



The chronicles of my Mother Adele Glaser: From Fürth to Belzec 1939 - 1942

Part 1: Fürth

by Willie Glaser

edited by Gerhard Jochem



Adele Glaser, née Krieser (1895 - 1942)
(Photo: Willie Glaser)

This work is dedicated to the Fürth victims of the deportation transport of March 22, 1942.

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Introduction

The year 1933 saw the beginning of the systematic destruction of Jewish existence in Fürth. The 1938 *Kristallnacht* events in Fürth were an ominous sign. At this point in time our people could not see the rising, dark and searing clouds of an imminent catastrophe, the Holocaust. Then we lived in Schwabacherstraße. When the Glaser family sat in the living room with the windows open, it was often that we heard the marching songs of the various Nazi formations. My mother used to shudder when she heard the terrifying Nazi marching song *Wenn das Judenblut vom Messer spritzt* (When Jewish blood sprays from the knife) heralding untold suffering and death.

The start of WW2 found the Glaser family torn apart: My father Ferdinand was in France, my sister Lottie and myself in England and my mother Adele with my two younger sisters Berta and Frieda and my brother Leo was stranded in Fürth. In the year 1941 the cynically so-called *Evakuierung nach dem Osten* (evacuation to the east) of the remaining Jews of Fürth to Riga, Izbica, Auschwitz and Theresienstadt started. Eventually my father, my mother and the children with her perished in the Holocaust.



(Collage: *rjjo*)

To paraphrase U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt, June 18, 1943 in Fürth was “a day which will live in infamy”. On this date the *Jüdische Kultusgemeinde Fürth* (Jewish Community Fürth) officially ceased to exist. Thus a pearl in the string of Jewish communities was lost. Gone was the tolerance by the citizens of Fürth built up over centuries. The tremendous cultural and economical contributions by the Jewish population of Fürth were forgotten.

Whenever I think of my mother and the children, I feel compelled to ask myself what was life like for a Jew in Fürth during these tragic war years since 1939? I will try from all I was told and what I have read to reconstruct these tragic years of my family.

The year 1939

The Jewish community numbered some 970 members.

Shortly after the war broke out, my mother was ordered to move from Schwabacherstraße 22 to Hindenburgstraße 8, which was located in the very center of the city. This building was a *Judenhaus* (Jewish house). In most cases the former owners of *Judenhäuser* were Jews. It is odd that none of the historical listings of *Judenhäuser* shows Hindenburgstraße 8.

My mother shared the apartment and the kitchen with Mr. and Mrs. Ettlinger. She and the Ettlingers lived there till they were deported to Izbica in March 1942.



Adele Glaser with her daughter Lottie in the late 1920s

(Photo: Willie Glaser)

From August 1939 to 1942 many special Jewish living quarters were established by the order of the municipal housing authority, providing room for some 240 people. The initial order to do so had been issued by the *Gestapo* (abbreviation for *Geheime Staatspolizei*, Secret State Police).

In September 1939 *Gestapo* headquarters issued an order that Jews were not allowed to leave their homes between 8.00 PM and 6.00 AM. Maybe the fact that she liked to read a lot helped my mother to cope with this ban. I am certain she made sure to always have many books around. Books were one item the Nazis did not confiscate. My mother must have been playing all kinds of games with the children and school homework was surely well looked after with all this evening hours available.

Also in September, the month when war broke out, another hard blow hit the Jews in Germany for they had to surrender all radio receivers to the authorities.

In October 1939 another tough regulation was imposed on them: Shopping for groceries was only allowed in designated stores from 3.00 PM to 5.00 PM. My mother must have had to organize her hours to deal with this new hardship. Surely my sister Berta at age nine was able to help her with this chore.

