

A Farewell Letter Written by a Member of the Sonderkommando in Birkenau

In 1980 a farewell note written in Greek was found at the site of crematorium no. 3 in Birkenau (Auschwitz). Yad Vashem received a copy of it from the Auschwitz Museum. The note, which seems to be incomplete, was probably written by one of the members of the Jewish *Sonderkommando* who worked there.

To my dear ones,

Dimitrios Athanasios Stephanidis, Ilias Cohen, Georgios Gunaris and all my close friends, Smaru Eframidu of Athens and other friends whom I will always remember, and finally to my beloved fatherland, Greece, whose faithful citizen I have always been.

I left Athens on 2 April 1944 after going through torture for months in the Haidari concentration camp, where all the time I received packages from the good-hearted Sfaru, and all that she tried to do for me remains in my memory forever in these terrible days which I am now experiencing.

Source: Yehudit Kleinman and Reuven Dafni (Eds.), *Final Letters from the Yad Vashem Archives*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London 1991, p. 122.