Translation of the Commemorative Scroll
Placed inside the Memorial to the Jews of Warkowitz and Ozeran
Holon Cemetery
Bat Yam, Israel

This monument was erected in 1984 in memory of the two communities of Warkowitz and Ozeran, which were exterminated by the German Nazis and their Ukrainian helpers in 1942. The founders of the monument are former residents of Warkowitz and Ozeran and now Israel. Some left the two towns before the Shoah and had relatives murdered there, and some who miraculously survived the Shoah and arrived in Israel or other countries by the end of the Second World War. They all contributed to the monument.

The towns, Warkowitz and Ozeran, about five kilometers apart, were in Volhyn [Western Ukraine] between the cities of Rovno and Dubno on the railway axis of Kiev-Lvov. The address during the Polish period of rule until the Second World War was: Warkowicze or Ozierany, Powiat [County] Dubno, Wodjewódstwo [Province], Wołyńskie [Volhynia]. Today in the year 1984, the area is under the rule of the Soviet Union, and the address is Varkovichi or Ozeryany, Rayon [District] Dubno, Oblast [Province] Rovno, USSR.

On June 22, 1941, the day Germany attacked [by 1941, that portion of Poland was occupied by the Soviet Union], the town of Warkowitz had a population of about 1,500 Jews, and Ozeran had about 950 at that time. Several dozen Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi terror from Western Poland were also found in the two towns. On June 25, 1941, four [sic] days after the outbreak of the War, the Nazis militia destroyed the two towns, and only a few Jews managed to escape eastward into Soviet territory before the Germans arrived. From the moment of the invasion, a process of murder began, first of individuals and then mass murder. After about two months of the German occupation, the Jews of Warkowitz were forced into a ghetto surrounded by a picket fence, an area less than half the town's size. Into this crowded ghetto of all the town's Jews, the Germans added the Jews of Ozeran.

Humiliation, dispossession, robbery, abuse, hard labor, starvation, and torture were the lot of the Jews of Warkowitz and Ozeran for months until their murder. On 27 Tishrei—Oct 8, 1942, four days after Simchat Torah—the Jews in the Warkowitz ghetto, 2,400 men, women, boys, girls, and children, were herded into pits, previously dug up by Russian prisoners in the forest east of the town. There they were shot to death by the German soldiers and Ukrainian police.
On that day, the Nazi oppressor snuffed out the light of life of two glorious communities of Warkowitz and Ozeran, and they ceased to exist. A small handful of Jews managed to escape the ghetto, and most of them were captured and murdered afterward. Only a few remained alive, hiding in the woods, in the fields, or with the Czech farmers in the surrounding villages. Those who remained were freed from the terror of death with the withdrawal of the Germans and the occupation of the area by the Red Army in February 1944.

The massacre survivors scattered everywhere before they had an opportunity to erect a tombstone on the mass grave in the Warkowitz forest, and certainly not for the graves whose burial place is unknown. To this day, in the year 1984, erecting a tombstone there is impossible.

Witness that this Memorial, remembrance, and names, were established here in the land of Israel for the martyrs of Warkowitz and Ozeran—the two towns that were and are no more.

May they rest in peace!

The day of remembrance is set for the 27th of Tishrei.