

Loss of Human Rights

Kristallnacht: The Night of Broken Glass

"My G-d, the synagogue is destroyed!"



Trude H" data-bbox="638 200 716 208"/>



Synagogue in Roth after WWII.

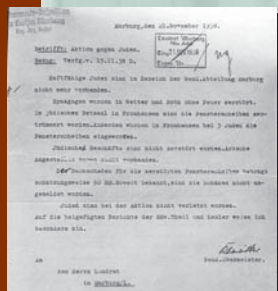
Kristallnacht was a mass riot secretly organized by the Nazi government to vandalize and destroy Jewish property. In most parts of Germany and Austria, Kristallnacht occurred on the night of November 9, 1938.

In Roth, a fanatic Nazi official initiated the riot on November 8 – one day earlier. On that night, the interior of the synagogue was demolished, furnishings were smashed and ritual objects destroyed. Windows were broken and the Star of David on the east side of the building was torn down. The synagogue building, however, remained standing.

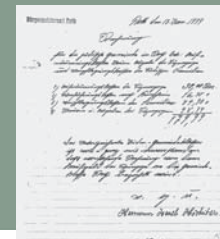
"In 1982 the farmer who lived next door to the synagogue told me that during Kristallnacht his father persuaded the S.A. not to burn down the synagogue because it would endanger his own house. When they then proceeded to cut down interior supporting columns in order to collapse the building, his father persuaded them to stop, because he wanted to use the building for grain storage."

– Herbert Roth

As marks on the wooden support column, where the Nazis attempted to collapse the balcony. Circa 1980, 1990



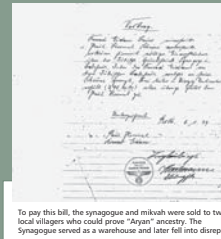
On November 21, 1938, police issued a report stating: **"In Roth, it is reported that the synagogue was destroyed without the use of fire. Jewish homes and businesses were not destroyed. No one was injured."**



After his release from Concentration Camp Buchenwald, Herman H" data-bbox="396 449 506 494"/>

The Jewish communities throughout Germany were ordered by the Nazi regime to pay the costs of cleanup after Kristallnacht.

In addition to the costs incurred by each town, a fine of one billion German Marks was collected as a punishment against the entire Jewish community in Germany. In Roth, the total amount "billed" was 179.99 RM. To pay this obligation, Jewish property was seized and sold.



To pay this bill, the synagogue and mikvah were sold to two local villagers who could prove "Aryan" ancestry. The Synagogue served as a warehouse and later fell into disrepair. (translation) January 6, 1939: "It is witnessed by the Mayor that Paul Schreiner and Konrad Eiden declare total agreement to purchase the Jewish property – synagogue and mikvah – in which Konrad Eiden gets 4m+30 cm of the mikvah which borders his property. The rest belongs to Paul Schreiner."

The Nazi euphemism for confiscated was "secured." On December 12, 1938, the Mayor of Roth listed items to be "secured" in the aftermath of Kristallnacht. Taken from the synagogue and mikvah were 2 copper kettles, 2 water pumps, 10 butcher knives and a small box of antique iron.

Remembering Kristallnacht



...what I always remember is, when my father found the Torahs on the street on Kristallnacht... I remember, you know, early in the morning, that my father went out and he said, 'Oh, my G-d, the synagogue is destroyed.' The Torahs were all unrolled and on the street. And one little Torah we had in our house and that was saved. It was a little one. Because sometimes they made minyan in our house... During the night they came at about ten o'clock as far as I know. But I know early in the morning that my father went out and oh, my G-d, the Torah and the prayer books were all thrown around."



– Trude H" data-bbox="598 586 641 592"/>