

At Chelmno the first victims were mainly Jews from the Lodz ghetto who were told, like the Jews of Riga, that they were to be resettled. They were transported to the camp, mostly in railway freight cars, taken to a cellar changing room by guards posing as medical staff, told to deposit their clothes for disinfection and their money and valuables for safekeeping, and sent on in groups of fifty or sixty up an inclined ramp following signs "To the bath". At the end was a large truck with steel sides and roof. As Adolf Eichmann related in his own papers concerning his trip to Chelmno, they were packed inside, the doors were closed and locked, after which they were driven off into the woods. There a group of work-Jews was waiting for them beside a trench grave they had dug. The driver stopped at the edge of the grave and pushed a button which diverted the exhaust gas from the truck's motor into the sealed body of the truck. When the people inside the truck were dead, the doors were opened, the bodies removed, checked for gold teeth and hidden valuables, and then thrown into the awaiting graves.

