

The Story of St. Ottilien's Baby #373

David Avnir-Steingarten



Bavarian Tachles Program, State of Bavaria's Israel Office, Tel-Aviv, July 29, 2025

I. Introduction

1946 – 1948: 431 babies of survivors - gathered from all over Europe - were born in the Displaced Persons Hospital in St Ottilien

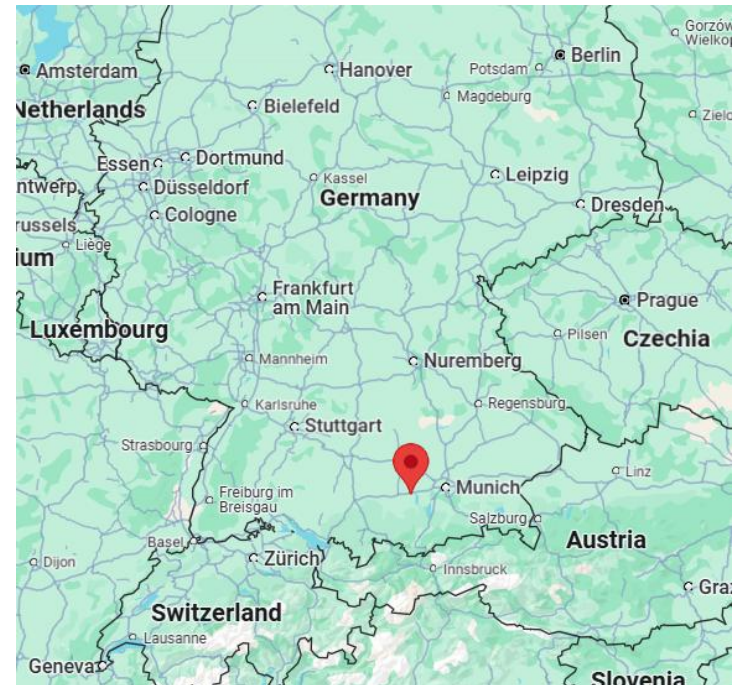
367.	Dichtenberg	Pesa Blyma	1947/05/31	Poland/Krakow
368.	Fenster	Eliahu	1947/06/01	Poland/Pultusk
369.	Szpikowska	Ester	1947/06/01	Poland/Smalyavichy
370.	Szeinberg	Motek Binek	1947/06/02	Poland/Smalyavichy
371.	Rotstein	Icz Leib	1947/06/05	Poland/Smalyavichy
372.	Rock	Josef	1947/06/11	Poland/Smalyavichy
→ 373.	Steingarten	David	1947/06/12	Poland/Smalyavichy
374.	Kreisel (Rosenbaum?)	Uriel	1947/06/18	Poland/Smalyavichy
375.	Goldberg	Joel	1947/06/19	Poland/Smalyavichy
376.	Sperling	Wolf	1947/06/21	Poland/Smalyavichy
377.	Pszczola	David	1947/06/25	Poland/warsaw



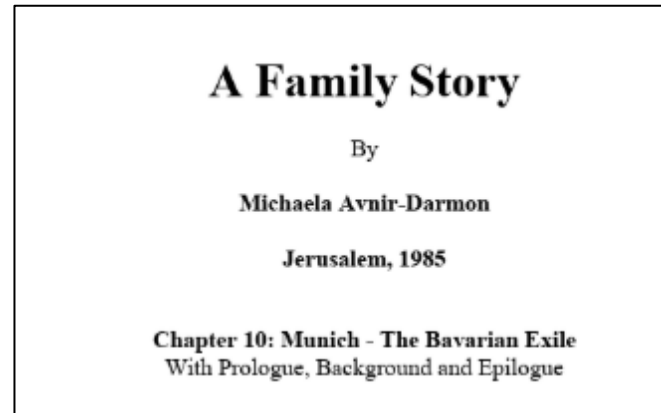
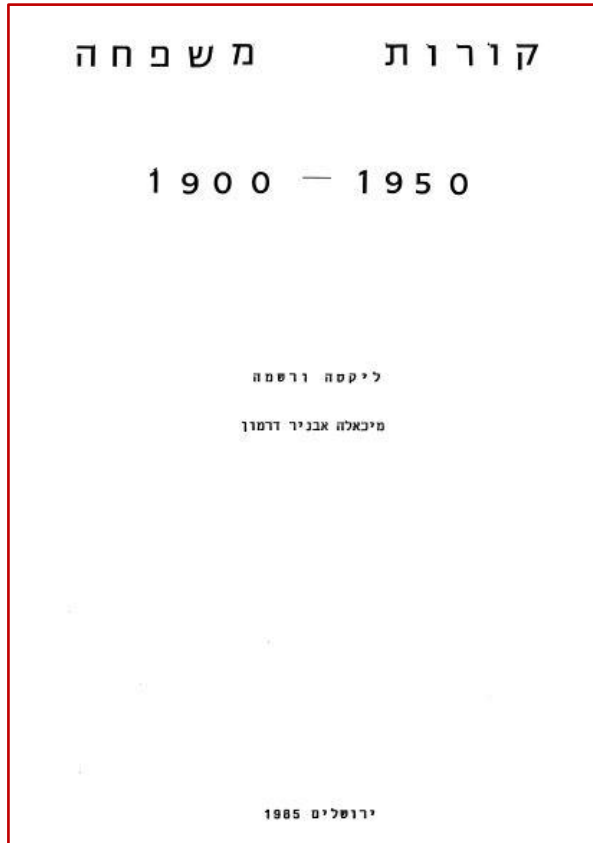
St. Ottilien Benedictine archabbey and monastery, Eresing, Bavaria



How did I get there?



