

## Paris

Haim

The French engineer, who offered Albert, the young Moroccan Jew, a job in Paris? Or was it the French lady, who wanted him as her lover?

## Polska

Bettina

After the German invasion of Poland, the German Balts were to be relocated to the so-called Warthegau. My family left Latvia in autumn 1939 and repatriated together with about 55.000 German Balts to the western part of annexed Poland, which was German than. They were supposed to build up a National Socialist model district there: “The blond province”. Before the arrival of the German Balts, Polish intellectuals, theologists, aristocracy and military were arrested and murdered. Jews were deported to ghettos or deported to forced labor. The Polish people had to leave their houses with forced evictions. Hot potatoes on the table, warm milk on the stove and rumpled beds testified to the forced hasty departure.

Friedemann

My grandmother's twin brother Erwin Reichel was awarded the Iron Cross II for his participation in the “Polenfeldzug” (Poland Campaign). The invasion of Poland only marked the beginning of his career. He was the second of command under the infamous General Felix Steiner commanding the 5th SS Panzer Division «Wiking» which consisted of troops of non-German (!) volunteers. The Division was responsible for the murder of thousands of Jews in the Caucasus in collaboration with Einsatzgruppe D (and later after my uncle's death, for the crackdown of

the Warsaw Uprising 1944 and the destruction of Warsaw). Erwin Reichel died in 1943 of his wounds after the Third Battle of Kharkov and was awarded the Knights Cross. You still can find him being worshiped as a Nazi hero on Neo-Nazi websites.

There were several other men from my extended family active in the Poland Campaign. I will just mention DDr. Kurt Rabl again (a far cousin of my grandmother) because he was for some months the Head of Department in the General Commissariat for Administration and Justice of the Reich Commissioner for the Occupied Territories in Poland controlled by Hans Frank.

### Shimon

The Löw family originated from Sędziszów, a small town in Polish Galicia. Apparently the Löw family were quite well off in a very poor knighthood. Nathan Löw, a great-uncle of my father was even appointed as the mayor of the city for a short period. At the outbreak of the First World War, the Russian army conquered the city already at the end of August 1914 and, as a result, almost of all the Jews fled the city. The Löw family fled to Vienna and some managed to go to USA. The uncle of my father - Sol Löw - was the head of the Galician Jews committee in New York and came to visit his hometown in 1935. During his visit he made a silent black-and-white short film which is kept in YIVO, Institute for Jewish Research in New York. They refuse to give me a good quality copy of the film, claiming that this is one of the only original films about a Jewish small town in pre-Holocaust times. During the Nazi occupation of the city, a ghetto was set up in June or the beginning of July 1942, into which the Jews of the villages of the region were also concentrated. The Jews of Sędziszów were deported to Ropczyce on July 23. The ghetto with its 1,900 people was liquidated at the end of July 1942. Approximately 400 elderly people, handicapped people, and children were murdered after a selection in Sędziszów. The

rest of the people were sent by train to the Belzec Death Camp.

Tal

My grandfather from my father's side (Yasha) was born in 1921 in Klesów, Poland. During War World II he joined the red army and later settled in Belarus. In 1960 my grandparents and my father made aliya it (emigrated) to Israel and the only way to do it was to declare repatriation to Poland. My father says it was a charade that both Russia and Poland knew about, but both countries got decent amount of money from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (The Joint) for allowing this process.

Also, my grandmother from my mother side (Sonja) was a prisoner in Stutthof concentration camp and my grandfather from my mother side (Aryeh) started reconstructing his life in Łódź after the war, both in Poland.

## Port lyautey (Kenitra)

Haim

Beber, my father's nickname, still prefers non-kosher French cuisine over the Jewish Moroccan one. He gained his gastronomic training in his home town, Port- Lyautey, named after Hubert Lyautey, the first French Resident- General in Morocco. Handsome Albert didn't look Jewish to French-Moroccan eyes and stayed at the French school even under the Vichy regime. Albert is uncomfortable with the one time grant of 2000 euros he recently received from the German government, after %10 deduction for the Tel Aviv lawyer expenses.

## Posnan/Posen

Bettina

My grandfather was member of the rider SS in Posen, which was founded later in 1941. His role during the war couldn't be finally researched. The file of that rider SS troupe isn't archived and his file as soldier isn't complete. In my documentary film "Children below Deck" my father tells: "The German Balts were not allowed to found private associations. So many of them joined the SS associations, so that they could be together. And he thought he could join the rider SS and ride across the fields as if he was in an amusement club. Mother realized that already back then, she was clairvoyant and smart in that regard. She said: What you're doing is crazy. That's nothing but a con trick. Soon enough they'll draft you into the real SS. And that's what happened. The system was based on terror and intimidation. And then to volunteer for this SS, that's madness."

## Prag

Friedemann

My mother Luitgard is named after St. Luitgard, whose statue you can find on the Charles Bridge. She was born in 1941. Her father saw the statue as an occupier! He was a member of the Organisation Tot.

## Rīga

Bettina

My grandmother is born in Riga, she grew up and studied medicine there. She proudly told me about her studies. At the Latvian University