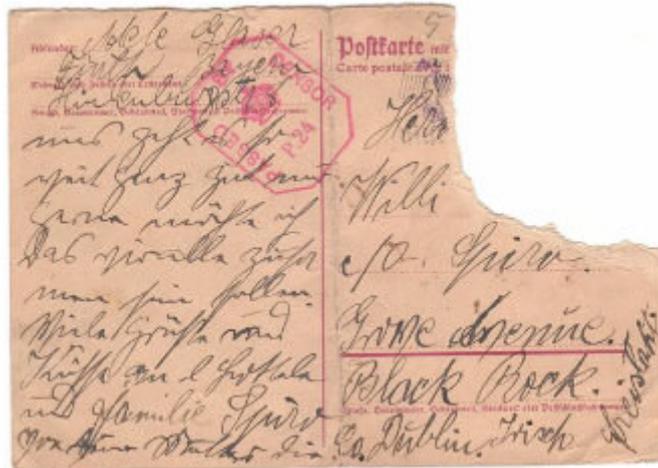
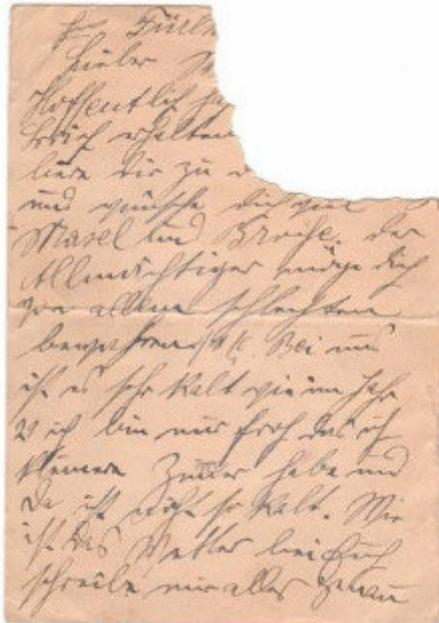
The year 1940

The Jewish community in Fürth numbered some 620 people.

Because of wartime conditions the German government issued ration cards for all kinds of commodities to the general population. In January 1940, the ration cards for clothing, shoes and spinning yarn were withdrawn from the Jews.

In the same month, my mother was able to mail a postcard for me to a friend's address in the Irish Freestate, which was neutral during the war. She wrote: "May the Almighty protect you from everything bad, amen. With us it is very cold like during the year [19]29. I am just glad that I have smaller rooms which are not so cold."

Reading between the lines I must assume that my mother was not able to heat the rooms she lived in. But her prayer for me is still in effect and working, thank G"D.



Postcard of Adele Glaser to her son Willie, January 1940. The translation of the text reads:

"Fürth [date missing]

Dear son,

I hope that you have received my letter. I congratulate you on your birthday and wish you lots of Masel and Broche [Hebrew for luck and blessing]. May the Almighty protect you from all bad, amen [in Hebrew letters 'omen']. With us it is very cold like during the year [19]29. I am just glad that I have smaller rooms which are not so cold. What is the weather like with you? Write to me everything exactly. [front] So far we are feeling quite good. I only wish for all of us to be together. Many regards and kisses for dear Lottele [Adele's daughter in Northern Ireland] and the Spiro family."

(Photos: Willie Glaser)

Not being able to buy warm clothing became a very tough situation. The Jewish community in Fürth was well organized and in March 1940 took care of this problem by establishing a clothing depot, manned by volunteers.

I can well imagine how the leadership of the community appealed to its members for donations of spare clothing and foot wear. Certainly my mother was able and willing to volunteer for the clothing depot, because her children were in school. This gave her a most welcome opportunity to meet other women and talk to them while repairing and sewing the clothing.

During the year 1940, the leadership of the community had to cope with many orders from different government agencies relating to community finances, schooling and providing manpower for work outside the community.

The year 1941

The Jewish community in Fürth numbered some 640 people.

This was an increase caused by the arrival of 20 children from smaller rural communities, who were not allowed to attend school in their hometowns anymore.

The year 1941 saw the leadership of the community struggling again with a wide range of restrictive fiscal adjustments ordered by government departments.

In September 1941 a *Reichsgesetz* (Reich's law) was introduced, which was one of the most obnoxious decrees ordered by Hitler and his cohorts. This law stated that every Jew over six years old must wear a *Judenstern* (Star of David), made of yellow fabric and showing inside the word *Jude* (Jew) in black letters. This emblem must be worn being in public.

In my fantasy I can see Himmler, Goebbels, Göring and Rosenberg sitting in the *Reichskanzlei* (Reich's Chancellery) in Berlin, brainstorming this *Judenstern* idea, running down to the *Führerbunker* (Führer's Shelter) and asking Hitler to sign a *Führerbefehl* (Führer's order) to turn this repelling idea of Jews wearing a Star of David into general law.