The silence opens



Translated by Hanan Yinnon

<http://dphospital-ottilien.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/A-Family-Story-Chapter-10-Michaela.pdf>

II. The long road from Poland to St. Ottilien

The Hildebrand Family, Warsaw



Hana (Chana)



Misha (Michaela)



Max (Matityahu)

- * Germany invades Poland on 1-9-39 and enters Warsaw on 8-9-39
- * USSR invades Poland on 17-9-39, following the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact



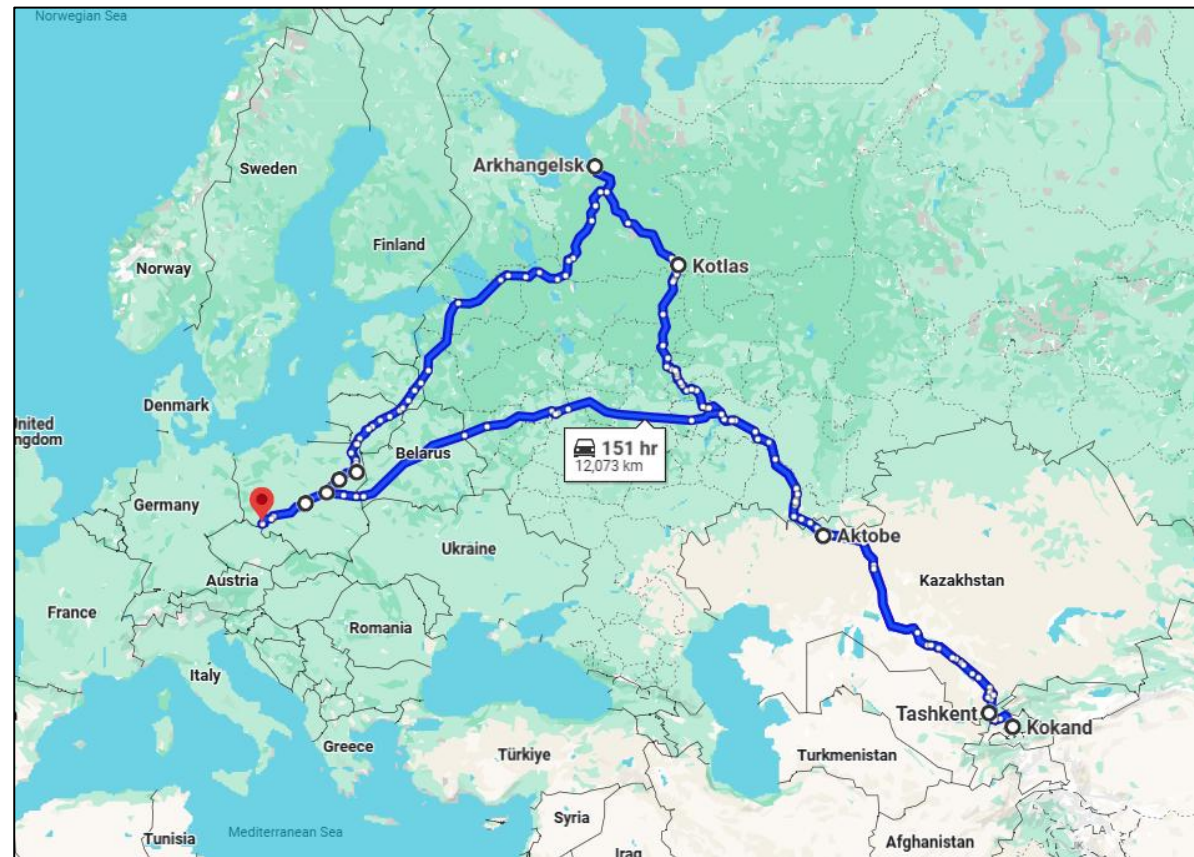
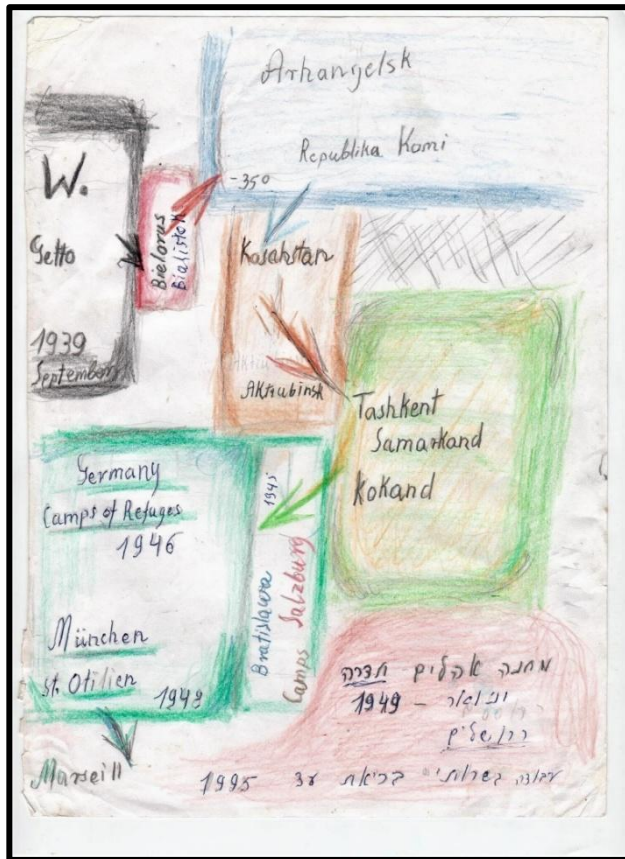
Nazi army in Warsaw



Max Hildebrand is recruited to the Polish army, 6-9-39, moving East

Hana and Michaela escape Warsaw, September 1939

The long road of Michaela, Max and Hana from Warsaw to Munich – 1939 - 1946



The main stations of the long migration of Michaela

Sept. 1939, escaping Warsaw east, to Ostrów Mazowiecka

1940: Following a pogrom which killed 2000 Jews, escaped to Bialystok in the Russian zone, survived by cooking for refugees

Winter 1940: Deportation to Arkhangelsk, Siberia, to a forest-wood forced-labor camp until 1941

10-1941: Russian-German war starts – labor camps are freed. The family moves south to Aktyubinsk, Kazakhstan then to Kokand, Uzbekistan



Horse carriages, trains, boats and trucks



Trains: A central theme during the war and in the post-war years



Forest-wood labor camps

In Kokand, Uzbekistan

Winter 1941: Max establishes an orphanage

Winter 1942/4: Max is sent to jail in Tashkent for anti-Soviet activity and then to a forced-work camp in Aktyubinsk, Kazakhstan

Winter 1943: Defeat of the Nazi army in Russia

Summer 1944: Max released from jail

Late 1943, early 1944: Mass migration to the west, begins.

May 1945: Germany surrenders.
Max carries a victory speech in public, standing on a wooden barrel.

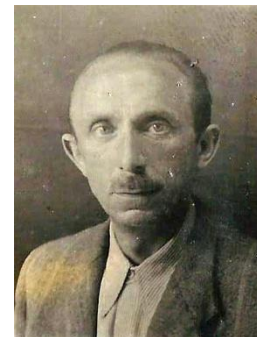
Mass westward migration continues.



