

Martin Anson
9. Broadwood Drive
Glasgow G44 5UP
14th October 1987.

The Mayor and
The Town Councillors of
The Town of Leutershausen
Townhall
Leutershausen/ Mittelfranken.

Mr. Mayor,

LEUTERSHAUSEN

I wonder whether You or the Councillors are aware that until the early 1930's had a Jewish Population of approx. 16 families.

They were respectable citizens who were in business as Textile Merchants, Wholesale Purchasers of Newly-Shorn Fleece over a wide area, and as Cattle Dealers. They were well-reputed for honest dealing and prospered. Their business activities contributed to the welfare of their home town Leutershausen. As Citizens they were fully aware of their obligations as well as their entitlements. They participated actively in the ranks of The Voluntary Firebrigade, The Athletics Union and The Football Club. Social Functions organised by The Male Voice Choir and The Riflemen's Club could count on their support. They were able to maintain a Synagogue and employ a Teacher of Religion out of their own means. (It may be of interest to add here that when war broke out in 1914, the man who was then Teacher was called up to the army from there and lost his life on The Western Front). The Jews of Leutershausen could trace back their origins for several hundred years as inhabitants of Leutershausen and the nearby villages of Jochsberg and Colmberg.

ALL IN ALL - THEY WERE CITIZENS OF WHOM LEUTERSHAUSEN COULD HAVE BEEN PROUD - AND AT ONE TIME PERHAPS THIS REALLY WAS THE CASE !

BUT THEN CAME THE NAZI ERA !

I am one of the few Jews whose place of birth was Leutershausen and who is still alive today. In the name of my Co-religionists - The Living as well as The Dead - I feel it my duty to speak out and make it known to future generations in what despicable way we were treated by the inhabitants of Our Home Town :

(
⊗ The 3 Jewish Business (amongst them my father & me)
People bought almost the Total wool shorn in Mittelfranken
L. H. J. Skirrow
)

We were ejected as members from all Societies and Clubs

We were molested in public, insulted and abused

We were treated like Lepers

We were ambushed and attacked - but only when the attackers
were sure of being at least twice our number

We had bricks thrown through our bedroom windows at night.

None of the Civic Dignitaries - neither the Mayor nor the Towncoun-
cillors - considered it necessary to act or had the guts to act to
stop these criminal elements of the town.

Instead they made Hitler a Freeman of Leutershausen already in 1931
i.e. several years before "The Third Reich" was unleashed unto mankind.

By 1931/32 the situation in Leutershausen had reached a point
where The Government of Bavaria considered it necessary to station a
Company of Armed Police in the town to safeguard the lives of the
Jewish Inhabitants there.

ALL THIS HAPPENED SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE THE SO-CALLED
"SEIZURE OF POWER" BY HITLER WHEN GERMANY CEASED TO BE A STATE
GOVERNED BY THE RULE OF LAW.

It is the purpose of this letter to provide historical doc-
umentation to the present and future inhabitants of Leutershausen
as regards the guilt of their predecessors.

At the end of the Jewish Annual Memorial Service for our
Martyrs one of our Prayers closes with these words:

WE SALUTE THOSE MEN & WOMEN WHO WERE NOT JEWS,
WHO HAD THE COURAGE TO STAND ASIDE FROM THE MOB
AND WHO SUFFERED WITH US. THEY, TOO, ARE YOUR
WITNESSES, A SOURCE OF HOPE WHEN WE DESPAIR.

PEOPLE OF SUCH CALIBRE, REGRETTABLY, DID NOT EXIST IN LEUTERSHAUSEN !

Respectfully,

Martin Anson.

PS. My name was formerly Ansbacher. I am the son of Gustav and
Babette Ansbacher. Born 1909 in No.2 in Leutershausen.