Fürth, Schwabacherstraße approx. 1941: in the foreground two Jewish boys with the *Judenstern*
(Photo by courtesy of "Altstadtverein Fürth", Dr. Alexander Mayer)

Then it arrived. The tentacles of the Holocaust started to reach out for its first victims from Fürth. An order originated with the highest leadership of the SS and *Geheime Staatspolizei* in Berlin and carried out by the local *Gestapostelle* (secret state police office) Nuremberg-Fürth. The local translation into action of Himmler's order was regulated in a document dated November 11, 1941 called "Organizational instruction to execute the evacuation of Jews on November 29, 1941". The destination was Riga in Latvia.

The administration of the Jewish community now had the demanding task of organizing and processing the evacuation of 94 men, women and children from a list forwarded by the *Gestapo*. Immediately a sewing room was established in the Jewish school where backpacks, winter gloves and hoods were sewn together. The evacuees were allowed to take food for eight days.

On November 27, this group was picked up by the *Gestapo* in their homes and taken to barracks in Langwasser near Nuremberg, which were on the Nazi party's rally grounds. They joined some 500 people from Nuremberg and others from Bamberg, Bayreuth and Würzburg. On November 29 a total of about 1,000 Jewish men, women and children was loaded on a train, destination Riga-Jungfernhof concentration camp. Very few survived the deportation.

Here was my mother, probably helping the evacuees to pack and get ready. Did she really believe that her friends were to be resettled in some faraway place, because they had to take cooking utensils with them? In about four months she herself and her children would be drawn into the grinding mills of the Holocaust.

The year 1942

The Jewish community in Fürth numbered some 510 people.

In spring the Jewish community was informed that another evacuation transport would be formed. The departure of the deportation was scheduled for March 24, 1942, a date which is burned into my mind. This time 231 Jews from Fürth were told to pack and get ready, among them my mother, two sisters and my brother. Their destination was the transit camp Izbica in eastern Poland.



Berta Glaser (1930 - 1942)



Leo Glaser (1932 - 1942)

(Photos: Willie Glaser)



Frieda Glaser (1935 - 1942)

I can hear my mother say optimistically: “I am 47 years old. I am still young, I am healthy and my children are healthy. I was born in Oswiecim (Auschwitz) in Poland. I am perfectly bilingual, I speak and write an elegant Polish, I speak and write *Hochdeutsch* (Standard German). I have something going for me if I will be sent to Poland. I will make a go of it. The war will be over in a short time. My husband in France will be able to reunite the family in England, which was his goal before the war broke out. I already have two children in England ...”

After this group was sent to Poland, the Jewish orphanage and the Jewish school were closed. There were no more Jewish children in Fürth.

In May 1942, an order was issued to all Jews keeping animal pets to surrender them. In June 1942, the Jewish population had also to surrender all surplus clothing and electric appliances. A few irons were left with the administration which could be borrowed. In the same month, all educational classes had to cease, including private instructions. In August the *Gestapo* ordered another delivery of clothing and linen. Jews could only keep the absolute minimum of clothing and underclothing.

All Jews still living in Fürth by December 1942 were housed in the Jewish hospital, the Jewish school building and the former Jewish orphanage.

The year 1943

In January 1943, the Jewish community numbered some 85 people.

In June 1943, the *Gestapo* sent some 50 people to Theresienstadt and Auschwitz. The premises of the former orphanage and the Jewish hospital were closed. The remaining Jews living in mixed marriages found shelter in the Jewish school building.

This was the end of the *Kehilla kodesh b'Fiorda* (the Holy Community of Fürth) as it is printed on the title page of many century old Hebrew tracts from Fürth.

Izbica, the vestibule for the extermination camps of Belzec, Sobibor and Majdanek

Because the *Durchgangslager* (transit camp) Izbica was the last place my mother, two sisters and one brother were alive, I must record as many details as possible about this final and short time in their lives in that G'Dforsaken place. I have attempted to research and trace their final journey and reconstruct to the best of my ability the conditions in which my mother and her children may have found themselves there.

The transport from Nuremberg, Fürth, Bamberg and Würzburg

For the deportation of spring 1942, the same routine as for the Riga transport was followed. The *Gestapo* had been able to arrange for another train transport of about 1,000 souls. The people from Fürth, a group consisting of some 231 men, women and children, joined some 420 deportees from Nuremberg, with about 300 Jews from Bamberg and Würzburg. None of them was to come back.