Kokand, Uzbekistan



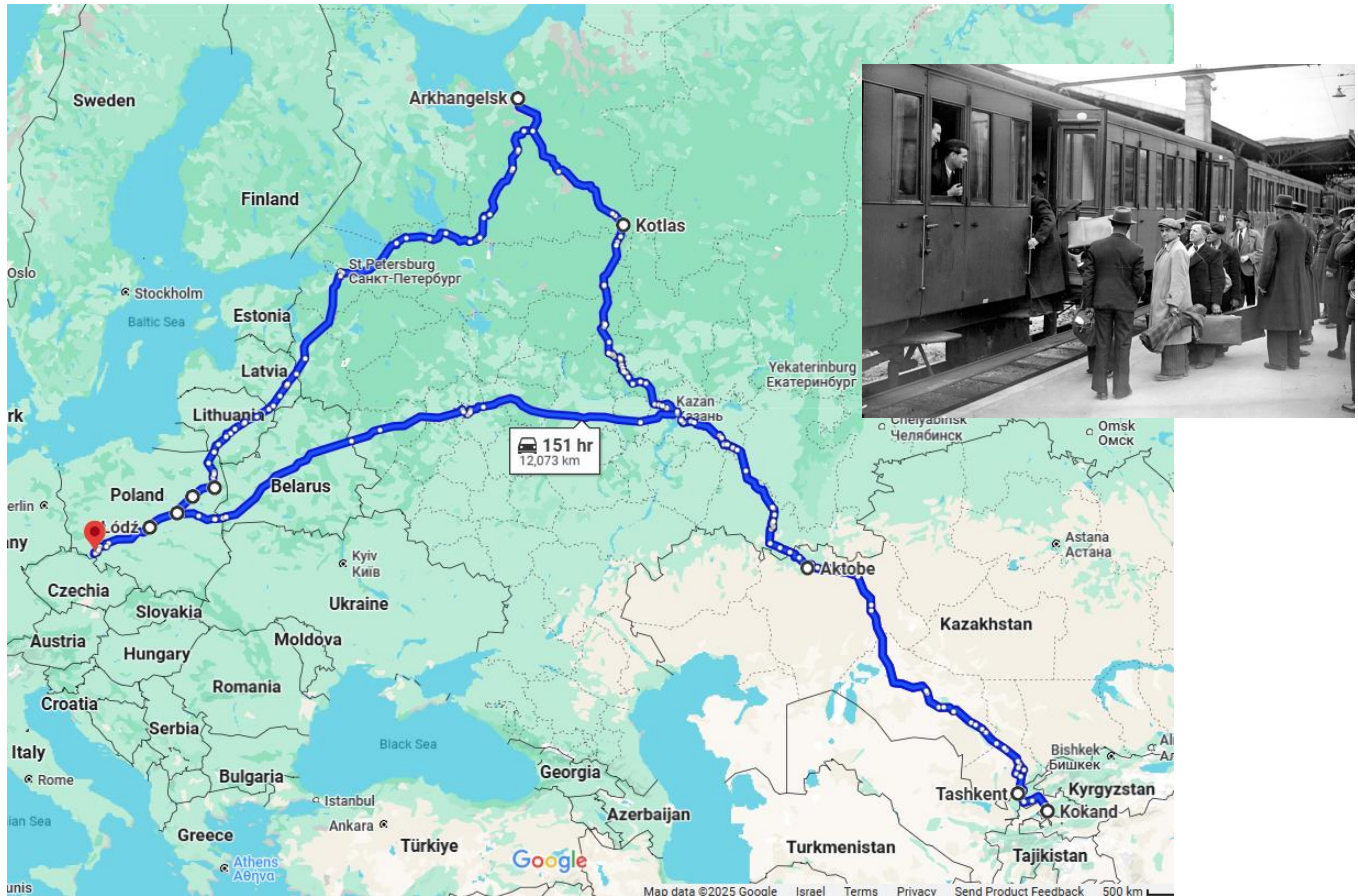
Orphanage, Uzbekistan



Max



The great migration to the West



1944: Hildebrand family leaves Kokand and returns to Warsaw, and settles in Lodz, Poland.

Michaela decides to leave Poland for good, reaching Walbrzych, near the border with Czechoslovakia, where she meets Israel

Israel Steingarten

1940: Returns to home village, Ratne, Wohlin, east Poland.
With bicycle escapes to Russia.

Reaches Zlatoust, Ural mountains

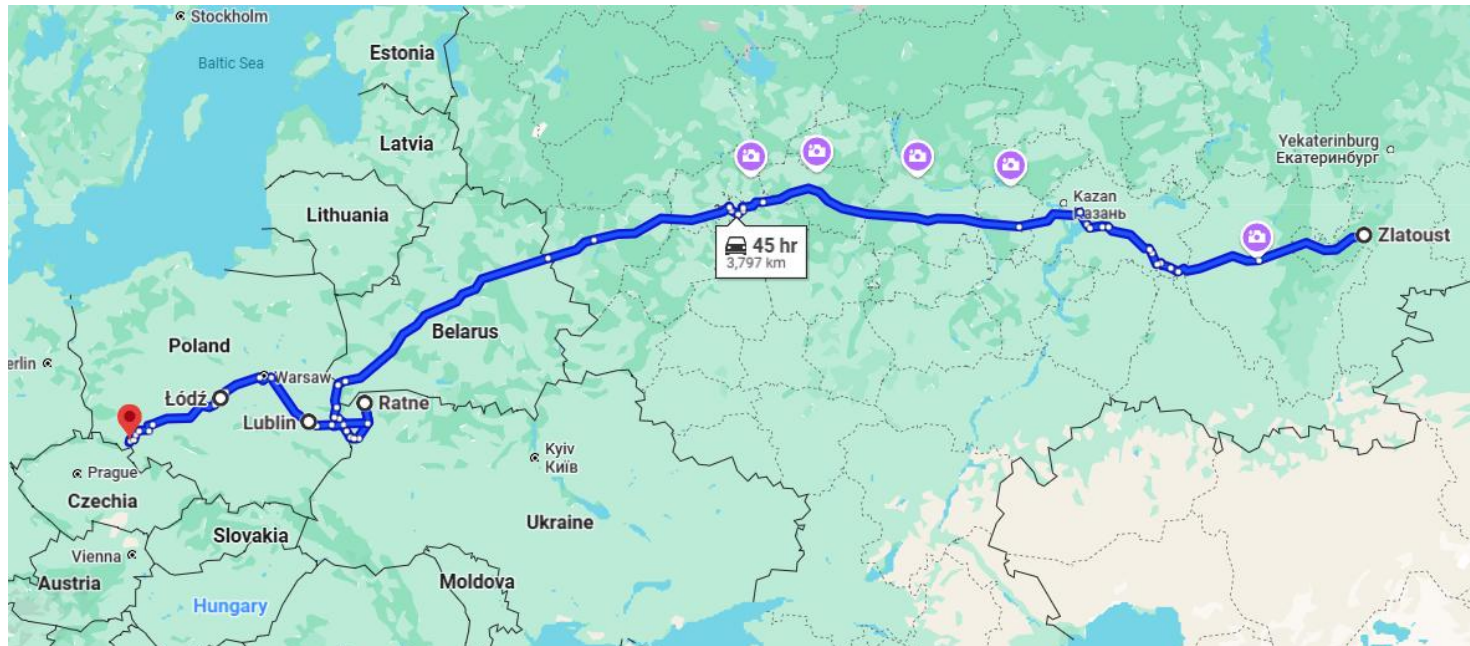
1940 – late 1943: : “Work Batalion”
Until late 1943.



