



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

*by Willie Glaser*

*edited by Gerhard Jochem*

### **Preliminary Notes**

#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

According to Willie Glaser, to the best of his knowledge this is the only in-depth and researched account of a deportation transport from Germany to Poland. Certainly I know of no other.

It was a formidable task for an eighty-eight-year-old man - a Second World War veteran with seven years' service with the First Polish Armoured Division / First Canadian Army - to write these web pages.

As a veteran of the D-Day Landings, Willie Glaser fought in Normandy, against fearsome SS units, including units of the *Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler*, Hitler's own bodyguard regiment. At that time he did not know that it was an SS unit that had killed his family in 1942 in the notorious Belzec death camp in German-occupied Poland.

In these web pages, Willie Glaser had achieved his noble goal to record and document in detail his family's fateful journey from his hometown Fürth to the transit camp at Izbica Lubelska and their final destination, Belzec. It was their road to destruction.

This powerful narrative will give the reader a memorable glimpse of the enormity of what the Nazis called the *Endlösung*: The Final Solution for six million human beings.

London, 31 August 2009

*The Rt Hon Sir Martin Gilbert, CBE, DLitt*

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When Willie Glaser contacted me for help in locating his mother's probable final resting place I was able to give that help. Reading Willie Glaser's account of his search for the final truth, I was moved and very proud of this man's noble efforts to draw closure to many years of sorrow and anguish.

On 24 March 1942, 1,000 Jews were deported from German towns to the Izbica transit ghetto in eastern Poland. Among this group were 231 Jews from the town of Fürth which included part of the Glaser family: Willie's mother, Adele and three siblings. With some certainty I can say that after a few days the entire group from Fürth were sent on to the Belzec death camp.

My research into the background of *Aktion Reinhardt* included critically important data derived from an archaeological survey of the mass graves at Belzec by forensic archaeologists from Torun, Poland. For the first time we were able to introduce detailed mapping of the thirty-three mass graves and other structures within the camp area of operational activity.

Belzec began operations from 17 March, so it is highly probable that grave number 14 (one of the largest) and the first to be excavated, was the Glaser family's final resting place. There were no survivors.

Belzec was the prototype death camp, the forerunner of Sobibor and Treblinka. Belzec was the experimental camp and indeed the answer to the Nazis for their "Jewish Question". It was at Belzec where the arts of deception, mass murder and gassing were perfected and committed on an industrial scale. Belzec was a human slaughterhouse on a conveyor-belt system. At 10 am, several thousand Jews would arrive at Belzec from the transit camps and, by 12 noon, they were all lining the mass graves specifically prepared for their coming. Two to three times a day, from March to December 1942, the transports, containing men, women and children, rolled into Belzec conveying the brightest jewels of humanity.

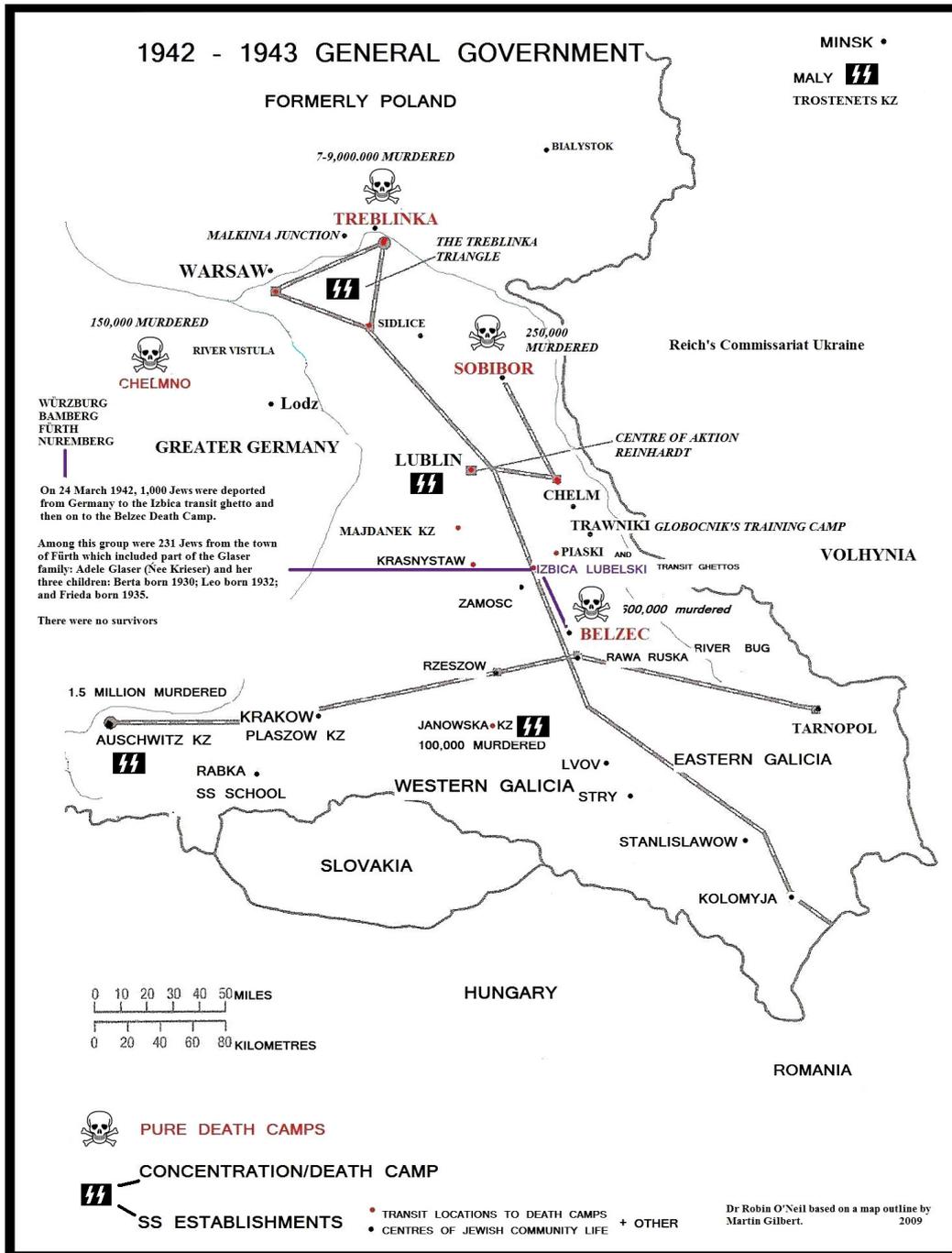
Belzec was the forgotten camp, where it is estimated 600,000 were murdered.

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The book *Belzec: Stepping Stone to Genocide* by Robin O'Neil can be ordered at:

<http://www.pickmanmuseumshop.com/jewishgen.html>



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