

south side of town, they could see that many structures in Bautzen were still burning.

To their relief, Sister Nikol and her daughters learned that their home was intact—except for the damage done by enemy soldiers who had quartered there for several days. Marianne described their home in May 1945:

Our windows were broken, but we were able to use our shutters to close the opening, and we could lock those. It was dark, but we were safe. We used wood and cardboard to cover the windows. We were very fortunate. Our cellar was cut out of stone and went back into the yard, but you couldn't tell it was there, so it had not been ransacked. My mother had put up lots of potatoes and bottled fruits, so we had food to eat when we got home.

Now and then, Red Army soldiers came to the door of the Nikol apartment. Because they seemed to have evil intentions, Marianne's aunt kept a constant vigil. She was fluent in both Russian and Polish and was therefore able to give them a good tongue-lashing whenever she felt that they were after her nieces. She did indeed save the girls from abuse.

With the war over in May 1945, the Latter-day Saint branch in Bautzen slowly came back to life. There is no record of any members of the Bautzen Branch losing their lives in World War II.

NOTES

1. Presiding Bishopric, "Financial, Statistical, and Historical Reports of Wards, Stakes, and Missions, 1884–1955," CR 4 12, 257.
2. Marianne Nikol, telephone interview with the author in German, June 26, 2008; summarized in English by the author.
3. The typical Leiterwagen was the size of a Bollerwagen, but had frames like a ladder (*Leiter*) rather than solid panel sides. Cardboard could be added to make the frame sides into panel sides. See the Halberstadt chapter for a photograph of a Leiterwagen.

BISCHOFSWERDA BRANCH

Members of the Bischofswerda Branch could attend district conferences in Dresden. The train ride took them twenty-five miles to the southwest in less than one hour. The branch was not large, but the Saints there had and exercised great faith in the Lord. For example, the following was reported in the history of the East German Mission:

Mon 5 Dec 1938: Elder Otto Hass, president of the Bischofswerda Branch, Dresden District, was called to administer to an eight-year-old friend of the Church, who was sick with diphtheria. On the day following the administration, the child was completely recovered.¹

Bischofswerda Branch ²	1939
Elders	1
Priests	0
Teachers	1
Deacons	3
Other Adult Males	3
Adult Females	14
Male Children	4
Female Children	3
<i>Total</i>	29

In early 1939, the branch meetings were held at Brauhausgasse 1 in a Hinterhaus, with access from the Albertstrasse.

Unfortunately, the mission history after 1941 has not been preserved, and little else is known of the Bischofswerda Branch during World War II. Heinz Koschnike was the only eyewitness available at the time of this writing. He did not come to Bischofswerda until 1946, when he and his family were evicted from Breslau along with other members of the three LDS branches in that city. Government officials

assigned them living space in Bischofswerda and in the neighboring town of Rammenau.

Heinz described how the survivors of the small branch welcomed the LDS refugees, who greatly increased their numbers:

On Sunday we went to church. That was in a Hinterhaus, and there was a winding staircase. Those [three] older sisters who had prayed for us were so thrilled to have their prayers answered, and they greeted us with tears. There were too many of us to even fit in the rooms. There were about one hundred of us. That was in September 1946.³

The “three older sisters” mentioned informed the refugees that they had been praying for a long time for the Lord to send priesthood holders to their town. By the end of the war, fully one-third of the members of the branch had died. Thanks to the refugees, the Bischofswerda Branch had experienced a virtual rebirth.

IN MEMORIAM

The following members of the Bischofswerda Branch did not survive World War II:

Emma Martha Bellack b. Schmoelln, Bautzen, Sachsen 23 Dec 1879; dau. of Johann Carl Gottfried Bellack and Anna Marie Flachs; bp. 23 Oct 1927; conf. 23 Oct 1927; m. Bischofswerda, Bautzen, Sachsen 1 Aug 1903, Ernst Willi Sturm; 5 children; 2m. Bischofswerda 10 Aug 1918, Emil Gustav Max Boden; 1 child; d. typhus Bautzen, Bautzen, Sachsen 9 Dec 1941 (CHL CR 375 8, reel #2427, no. 69; IGI)

Otto Hermann Paul Hass b. Stettin, Pommern, Preußen 4 Sep 1867; son of Christian Friedrich Erdtmann Hasse and Caroline Dorothea Luise Schuenemann; bp. 25 Feb 1903; conf. 25 Feb 1903; ord. teacher 19 Nov 1903; ord. priest 13 Oct 1912; ord. elder 13 Sep 1914; m. Spandau, Berlin, Brandenburg, Preußen 19 Dec 1892, Anna Franziska Juliane Hinze; 6 children; 2m. Bischofswerda, Bautzen, Sachsen 5 Dec 1931, Johanne Gertrud Kettner; 2 or 5 children; d. exhaustion Bischofswerda 27 Jul 1942 (CHL CR 375 8, reel #2427, no. 52; AF; IGI)

Anna Pauline Hempel b. Wilthen, Bautzen, Sachsen 2 Nov 1879; dau. of Karl Hempel and Karoline Kaulfuss; bp. 29 May 1938; conf. 29 May 1938;

m. 11 Jan 1905, Karl Gustav Richter; d. accident 28 Jul 1944 (CHL CR 375 8, reel #2427, no. 68; IGI)