Israel



David and Mati Steingarten



I am hungry today as yesterday...

Israel Steingarten

My grandfather used to bow his head during bad fateful hours,
Murmuring ceaselessly, religiously: "Happy is the just man..."
And I, with a paling face, I look frozen on my days
And nothing comes to my mind: I am hungry today as yesterday...

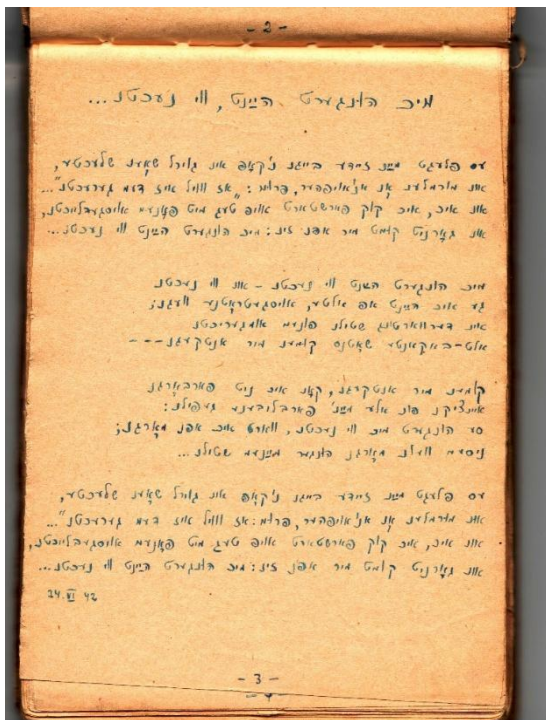
I am hungry today as yesterday – and like yesterday
I walk today on old trodden ways;
Awaiting calm faces that should suddenly appear,
Familiar shadows from way back come towards me - - -

As they come towards me, I am unable to conceal
Even a single remnant of my feelings:
Hungry as yesterday, I am waiting for the morrow;
Tomorrow, miracles will pacify my hunger...

My grandfather used to bow his head during bad fateful hours,
Murmuring ceaselessly, religiously: "Happy is the just man..."
And I, with a paling face, I look frozen on my days
And nothing comes to my mind: I am hungry today as yesterday...

24.IV.1942

Translated by E. Schleifer



אני רעב היום, כְּאֶתְמוֹל... ישראל אבנר

סבי נהג לכף ראשו בשעות גורל רעות,
ולמלמל ללא הרף, באדיקות: "אשרי הצודק..."
ואני, בפנים שֶׁחֲחִירָיו, מביט אני קפוא, על גמי,
נדבר לא עולה במוחי: אני רעב היום כְּאֶתְמוֹל...

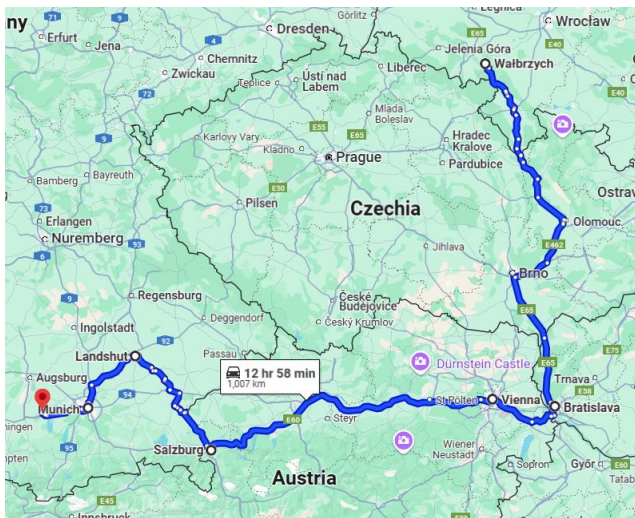
אני רעב היום כְּאֶתְמוֹל – וכְּאֶתְמוֹל
הולך אני היום בְּדֶרֶכים שְׁנוֹת, כְּבוֹשׁוֹת;
בְּצִפְיָה לפנים שְׁקִטוֹת שֶׁיָּבוֹאוּ לַפֶּתַע,
צִלְלִים מְקִרִים מְנִימִים מִימָה בָּאִים לְקִרְאָתִי - - -

בְּבוֹאֵם לְקִרְאָתִי, אני נכול לְהַצְלִיחַ
אֶפְלֹ אֶחָד וְנֶחָד מִכָּל שְׂרִידֵי רִגְשׁוֹתֵי:
רֵעַב כְּאֶתְמוֹל, מְחַפֵּה אני לְמֹחֶר;
מֹחֶר, אֶת רֵעִבּוֹנִי, נִסִּים נִשְׁתִּיקוּ...

סבי נהג לכף ראשו בשעות גורל רעות,
ולמלמל ללא הרף, באדיקות: "אשרי הצודק..."
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נדבר לא עולה במוחי: אני רעב היום כְּאֶתְמוֹל...

