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**On 6 June 1943 Moshe and Binyamin Wald describe their survival in the western part of District Radom**[[1]](#footnote-1)

Two letters from Moshe Wald[[2]](#footnote-2) and Binyamin Wald[[3]](#footnote-3) to their relatives, dated 6 June 1943

Dear Aliza and Shlomo Wald,[[4]](#footnote-4)

Today is 6 June 1943. I, Binyamin, and my father, Moshe Wald, are the only ones of the whole family still alive. Already nine months ago our relatives went to Treblinka – my mother[[5]](#footnote-5) and my brother Jakob[[6]](#footnote-6) from Sydłowiec, and the other [family members] from Tomaszów [Mazowiecki].

Chana and Estera (Shlomo’s mother)[[7]](#footnote-7) were visiting us five months ago. They were with us in Sydłowiec for two months and went to perform [forced] labour in Pionki.[[8]](#footnote-8) Fate accompanies my father and me from town to town, from village to village. There are good people who hide us, but the [attitude of the] majority is very bitter and happy about the fate of our people. Our lives are very bitter, but we want to survive the war to take vengeance on the Germans and also on most of the Poles for the fate of [our] people. And now we have no place to stay with [Polish] people, so we are forced to go to the forest and live there by the sword.[[9]](#footnote-9)

Perhaps we will survive and see you once again, and if not, may peace be upon you.

But remember: revenge against our enemies is permitted and must be extreme.

And the people of Israel, if they want to live and prevent what happened to those in Poland from happening again – which I cannot write about, because it was much worth than death – must be like other nations, to be a people apart, with [their own] territory, with [their own] army. To think only what is good for the homeland, on behalf of the murdered people, I appeal to my brothers to work tirelessly for our homeland, because Eretz Yisrael was our hope until the last moment. And in the last moment we saw how wrong our path [in the diaspora] was.

There would be much more to write, but our hearts and souls are sick, and it is not worth writing about us, for we are but the few who have remained of the many.

I send greetings to my land [Eretz Yisrael] and to my fellow Israeli brothers and all of my relatives.

One of the last,

Binyamin Wald

Today our names are Stanisław and Tadeusz Sakalski.

We have enclosed two pictures of ourselves as keepsakes.[[10]](#footnote-10)

1. YVA, O-75/184, fol. 1–2. The first letter has been translated from Yiddish and the second from Hebrew. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Moshe Wald (1899–1985), businessman; lived in Łódź prior to Sept. 1939; fled with his family first to Tomaszów Mazowiecki, and then to Szydłowiec in late 1942; avoided deportation along with his son Binyamin in Nov. 1943; thereafter hid in various locations and served with the Home Army; emigrated to Sweden in 1947; lived in Israel, 1950–1952; thereafter lived in the US. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Binyamin Wald, later Yaari (1925–2006); member of the Akiba youth association; lived in Łódź prior to Sept. 1939, then in Szydłowiec; imprisoned along with his mother, brother, and father in 1942; escaped with his father; lived under an ‘Aryan’ identity in Częstochowa, then served in the Home Army; emigrated to Palestine in 1945. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Aliza and Shlomo Wald were Binyamin Wald’s aunt and cousin, who had emigrated to Palestine before the war. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Chana Wald, née Ayzenberg (1889–1943), housewife; originally from Działoszyce; lived in Łódź prior to Sept. 1939; murdered in Treblinka. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Jakob Wald (1928–1943), younger son of Moshe Wald; murdered in Treblinka. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Estera Wald, née Bornshteyn (1892–1944), housewife; originally from Łódź; lived in Tomaszów Mazowiecki prior to Sept. 1939; lived in the Tomaszów ghetto during the war; perished in Auschwitz. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. A forced labour camp was located in Pionki, in which approximately 1,000 inmates produced armaments. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. This expression is taken from Genesis 27:40, in which Isaac blesses Esau: ‘And by thy sword shalt thou live, and thou shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt break loose, that thou shalt shake his yoke from off thy neck.’ [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Not included in the file. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)