

ALEKSANDER MILEWSKI

1. Personal details (name, surname, rank, field mail number, age, occupation, marital status):

Gunner Aleksander Milewski, born in 1918, farmer, unmarried; field mail number 163.

2. Date and circumstances of arrest:

During the raid in Augustów on 20 July 1940, arrested and imprisoned in Grodno.

3. Name of the camp, prison, place of forced labor:

Komi ASRR, Vorkuta camp.

4. Description of the camp, prison, etc. (grounds, buildings, living conditions, hygiene):

Tundra. Stuffed in tents, without warm food, we were freezing, and the hygienic conditions were so terrible that the mortality rate was extremely high.

5. Identity of the prisoners, prisoners of war, exiles (nationality, crime types, intellectual and moral level, mutual relations, etc.):

The prisoners were Poles, Jews, Lithuanians, Romanians, and others. Some of the deportees were captured during manhunts, some were exiled for refusal to accept Soviet citizenship, while others were deported because they were Polish settlers etc. Relations between the prisoners were good, but the NKVD authorities tormented us morally and physically.

6. Life in the camp, prison, etc. (average day, working conditions, quotas, pay, food, clothing, social and cultural life):

We worked in a coal mine in terrible conditions. It was impossible to meet the quotas. The food was so poor that hunger decimated people. Ragged and exhausted, rushed and demeaned, we waited for the day of deliverance.

7. Attitude of the NKVD authorities towards Poles (investigation methods, torture, punishments, communist propaganda, information about Poland, etc.):

Suspected of spying, I was beaten during the interrogation because they wanted to force me to plead guilty. Finally, I was sentenced in absentia to three years of forced labor in a labor camp.

8. Medical care, hospitals, mortality (list the names of those who died):

There was a doctor in the camp, but dismissal from work was only possible if one had a fever of 39 degrees.

9. Describe the kind of communication you had with your family and country, if there was any?

There was none.

10. When were you released and how did you get into the army?

14 September 1941. After wandering for a long time, hungry, and in terrible hygienic conditions (typhus epidemic) [illegible] in the hospital, I made it to the Polish Army.

15 March 1943