

The Józefek couple: † 1943



Bronislaw Józefek and Maria, née Slowicz, ran a farm near Lviv. Further data have not yet been compiled.

During the German occupation Bronislaw Józefek also worked as a paver. The couple began to hide six Jews.

1943: On 19.11. the "death brigade" tried to escape from the forced labour camp Janowska; 26 fugitives were hidden by the Józefeks.

The hiding place was discovered at the beginning of December. Most of the hidden persons were able to flee - four were killed.

For deterrence, Bronislaw and Maria Józefek were executed in mid-December.

Leon Weliczker reports about their fate in his book "The Janowska Road". He calls the couple "Juzek", as he heard and kept the name. The married couple Józefek (Juzek) wanted to save lives and became victims. Until now there is no public commemoration of them.

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Leon Weliczker, who is being hidden by the farmer Kalwinski on the outskirts of Lviv with other Jews in an earth bunker under the stable, is told about the „Juzeks“ in early December:

»December 6, 1943; in the evening. As usual the owner came down, but this time he seemed very nervous. We realized immediately that something was amiss. He told us that in a neighbor's house, the Juzeks, only a few hundred yards from there, thirty-two Jews had been discovered. The hideout had been reported to the Germans by Juzek's own brother-in-law. From the thirty-two, twenty-six were from the Death Brigade, and among them was our leader, Herches. While they were being led to the truck, they had made a sudden attack on the Germans, and twenty-eight of the thirty-two escaped.

Juzek and his wife had been arrested ... Our host was very much afraid that the discovery of Jews in the neighborhood would lead to a search of all the houses.«
(Weliczker, The Janowska Road, S. 234)

The last four of the Jews discovered were surrounded by the policemen because three of them did not want to abandon the fourth - they were all brothers and he was wounded.

Sources: Weliczker Wells, The Janowska Road; Weekly report Polish resistance movement 12-19.12; Announcement of the SSPF Galicia, 14.12.1943; Kovba, Lyudyanist