Nobody was spared. The transport included the entire orphan population of the *Jüdisches Waisenhaus* (Jewish orphanage) and its director Dr. Isaak Hallemann with his family. Not satisfied with the fate of the orphanage in Fürth, in August 1942 the Nazis sent Janusz Korczak and his flock of 200 Jewish orphans from Warsaw to their deaths.

The transport with my mother and her children left Fürth via Nuremberg-Langwasser on March 24, 1942. According to my calculations based on the dates of other transports from Germany to this area, it must have reached Izbica on March 27, 1942. For comparison: As stated in a report of *Gestapo* regarding a deportation on April 25, 1942, from Würzburg (Lower Franconia, about 80 km from Fürth) to Krasniczyn (as Izbica in the Lublin district), the train left on that day at 3.20 PM and arrived at Krasnystaw, the train station of Krasniczyn transit camp, on April 28 at 8.45 AM.

On March 24, 1942, the *Umsiedlungsstab* (resettlement staff) of the SS transferred some 2,200 people from Izbica to Belzec extermination camp, or as the German phrased this action cynically *Juden sind herausgesiedelt* (the Jews are resettled). No doubt this action was planned to make room for the arrivals on March 25, 1942, of Jews from Aachen, Koblenz and Kassel, followed on March 27 by the transport from Nuremberg, Fürth, Bamberg and Würzburg. Generally every deportation transport numbered about 1,000 Jews, thus about 2,000 Jews were shipped to Belzec at that time.

It should be noted here that the time of arrival of the two transports could have varied by one day, hence in the absence of documentation the exact arrival time cannot be determined.



Izbica: unloading spurs, July 2006

(Photo: Jerry Nothman)

The Ghetto Izbica

I consider it of importance to portray the *Durchgangslager* (transit camp) Izbica on an individual level as it affected my mother and her children. Though one must keep in mind that thousands of Jews from Poland, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria and other countries were funneled through the *Schleuse* (sluice gate) Izbica to the *Vernichtungslager* (extermination camps) of Belzec, Sobibor and Majdanek.

Izbica was not a concentration camp, it was rather a controlled ghetto. There was no barbed wire. One big road ran through the valley of the river Wieprz, with the river on one side and hills on the other. It was easy to control. Usually the *Gestapo* did not even watch the road because there was a general curfew for Jews and a death penalty for leaving Izbica was in force. Besides, where could they have gone to? What would a German Jew have done in the Polish countryside? Because of those circumstances, it was very easy for the chief of Izbica's *Gestapo* Kurt Engels to enforce his regulations.

The selection of Izbica as the main transit camp in Lublin district by the *Chef des Stabes der Aktion Reinhardt* (Chief of Staff of the Operation Reinhardt), *SS-Hauptsturmführer* (SS Captain) Hermann Höfle, was not by chance. It has a railway station which is linking the town to Belzec (about 55 kilometers away) and via Chelm to Sobibor (about 87 kilometers away).

A *Judenrat* (Jewish council) was in place. A letter dated March 29, 1942, which was written to the Jewish community in Würzburg under the letterhead of the *Judenrat Izbica* (Jewish Council of Izbica) was signed by three members of the *Transportleitung der deutschen Juden* (Leaders of the transports of German Jews). It is of historical importance to give the names of the three signatories of this letter: Ludwig Weinheber, Dr. Nathan Rosenthal and Hugo Kolb, the latter from Nuremberg. All three men perished.

This document confirms the arrival of the Nuremberg transport on March 27 or 28, 1942. Hence its leaders at the most had 1 to 2 days to assess the conditions in Izbica. They were pleading for money, clothing and food. One has to read between the lines to recognize the dreadful conditions in which my mother and her family found themselves. The letter was intercepted by the *Gestapo* in Würzburg.

Many postcards were also written from Izbica to the outside world, their wording strictly controlled. Just a few general words were allowed. One postmarked August 6, 1942, which survived WW2, was written to Nuremberg. Shortly after this date, mail contact between Jews in Izbica and their respective countries was terminated by the Germans.

Did my mother try to make mail contact with friends left in Fürth? I will never know.