1944-1946, Israel and Michaela – the road to Munich:

- * Israel returns to Ratne to find out the horrible fate of his family and the Jewish community
- * Moves to Lublin, Poland and joins **"The Escape"** organization, **הבריחה**
- * Continues to Lodz, Poland: Establishment of **PECHACH**
פח"ח – פרטיזנים חיילים, חלוצים
- * Ordered by "The Escape" and Pechach to move to Walbrzych, near the border with Czechoslovakia – helping the masses of deported people to cross the mountainous border to Czechoslovakia
- * Israel and Michaela meet in Walbrzych
- * Under the instructions of Pechach organization they continue west:
Bratislava – Vienna – Salzburg - **Munich**



III. Munich – The Bavarian Exile

A Family Story

By

Michaela Avnir-Darmon

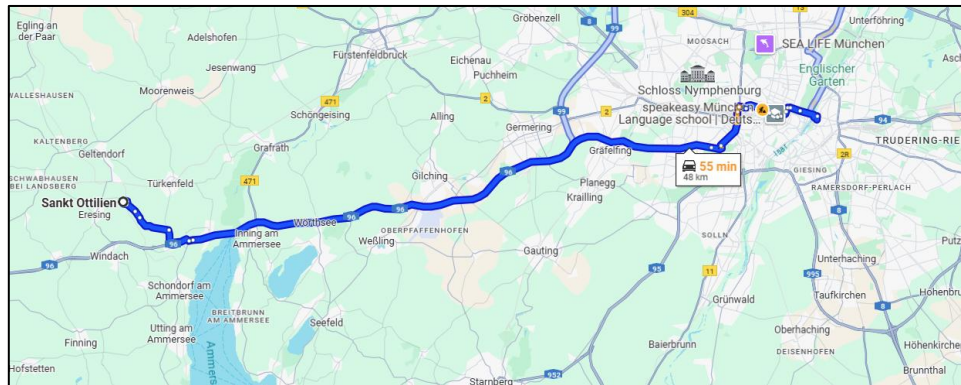
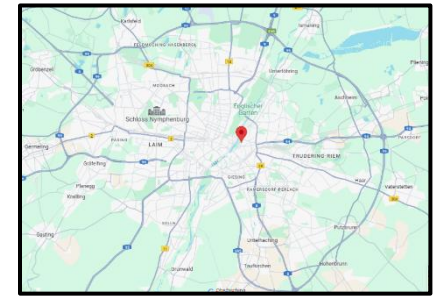
Jerusalem, 1985

Chapter 10: Munich - The Bavarian Exile
With Prologue, Background and Epilogue

Settling in Munich



Maria-Theresia-Straße 9



St. Ottilien Benedictine Archabbey and Monastery

* **7th century:** Eresing was evangelized by monks of the order of St. Augustine, who built an abbey and a monastic school that became one of the main higher-education centers in Western Europe.

* **1884:** Andreas Amrhein, establishes "the Ottilien congregation" in its present location.

* **April 17, 1941:** The Nazi security police (SIPO) converted the monastery into a military hospital for wounded German soldiers.

* **April 1945:** Liberation of the monastery by American forces

* **April 26, 1945:** About 3500 seriously ill concentration camp prisoners from Kaufering satellite camp of Dachau are put into freights train-car destined for extermination in the Dachau camp. The Allies bombed what they believed was a German military transport train. Survivors were hospitalized with German soldiers in the St. Ottilien hospital.

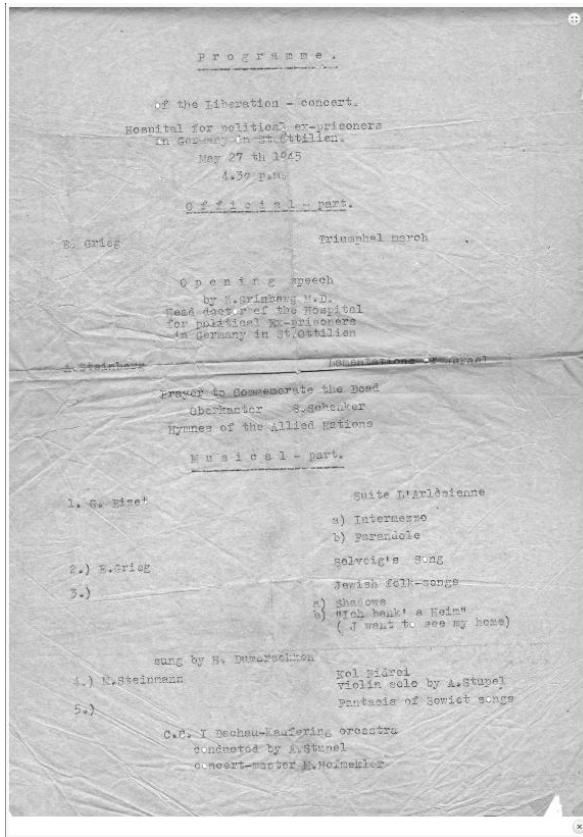
* **May 1945 - May 1948:** St. Ottilien is one of the most significant centers for Jewish Holocaust survivors (~6000). The Displaced Persons (DP) camp was full of medical, educational, religious and cultural life.
The Hospital considered one of the best.



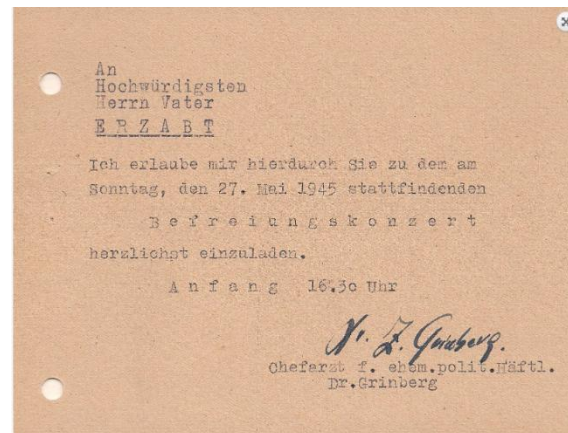
A rare photograph shows how the monks are brought away in busses after the Gestapo had taken over the monastery. Around 60 monks were „obliged“ to continue their work for the basic needs of the military hospital.



