderers.

Oneg Shabbat wrote up their report in Polish and German; the Polish version was sent to the *Delegatura*, the underground representatives of the Polish government-in-exile, while the German copy was meant for the German people, to evoke their compassion for the Jews.