Aktion Reinhardt (Operation Reinhardt)

My mother and her family's arrival in Izbica were preceded by the start of *Aktion Reinhardt* (Operation Reinhardt) on March 17, 1942, and the full scale operation of the extermination camp Belzec. Izbica was one of several transit camps established in the framework of *Aktion Reinhardt*, which ended November 1943.

Aktion Reinhardt was established with its sole aim to implement the *Endlösung der Judenfrage* (Final Solution of the Jewish Question) in the district of Lublin. It is credible to suggest that the idea of establishing transit camps had its genesis during the Wannsee conference, when broad outlines were drawn up for the extermination of Jews under German control.

Here German wartime organizational skill was at its best. After all, Hitler invested a lot of brainpower in this project: Seven of the 15 signatories to the protocol were PhDs.

Holocaust historians estimate that in addition to the many thousands of Polish Jews, some 14,000 Jews from Germany, Czechoslovakia and Austria also transited through Izbica, which was the largest *Durchgangslager* (transit camp) for the final destinations Belzec or Sobibor.

Conditions on the ground in Izbica

Because there are no survivors from this transport, I had to excavate facts with an in-depth research and a series of interviews. I have interviewed several historians, spoken to one of the very few survivors of Sobibor, Thomas “Toive” Blatt, who was born in Izbica and returned to his hometown right after the liberation of Sobibor. He had extensive firsthand knowledge of the events in Izbica and Belzec. With this additional information on hand, I will attempt to project a scenario of the existing conditions in Izbica.

It is to be assumed that when the transport from Fürth arrived in Izbica, the nutritional health of the deportees was in fairly good shape and that the food rations received in the past were adequate. As we learn from the “Chronicles of the Jewish community Fürth 1933-1943” (also known as the “Ballin Chronicles”), the deportees received additional provisions of food from the municipal food office to last for a journey of one week.

After the first transport of Jews from Fürth was sent to Riga in November 1941, it was only logical for the Jewish community to assume that its remaining members were also to be *evakuiert zur Umsiedlung in den Osten* (evacuated for resettlement in the east) and to work in some war effort or agriculture. This belief was founded on the *Gestapo's* guidelines issued for the *Evakuierung nach dem Osten* (evacuation to the east) on November 27, 1941, destination Riga, which called for a supply of *Ghetto-Sammelgut* (collective ghetto gear) consisting of large cooking cauldrons, mattresses, stoves, sewing machines, all kinds of tools, glass panes and putty, bandages and medicines as well as medical instruments from the inventory of the Jewish hospital in Fürth. Some basic medical help should also have been available, as some 10 employees of the Jewish hospital were on the transport.

I believe my mother and her children at that time were in good health. She had arrived with the thought of being put to work in or around Izbica. Probably she had to share a dilapidated house with the average of at least ten other families. She had no money or jewelry which she could have used to buy or barter for food. All valuables were taken away from her in the Langwasser evacuation camp. Probably all she and her children owned were some spare clothing and very basic necessities.



Street in Izbica, July 2006

(Photo: Jerry Nothman)

Her most important task was to get sufficient food for her children. The daily ration for a non-worker consisted of 50 gram of bread and half a liter of soup. I cannot imagine my mother going to work somewhere in Izbica and earning a higher food ration which would have entailed leaving her children to fend for themselves in the hostile environment of the camp.

Adele Glaser was not alone, for her cousin Frieda Schiff (née Lamel) with her family and my mother's best friends, the Kaldor family, were also on the transport. I am sure they leaned on each other for mutual support.

The horrible situation in Izbica begs the question, how did the Jews from Fürth cope with the close living quarters there? Based on their previous living conditions in Fürth which were strictly controlled by the German authorities, I assume that the people rose to the task. All of them had lots of experience with communal kitchens which were in use in the so called *Judenhäuser* (Jewish houses) in Fürth, where several families had to share an apartment. Then a strong bond was established between the families of the Fürth group.

There is no doubt that strong leadership was given to the people from Fürth by two prominent leaders of the community. One was the already mentioned director of the Jewish orphanage Dr. Isaak Halleman who with his family voluntarily joined the transport to Izbica to be with

his orphans. The other was Rabbi Dr. Siegfried Behrens of the liberal synagogue. It is certain these two distinguished men provided the guidance needed.

