



The condition of the Jewish cemetery in the Bärenschanzstraße, Nuremberg, after WWII

Extracts from letters written by Kurt Anton Metzger to his wife in 1945, compiled by Mr. Ludwig Berlin



The Jewish cemetery in Bärenschanzstraße today
(photo: Susanne Rieger)

Preface

Kurt Anton Metzger was born in Nuremberg in 1915, the son of Dipl. Ing. Otto Metzger and his wife Sophie, née Josephthal. He had been named Anton in memory of his uncle Anton Josephthal who had fallen in France in September 1914.

Kurt Anton Metzger had to emigrate to the USA in 1936. In the summer of 1945 he returned as a soldier in the Anti-Tank Company, 26 Infantry, US Army. He was stationed in Fürth from where he wrote letters to his wife.

In the following extracts he describes the condition of the Jewish cemetery in the Bärenschanzstraße, Nuremberg, where all his ancestors who had died locally were laid to rest. The identity of the cemetery was confirmed to me in writing by his brother Randolph Mercer (formerly Rudolf Metzger).

Kurt Metzger died in the USA in 1963.

Extracts

Fürth, 11 August 1945

“I am back in Fürth again and right now at the Red Cross. This afternoon I went first to the Jewish cemetery [in Nuremberg-Bärenschanzstraße] to find the graves of my ancestors (my father asked me to do this) but they are all destroyed, partly by bombs and partly by the Huns who turned them over and removed all the metal. The only one I found was the one of my great-grandmother [...].”

Fürth, 14 September 1945

“[...] Then I went to see the Jews of Nürnberg who live around the corner [at Wielandstraße 6]. I found out that German civilians are still taking gravestones from the Jewish cemetery and was ready to go to the M.G. [Military Government] myself but the American chaplain happened to turn up. So I told him about it. He will take care of it [...].”

Fürth, 23 October 1945

“[...] This morning I went to Military Government to see what could be done to fix up the cemetery where my grandfathers are buried. It is in a terrible state as I told you before and it is getting worse since people use it for a garbage dump. But I think I will get some action on it to get it fixed up. At least they promised as much [...].”

Ludwig C Berlin

20 April 2001

[Index*](#)

[Home*](#)