The Liberation Concert on May 27, 1945



One of the most iconic events in St. Ottilien was the emergence of the camp orchestra. On May 27, 1945, just weeks after liberation, eight Jewish survivors gave their first concert on the hospital lawn of the monastery

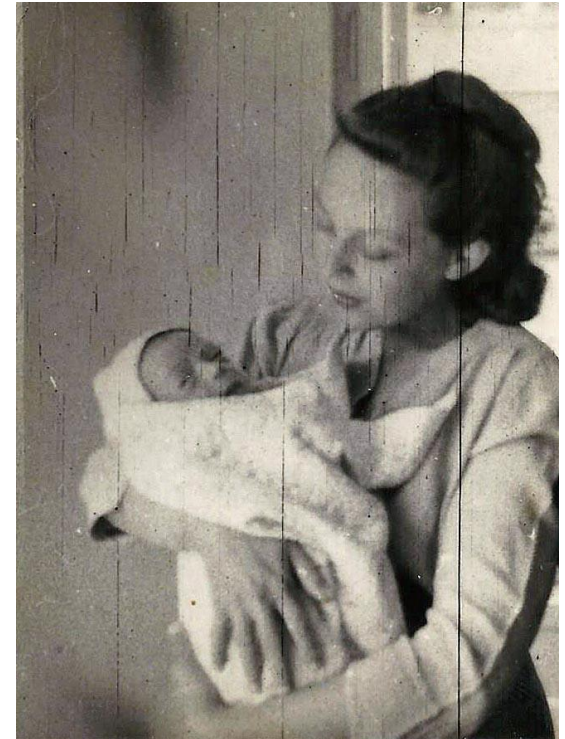


To the Right Reverend Father
Archabbot,
I take the liberty to invite you
most cordially to the Liberation
Concert which will take place on
Sunday, May 27, 1945. The
beginning is on 16:30.
Signed by Dr Grinberg

<http://dphospital-ottilien.org/>

1946 – 1948: 431 babies of the deported people, born

367.	Dichtenberg	Pesa Blyma	1947/05/31
368.	Fenster	Eliahu	1947/06/01
369.	Szpikowska	Ester	1947/06/01
370.	Szeinberg	Motek Binek	1947/06/02
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376.	Sperling	Wolf	1947/06/21
377.	Pszczola	David	1947/06/25



4-8-1947



Erika Grube sketch of St. Ottilien Hospital. Erika was a movement physiotherapist

<http://dphospital-ottilien.org/>

פּוֹחַח

№ 1

עתון התנועה



על המספר

1947 15 יולי 1947

(1)

פח"ח

16

ידיעות און מעלדונגען.

חברים פון פח"ח אויף די וועגן פון העפלה.

אויף דער מעפיליט-שיף „מטאדאר הערצל“ וואס איז לעצטענס פאר- האלטן געווארן ביי די ברעגן פון א״י האבן זיך געפונען 150 חברים פון פנישות גלילות פון אקטיוו.

אין דער צווייטער העלפס יוני ה.י. וועלן גערופן ווערן פנישות גלילות פון פח"ח-אקטיוו אין בויערן, אויפן מאנארדונג-פראגן פון עליה; קולמור-דערציהערישע פראבלעמען און א ריי וויכטיקע ארגאניזאציעלע ענינים פון דער באוועגונג. ווענען ארץ און גענויעס מערמן פון די פנישות וועט באזונדערס געמאלדן ווערן אין א א חוד.

צוזאמענשריף פון פח"חניקים — לאנדווירטן.

אין די גאנצעסעטע מעג וועט צוש- מאנד קומען א צוזאמענשריף פון אלע אונדזערע חברים-לאנדווירטן לויט ווער פאך. דער ציל פון צוזאמענשריף: באקענען די חברים מיט די קאלאניזאציע- פארשען און לאנדווירטשאפטלעכע פרא- בלעמען פון ארץ-ישראל, ווי אויך צו שאפן די ערשטע קערן-גרופע פאר התי- שבות אין לאנד. ענלעכע צוזאמענשריף- קאמפלעסן פון „ביולעטין“.

די מפקדת הראשית האט אויסגע- פערטיקט אין א פראכט-אויסגאבע קאמ- פלעטן פון די ביו איצט דערשיינענע ביולעטינען פון פח"ח (1-27). צוליבן אויספעלן פון געוויסע אייגענעלע נומערן פון „ביולעטין“ (בעיקר די נימ: 6, 7 און 8) איז די צאל קאמפלעסן א שטארק באגרענעצטער כדי דערמעגלעכן א ווייטערדיקע אויסגאבע פון די קאמ- פלעטן, ווערן אלע סניפים, וואס בא- ויצן די אויבנדערמאנטע פעלענדע עק- ועמפלארן, לעבען זאפארט זיי צושטעלן אין דער מפקדה.

א פון די צעפיליגטער סניף, איינער פון די ערשטע סניפים אונזערע, וועמענס חברים האבן זיך אלע ווי א ייגער פארשריבן אין וועג אריין ביי דער ערשטער מעגלעכקייט.

אולם. סעראן קאסערנע

דער סניף ציילט 170 חברים. א דאנק דעם ח' מראפער ווערט געפירט א סיסטעמאטישע קולטורעלע ארבעט, מאנעגלעך קומען פאר לעקציעס פון עברית, אלע וואך — אנענג שבת און שיחות. שטענדיק אנטוויקלט זיך דער אינ- וואלדן קאאפעראטיוו ביים פח"ח, וועל- כער ארבעט אויס פלאסמישע גופס-ביל- דער.

גרייטקייט צו עליה ב' — א גרויסע, ק.

אויסגאבע פון „פארטיזאנער-בוך“.

פאראלעל מיטן איינארדנען פון א אייגענער זעצעריי ווערן שוין געמאכט די לעצטע הכנות פון אויספערטיקן צום דרוק די ערשטע ארבעט פון אונזער צענטראלער היסטארישער קאמיטע- „דעם פארטיזאנער-בוך“. אין בוך וועלן קומען בערך א דרייסיק גביות- עדות וועגן אנגיל פון יידן אין דער פאליעסער און ווילנער פארטיזאנער, דאס בוך וועט זיין פארזעט מיט א מאפע, דאקומענטן און פארשיידענע בילדער.

לייענט און פארשפרייט

דאס ווארט פון דער באוועגונג!

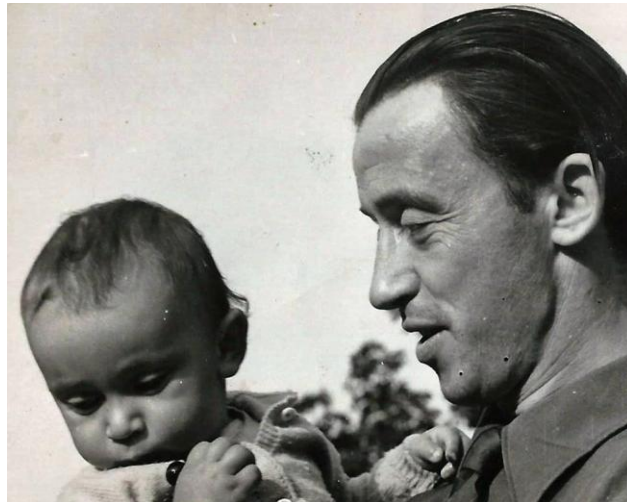
חברים!
שרייבט אונדז
אויפן אדרעס:
רעדאקציע פח"ח —
מינבען, מאריא-מערעזא 9, שטאק 2

בן זולד לנו
12. 6. 1947 — סט אויטליין
מיכאלה וישראל שטיינגרטן.
לישראל ומיכאלה
להולדת הבכור
ברכות
המפקדה הראשית של פח"ח בנרמניה.