My mother was an intelligent and bright woman, observing what was happening around her. It is very possible that she was talking to Polish people living in Izbica which must have given her some sort of indication about the general situation and what was going on outside the ghetto. It must have been horrifying for her along with her two daughters, age 7 and 12, and her son, age 10, to withstand the continuous onslaughts on their lives by the *Gestapo*, Ukrainian SS guards and Jewish ghetto police.

If my mother lived till November 2, 1942, she had seen the execution of some 2,000 Jews by the SS that were buried in mass graves in the Jewish cemetery in Izbica. This event must have shattered my mother's last hopes by the ongoing thrusts from these evil forces.

The question arises, did my mother have any clue about what was happening down the railroad tracks leading to Belzec, Sobibor or Majdanek? There is a chance she might have heard some bad rumors if she was speaking to the local Polish citizens.

J'accuse

Researchers speak of great cultural and often deadly frictions between Polish and German Jews in Izbica which must have had a severe impact on my mother being a woman alone with children.

In most roundup actions of Jews to be sent to Belzec or Sobibor it was not only the infamous *Trawniki* (Ukrainian SS guards) and since June 1942 the German Police Battalion 101, but also the *Jüdischer Ordnungsdienst* (Jewish ghetto police) which assisted the Nazis. These Jewish police forces were established by the respective Polish and German *Judenrat* (Jewish council). Whenever their German masters demanded a number of Jews to be moved from Izbica, the German or Polish ghetto police picked their victims from the other community. Their role did not differ much from the well known brutal actions of the Jewish police in the larger ghettos in Poland.

***Vernichtungslager* (extermination camp) Belzec**

At this point I have to ask myself: When did my family perish? I am not able to answer this question. No known records are in existence.

Izbica was hell on earth. Overpopulation, disease and malnutrition were rampant. Such were the conditions my mother and her family had to cope with. Published writings about Izbica tell of an outbreak of typhus. Of the German Jews, only the fittest were able to survive and

lived perhaps for a few precious weeks. Possibly some were given grace at the most until the month of October 1942.

Vernichtungslager (extermination camp) Belzec started to operate on March 17, 1942, and was closed down in late spring of 1943 with subsequently everything being leveled to the ground. In just over a year some 600,000 victims perished in Belzec. There are no survivors of Belzec. There is a handful of survivors from the revolt in the *Vernichtungslager* (extermination camp) Sobibor. By fall of 1943 the last Jews from Izbica were liquidated in Sobibor.

Because there are no records showing which German Jews were sent from Izbica to the extermination camps of Belzec and Sobibor, it is impossible to pinpoint the ultimate individual fate of the people from Fürth.

Meeting Jan Karski

At this juncture I should explain why I think my mother perished in Belzec and not in Sobibor. By sheer chance I was able to establish a thread which places my mother and her children in the extermination camp Belzec.

In 1995 I had a discussion with a noted female Polish-Canadian writer and journalist from Montreal about the famous Pole Jan Karski and his work during WW2 in Poland. We agreed that it would be an excellent idea to ask Jan Karski to address the members of the Polish and Jewish communities in a public lecture about the wartime situation in Poland. Jan Karski agreed to come to Montreal. The lecture was attended by several hundred people and was a huge success.

Jan Karski was a soldier, diplomat and courier for the Polish government in exile in London. As such he made several clandestine trips to German occupied Poland.

In 1942 the leadership of the Jewish resistance in Warsaw sent a very urgent request to London to dispatch an envoy to Warsaw to see for himself what was happening to the Jews in Poland and carry back an authentic eyewitness report.

After spending a few days in the streets of the Warsaw ghetto and witnessing the horrors there, the Jewish resistance asked Jan Karski to go to Izbica. Though the Jewish leaders had a fairly good idea about the mass killings of Jews in the Lublin area, they wanted a personal account because news from there presented a blurred image for there was a confusion between Izbica and Belzec.

With the help of some bribed Ukrainian guards Jan Karski was smuggled into Izbica during September 1942 dressed as one of them. What he saw and experienced is chronicled in the book "Karski: How One Man Tried to Stop the Holocaust".

By virtue of having played a part in his appearance in Montreal and being a veteran of the First Polish Armoured Division / First Canadian Army, I was able to talk to Jan Karski for some time after his speech. The thrust of my questioning was: What were the conditions in Izbica for a single woman with children from Germany, specifically for the children? Most of what Karski knew was information received from various Polish sources in Izbica. His briefing of what he saw in Izbica gave me a deeper understanding of the situation.

