

Alienated, Segregated, Humiliated and Stripped of Citizenship

The segregation of the German Jews began almost immediately after Hitler became Chancellor. It started with the boycott of Jewish businesses on April 1, 1933 and escalated steadily. After the Nuremberg Laws were passed in September 1935, Jews were officially segregated from their neighbors and stripped of their citizenship. In 1935, "Jews Not Wanted" signs appeared in the village of Roth and, within a year, Jewish families were forced to dismiss "Aryan" household help. As of 1937, Jewish children in Roth were not allowed to attend the village school. By 1939, Roth's Jews were prevented from properly burying those who died. The Jewish cemetery was closed by Nazi authorities in 1942.

"Jews Not Wanted Here"



Signs similar to this appeared throughout Nazi Germany.



(Translation)
Police Niddervallmgen
Kreis Marburg, District Kassel
Re: Your letter of January 29, 1935
In the village of Roth at the premises of the [redacted] and at the premises of the [redacted] there are signs with the inscription "Jews are not wanted here."
Kapler
Captain of Police

Circa 1935, Germany, location unknown.
Source: US Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, RG 226, 100-10412-10001

"My friends stopped playing with me."



"In school, we had one teacher who found it necessary to speak briefly about the Jews every single day. Maybe it was only every other day. But it was often. He always said something really bad — that Jews were thieves and committed racial defilement, etc. I didn't know what he meant. After his short speech, he would always say 'Present company excepted.' 'Present company' was me, so no one could forget that a Jew was in the room. My friends stopped playing with me. I wasn't asked to play in their soccer games. Many didn't say hello anymore." — Herbert Roth



Helmut Höcher and Kurt Bergenstein were affected by the order below. As of May 1939, they moved to Frankfurt to attend a Jewish school.
Source: US Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, RG 226, 100-10412-10001



Ise Höcher (2nd row from top, 4th from left) with her teacher and classmates giving the Nazi salute in the Roth public school, mid-1930s.
Source: US Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, RG 226, 100-10412-10001



An article in the *Clarifessischen Zeitung* of November 12, 1933 states: "After the Grypsan murder in Paris you cannot expect any German teacher to give instruction to Jewish children. It is obvious that it is unbearable for German pupils to sit in the same room with Jews."
Source: US Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, RG 226, 100-10412-10001

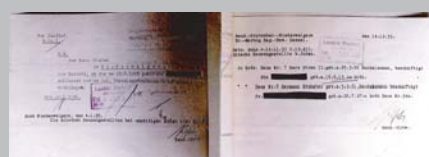
No More "Aryan" Household Help



Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor

The Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor of September 15, 1935 prohibited relationships between the Jewish and "Aryan" German population. Sexual relations and marriage were forbidden and offenders were severely punished. Article #3 in the document states that no Jewish household may employ a female under the age of 45 years. Because of this law, the officials in Roth ordered a census taken of "Aryan" employees in Jewish households.

The Reichstag passed the Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor on September 15, 1935.
Source: US Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, RG 226, 100-10412-10001

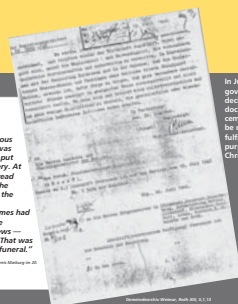


The District Director, Marburg, 1935
To Police in Niddervallmgen
Please notify whether the maid [redacted] born June 16, 1915 has been discharged.
January 10, 1936
From Niddervallmgen January 4, 1936
The Aryan maid has been discharged by the Jew.
Police Headquarters, Niddervallmgen
Kr. Marburg—District Kassel
Kapler
Captain of Police

They Died and No One Cared



Herbert Roth recalls the deaths of his mother and grandmother.
"When my mother, Selma, died in 1934, the religious ceremony took place in our yard. I don't think it was much different for the Christians. The casket was put on a horse-drawn wagon and taken to the cemetery. At the cemetery, after a speech, a number of people read Hebrew prayers. They did not kneel on top of the casket. There were many Christians in attendance from the village. That was the last time that happened. My grandmother Emma died three years later, in 1937, and the times had already changed greatly. No Christians attended her funeral. The carpenter was forbidden to make a casket for a Jew and so the Jews—who were not carpenters—had to make the casket themselves. That was a very poor casket. The wood was rough. Only Jews came to this funeral."



In July 1942, the governing official declared in this document that Jewish cemeteries needed to be made available to fulfill more practical purposes for the Christian community. In Roth, the village confiscated the unused portion of the cemetery and removed headstones from the graves.
Source: US Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, RG 226, 100-10412-10001

When Cilly Nathan's grandmother, Bertha Nathan, died, no villagers wanted to move her body, and no headstone was erected in the Jewish cemetery. A villager reported the following:

"A Jewish woman died in our neighborhood and no one wanted to take her body to the cemetery. The neighbors were all Nazi Party members. You know how it was. The Mayor came to my father and asked him to take her body to the cemetery because he was not a Nazi Party member."
Source: US Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, RG 226, 100-10412-10001



Bertha Nathan at age 81, shortly before her death in 1939.
Source: US Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, RG 226, 100-10412-10001



In his report to the local officials, the Mayor of Roth wrote: "The Jewish woman Bertha Sara Nathan, born September 12, 1857, died April 28, 1939."
Source: US Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, RG 226, 100-10412-10001