

## Leon Weliczker Wells (1925-2009)



Profession: PhD engineer

1925: Born in Stojanów, father a timber merchant;  
1936 the family moved to Lviv

1941: The entire Weliczker family in the ghetto; Leon is sent to the Janowska forced labour camp

1942: Because of illness he is to be shot. He flees, returns to Lviv in December to join his brothers

1943: Assigned in June to the Death Brigade, the Lviv Commando 1005, which has to dig up and burn bodies. During his imprisonment he secretly keeps a diary. On

19.11.1943 he manages to escape when the death brigade breaks out. Together with 23 other Jews he is hidden for four months by the Polish farmer Kalwinski

1944: At the liberation of Lviv the only survivor of 76 family members

1946: studies in Gliwice; extracts of Weliczker's diary are published in Poland under the title "Brygada śmierci"

1947: Studies at the TH Munich; together with Max Hoenig and David Manusevych, arrests SS-Hauptscharführer Johann Rauch

1949: doctorate; emigration to the USA; works as lecturer and engineer

1961: On May 1-2, 1961 Witness in Eichmann trial

2009: Died of cancer in Fort Lee. His body was cremated, as per his wishes, having said, that his people had gone that way

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In the last few weeks, the death brigade has been organizing a risky rescue operation:

*»Our marching-out ceremony looks today the same as on any other day, except that today our corpse carriers have lumps of sugar in their pockets; they are for the 'living corpses', those, who have not been killed by the bullets ... Today, as we had expected, we have many 'living corpses'. Some of them are slightly wounded, some not at all. This explains why some of the corpses we had seen on the „sands“, those killed months before, had open mouths and no bullet wounds – they had been buried alive, as these present victims will be if we can't rescue them. Clothing, with sugar in the pockets, is left beside these 'bodies'. Two of us take two pairs of shoes and put money in them, with exact directions as to how to escape from this place ... The clothing left last night was gone this morning, which meant that the 'corpses' had escaped.«*

(Wells, The Janowska Road, October 26, 1943, pp. 205f.)

Sources: Weliczker Wells, The Janowska Road (2014 ed.); Angrick, „Aktion 1005“; Pohl, Ostgalizien; Hoffmann, Das kann man nicht erzählen