In the course of our conversation I mentioned that my mother lived in Fürth and arrived in March 1942 with a transport from Germany. Jan Karski stopped talking to me, sat in deep thought for a few seconds and said to me: “You know Willie, I just remembered something I have not thought about since I was in Izbica. I distinctly remember being told by one of the Ukrainian guards: *Alle Reichsjuden gehen nach Belzec* (all the Jews from Germany are going to Belzec).” This short sentence is, I believe, the key to my mother’s final destination, the *Vernichtungslager* (extermination camp) Belzec.

Jan Karski autographed my copy of his book: “To Willie Glaser, in memory of your mother and children, Jan Karski, Montreal, April 5, 1995”.

Karski penetrated Izbica in August 1942. My mother arrived there at the end of March 1942. With G”D’s grace she and her children had at the most another month or two to live. My assumption is that my mother and the members of the Fürth transport were taken to Belzec and perished there during April or early May. They had to give room to some 4,000 Jews arriving in Izbica on transports from Austria and Germany during April 1942.

The exterminators, their crimes and punishments

Who were the people who were directly or indirectly able to snuff out the lives of so many innocent men, women and children of the *Kehilla kodesh Fürth* (Holy Jewish Community of Fürth)?

The deportations including orders and instructions took place under the direction of the *Geheime Staatspolizei, Staatspolizeistelle Nürnberg-Fürth* (Secret State Police, State Police Branch Nuremberg-Fürth). Their leading exterminators were:

- 1) *SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS und Polizei, Polizeipräsident Nürnberg* (SS-Lieutenant General and General of the Waffen-SS and Police, Director of Police Nuremberg) Dr. Benno Martin. His punishment: In May 1949, a Nuremberg-Fürth court sentenced him to a three years *Freiheitsstrafe* (term of imprisonment) for ongoing help to cause deprivation of liberty and causing death. In November 1950, the Bavarian High Court suspended the sentence. In December 1952 a new trial was ordered by the

Federal Supreme Court in which Dr. Martin's sentence was again suspended. During June 1953, the third and last trial was ordered which also ended in an acquittal of Dr. Benno Martin.

- 2) *SS-Sturmbannführer und Kriminalrat, Leiter der Abteilung II der Staatspolizeistelle Nürnberg-Fürth* (SS-Major, crime consultant, Leader of Department II of the State Police Branch) Dr. Theodor Grafenberger. In the absence of any records available to me, I must assume that Dr. Grafenberger as Dr. Martin's deputy had the same trial records. It is to be noted that Dr. Grafenberger issued the quoted *Organisationsanweisung zur Durchführung der Juden-Evakuierung am 29.11.1941* (Organizational instructions to execute the evacuation of Jews on November 29, 1941).
- 3) *SS-Obersturmführer* (SS First Lieutenant) Dr. Helmuth Rudersdorf was sentenced in May 1949 to ten months of imprisonment, but was freed by a *Straffreiheitsgesetz* (amnesty) in December 1949.

The exterminators of Izbica in Germany

Reporting directly to the *Kanzlei des Führers* (Führer's Chancellery) under *Reichsleiter* (Reich's Leader) Philipp Bouhler: *Oberführer* (Senior Leader) Victor Brack

The exterminators of Izbica in Poland

SS-Gruppenführer, SS- und Polizeiführer im Distrikt Lublin (SS-Major General, SS- and Police Leader in the Lublin District) Odilo Globocnik was captured by the British and committed suicide by biting on a capsule of cyanide on May 31, 1945.

SS-Sturmbannführer, Chef der Hauptabteilung Reinhardt (SS-Major, Chief of Main Department Reinhardt) Hermann Höfle was arrested in Austria and hanged himself in his cell on August 20, 1962, during his trial in Vienna.

I have named only the very major participants, countless minor SS and civil administrators were deeply involved in these inhuman actions, too.



Memorial at Belzec from the entrance to the memorial area, July 2006

(Photo: Jerry Nothman)

Hashem Yinkom Danam
May G'D avenge their blood

Willie Glaser
St. Laurent, Quebec (Canada)
August 2007

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