פרייז פון נומער: 1 מארק.

Reuven Rubinstein, editor of „Under War“ (Our Way) has been authorized by Mil. Gov. of Bavaria, ICD Press Branch, to publish 7,500 copies of „Under War“. It is published by the Central Committee of Liberated Jews of U.S. Zone „Pechah“ magazine of Combatants, Veterans and Pioneers. Chief-redaktor: I. Steingarten, adres: Maria-Theresia-Str. 9, Druckerei: Stuhl & Jehle, München 15.

Happiness



From Munich to Haifa, Israel

End months of 1948:

St Ottilien Deported People
Camp closes.

Dec 1948: Steingarten family
and others leave to Bandol near
the port city of Marseille

Feb 1949: Boarding Negba, a
very old ship, built in Holland in
1915. The 2nd ship ever
purchased by Zim.



Arriving Haifa in 14-2-49

List of passengers on Negba

- 19 -

קוליה טהגיעו עה האניה "נגבה" ב-12.3.1949 מצרפת

מספר תעודת זהות
המסמכת
השם
או הגיל
שם האב - דאח
לאן נשלח
שנת הלידה
גדלו לחדרה, נוה חיים, ברנדס, אגרוונק

אהרן	1916	אברהם	שורל	1253
	1916	ליבה	"	1254
	1947	חנינלה	"	1255
	1890	רחל	שרון	1256
יעקב	1916	ישראל	טענדל	1257
	1915	זאה	"	1258
	1941	אסתר	"	1259
	1947	פייגה	"	1260
	1947	רחל	"	1261
	1925	טאול	סלז	1262
	1927	עלה	"	1263
	1909	מטה	שוץ	1264
	1910	מרים	"	1265
	1946	חנה	"	1266
דוד	1911	ישראל	טסינגרטן	1267
	1925	מכלה	"	1268
	1947	דוד	"	1269
ישראל	1918	ריטה	שפינדל	1270
	1926	זיסל	"	1271
	1948	אברהם	"	1272
מנדל	1929	בלה	טסינגמץ	1273
	1929	מגדה	"	1274
	1947	אסל	"	1275
	1896	חוש	טומר	1276
	1900	מרים	"	1277



alamy

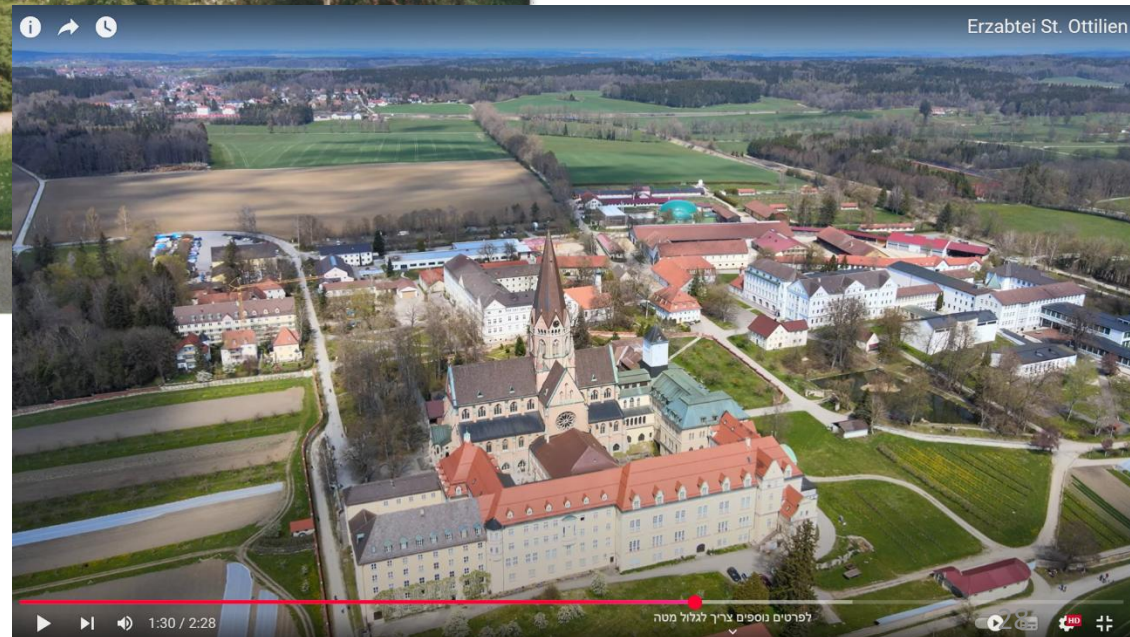
First steps: Immigrant camp - ma'abara in Hadera



Hadera's maabara

IV. Epilog

1993 – first visit to St Ottilien



Spring 2018, Israel and St. Ottilien:
The German Public TV prepares a documentary on St Ottilien babies



Producer Tilmann Kleinjung



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgxYlv7vsIU>

2018-09-16

10-12 June 2018: A conference in St. Ottilien

SANKT OTTILIEN – das Benediktinerkloster und seine jüdische Geschichte / *The Benedictine Monastery and Its Jewish History, 1945–48*

Internationales Symposium / International Symposium

10-12 JUNE 2018



Schedule

Sunday, June 10, 2018

14:00 *Opening of the exhibition "The Benedictine Monastery St. Ottilien and its Jewish History 1945-48" in cooperation with the Jewish Museum of Munich*

Greetings by Archabbot Wolfgang Oexler (St. Ottilien), Dr. Charlotte Knobloch (Jewish Community of Munich and Upper Bavaria), Thomas Eichinger (District Administrator of Landsberg am Lech), and Mayor Joseph Loy (Eresing)

Presentation by Dr. Julia Fleckenstein (Jewish Museum of Munich)

Place: Gallery of St. Ottilien

15:30 *Jewish Life in Bavaria after WW II*

Public conference by Prof. Dr. Michael Brenner (Jewish History Department of Munich)

Moderation: Thorsten Otto, Music: Susanne Weinhöppel
Place: Retreat House of St. Ottilien, Lecture Room, 3rd floor
Followed by Reception

This public part will be held in German, the non-public Symposium in English starts at 18:00 and takes place in the Lecture Room of the Retreat House.

18:00 *Opening and Introduction of the Symposium*

Presentation: Evita Wiecki and Fr Cyrill Schaefer

18:30 *The DP Hospital St. Ottilien between German, American and Jewish (Self-)Administration*

Prof. Andrea Sinn, Elon University, USA
Discussion moderated by Eva Wiecki, M.A.

20:00 Dinner

Monday, June 11, 2018

9:00 *Medical Problems of Holocaust Survivors and DPs*

Dr. Jael Geis, Jewish Museum Berlin

Towards a History of the St. Ottilien Hospital (1941/2–1948)

Eva Wiecki M.A., University of Munich

St. Ottilien – a place of rehabilitation for Holocaust survivors as individuals and a public

Dr. Ada Shein, Jerusalem

Coffee Break

11:15 *Americans, Jews, and Monks – Protagonists of the DP-Period in St. Ottilien*

Miriam Spandri, University of Munich

Religious Life at the DP Hospital

Julia Schneidewind, University of Munich

Rabbi Abraham Klausner, Dr. Zalman Grinberg, and the DP Zionism

Prof. Avinoam Patt, Hartford University, USA

12:30 Lunch

15:00 *"Zachor – Remember!" But How? And What? About Commemoration and Theories of Commemoration*

Prof. Erik Petry, Center of Jewish Studies, Basel

DP-History in Expositions and Memories

Jutta Fleckenstein, Jewish Museum Munich

Commemoration of Family History. Discussion with descendants of DP Patients and Medical Staff

Moderation: Prof. Petry and Dr. Hammermann

18:45 Dinner

19:30 *Testimony of contemporary witness Prof. Robert Hilliard*

Moderation: Dr. Gabriele Hammermann, Dachau Memorial Site

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

9:00 *Yiddish Literature and Press Work of the DP*

Tamar Lewinsky, Jewish Museum Berlin

Cultural Events at the DP Hospital St. Ottilien

Lara Theobald, University of Munich

The Liberation Concert and the Jewish Camp Orchestra

Uli Unseld, Dachau Memorial Site

Coffee Break

11:15 *Baby Boom and Gender Question during the DP Period*

Atina Grossman, Cooper Union, New York

DP Children and the Activity of WHO

Claudia Moisel, University of Munich

12:30 Lunch

14:00 *Children in St. Ottilien*

Verena Buser, University of Munich

Children in St. Ottilien and their Fate

Carolyn Piorun, University of Munich

Discussion

16:30 Departure for the Kaufering Camp 7 and guided tour

18:30: Reception at the Historical Town Hall of Landsberg am Lech

Installing Memorial Sites in the District of Landsberg am Lech

Ulrich Fritz, Bavarian Foundation for Memorial Sites

Farewell Dinner in Landsberg am Lech and return to St. Ottilien.

June 13-15: For those from abroad, we offer an additional program after the symposium which includes tours to Dachau, Kaufering, Munich and the region.

Registration
Fr Cyrill Schaefer
Erzabtei Sankt Ottilien
D-86941 St. Ottilien
+49 8193 71711
cyrill@ottilien.de

Participation and Fees
complete Symposium: 140,00 Euro
(boarding, meals, excursion to Landsberg)
single days: 30,00 Euro
(includes meals, but without boarding)

Boarding and conferences
are in the guesthouse of the monastery.

Arrival
Navigation System: Erzabtei 3, 86941 St. Ottilien
Please check in at the Reception of "Exerzitienhaus".
If you arrive later than 18:00 on Sunday,
please check in at the Reception of the Monastery.

For further information see **31**
www.dphospital-ottilien.org

The conference



Permanent exhibition and restoration project in St Ottilien





A restored building, and probably the room where Michaela stayed with David





With the Mayor of Eresing,
looking for records of the birth
of David



Erasing, den 23. Juni 1947

Die Thüringerin Maria, geb. Goldmann

wohnhaft in Münster

Ehefrau des Thüringerin Paul

Lager auf

wohnhaft in Münster Maria Goldmann

hat am 12. Juni um 1 Uhr 15 Minuten

zu St. Ottilien im Spital

ein Knaben geboren. Das Kind hat von Vornamen erhalten:

David

Eingetragen auf mündliche — schriftliche — Anzeige als Spital

D — Anzeigende —

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und unterschrieben

Der Standesbeamte

Paul

1. Eheschließung der Eltern bzw. Geburt der Mutter am 14. 8. 46 in

(Standesamt) Nr.

2. Eheschließung des Kindes am in

(Standesamt) Nr.

3. Tod des Kindes am in

(Standesamt) Nr.

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D. P. Hospital St. Ottilien

St. Ottilien, June 13th 1947

Admissions from June 6th till June 12th 1947 24⁰⁰h

Name	Birth-date	Birth-place	from
Schler Estera	4.10.22	Tomaszow	Neu - Ulm
Babion Chaja	12. 6.19	Krakau	Neu - Ulm
Lurje Edi	9. 6.42	Kraen	Munich
Folk Dorothea	4.12.14	Warschau	Landsberg
Folk Biana	14. 4.47	München	Landsberg
Milichman Dina	12. 5.07	Dubeczno	Heidenheim
Milichman Ala	16. 6.42	Dubeczno	Heidenheim
Rook (m)	11. 6.47	St. Ottilien	---
Densau - Gerstein Berta	10.10.98	Wilno	Landsberg
Rudowicz Regina	10. 6.99	Warschau	Neu - Ulm
Steingarten (m)	12. 6.47	St. Ottilien	---

Eingang 857
Erledigt 16. 6. 47

Erledigt 17. 47

D. P. Hospital St. Ottilien

St. Ottilien, June 20th 1947

Admissions from June 13th till June 19th 1947 24⁰⁰h

Name	Birth-date	Birth-place	from
Karlott-Kaplan Len	8.12.20	Riga	Loos/Pegnitz
Rosenbaum (m)	16. 6.47	St. Ottilien	---
Gutman Rifka	13. 9.19	Dofno	Führenwald
Gutman Etel	27. 7.46	Führenwald	Führenwald
Goldberg (m)	19. 6.47	St. Ottilien	---

Erledigt 17. 47

Last but not least

Michaela's map is displayed in a permanent exhibition in the House of the History of the Federal Republic of Germany (*Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*), Bonn