Hermann Paul Lange b. Plagwitz, Breslau, Schlesien, Preußen 23 Jan 1906; son of Karl August Lange and Anna Ida Klara Lehmann; bp. 17 May 1933; m. 28 Dec 1930; MIA 1944 or d. 1945 (CHL CR 375 8 2458, 1410; CHL 2458, form 42 FP, pt. 37, 1949 list: 1410–11; IGI)

Karl Otto Rudolf Quente b. Borau, Bautzen, Sachsen 2 Nov 1919; son of Otto Karl Quente and Johanna Gertrud Kettner; bp. 18 Aug 1928; conf. 18 Aug 1928; ord. deacon 7 Mar 1934; m. 19 Apr 1943, Martha Kuliberta Foswalde; MIA Russia 1942 or 1943 (CHL CR 375 8, reel #2427, no. 113; IGI; AF)

Kurt Walter Quente b. Bischofswerda, Bautzen, Sachsen 20 Nov 1920; son of Karl Otto Quente and Johanna Gertrud Kettner; bp. 31 Mar 1929; m.; d. 17 Mar 1945 (IGI)

Karl Gustav Richter b. Neukirch, Breslau, Schlesien, Preußen 29 Sep 1874; son of Karl August Richter and Christiane Beck; bp. 13 Jul 1941; conf. 13 Jul 1941; m. 11 Jan 1905, Pauline Richter; d. accident, 28 Jul 1944 (CHL CR 375 8, reel #2427, no. 88; IGI)

Erich Helmut Roethig b. Neugersdorf, Zittau, Bautzen, Sachsen 22 Oct or Dec 1919; son of Karl Erich Roethig and Frieda Elsa Gleitsmann; bp. 1 Nov 1927; m.; MIA 1944 or d. 4 Mar 1945 (CHL CR 375 8 2458, 1410; CHL 2458, form 42 FP, pt. 37, 1949 list: 1410–11; IGI)

Rudolf Johannes Schaarschuch b. Dresden, Dresden, Sachsen 5 Dec 1920; son of Richard Emil Schaarschuch and Martha Lina Rietschel; bp. 13 Jan 1929; conf. 13 Jan 1929; soldier; k. in battle near Stalingrad, Russia, 6 Sep 1942 (*Sonntagsgruss*, no. 1, 3 Jan 1943, 4; CHL CR 375 8, reel #2427, no. 77; IGI)

Heinz Erich Wolf b. Rauschwitz, Sachsen 23 May 1920; son of Erich Wolf and Elsa Selma Neumann; k. in battle Russia 14 Dec 1941 (CHL CR 375 8 2458, 744; CHL 2458, form 42 FP, pt. 37, 744–45; FHL Microfilm 245303, 1935 Census)

NOTES

1. East German Mission Quarterly Reports, 1938, no. 50, East German Mission History.
2. Presiding Bishopric, “Financial, Statistical, and Historical Reports of Wards, Stakes, and Missions, 1884–1955,” CR 4 12, 257.
3. Heinz Koschnike, interview by the author in German, Bischofswerda, Germany, June 7, 2007; summarized in English by Judith Sartowski.

DRESDEN ALTSTADT BRANCH

Called the “Florence on the Elbe,” the city of Dresden was truly a cultural gem in Germany in 1939. Famed internationally for its many museums and architectural monuments, the city was also known as the home of one of the most treasured brands of porcelain in Europe. The former capital city of the kingdom of Saxony, Dresden was a railroad center but otherwise had no military or industrial significance. The population of the city at the time was approximately six hundred fifty thousand.

Dresden Branch ¹	1939
Elders	18
Priests	2
Teachers	10
Deacons	20
Other Adult Males	79
Adult Females	203
Male Children	16
Female Children	17
<i>Total</i>	365

At the onset of World War II, the East German Mission records indicated the existence of only one branch of the Church in the city of Dresden. It was called simply the Dresden Branch, but was later referred to as the Altstadt (Old City) Branch. It is clear from eyewitness testimony that by 1942 or 1943, a second branch existed under the name Neustadt (New City) Branch. They will be treated here as two coexistent branches for most of the war. The official membership shown in the table above represents the only branch in the city at the end of 1939.

Elder Leo Van Gray of Pocatello, Idaho, was one of the last foreign missionaries to leave

Dresden before World War II began. The following entries in his diary reflect the tension felt by missionaries and Altstadt Branch members alike as peacetime drew to a close:

Thursday 24 August: The warning has come. Our trunks are to be packed and ready—in case. . . . Shortly after dinner the telegram came. After that I helped pack a stove into the Altstadt Church house.

Friday 25 August: The tension is surely growing tonight. Now things are beginning to move with fast rapidity. Never in my life have I seen things so quickly fired up. After a dinner at the Brux’s a telegram came to the house stating “Come Berlin Immediately Trunks Same Train.” [Elders] McKay, Hawkes, and Montague was resting while I was writing a letter, but I immediately jumped on my bike and ran over to Mutties [Sister Schäckel] and told [Elders] Sorenson and Nuttal the sad news. The Rigby’s had just left there, and I caught up with them at the German Hygiene Museum. They were very disappointed. I went home and packed. All seven of us tried to eat at the house but were unsuccessful. . . . Went home and finished packing.

Saturday 26 August: Awoke early this morning. Everything seems to be a hustle and bustle here in Dresden. I went right out to Sister Dotters and picked up two white shirts she [had] washed for me. She was rather blue. Her husband left last night for the front. I came back to breakfast and the finals in packing. Went over to the Church house to get a Kodak for Montague and tell Sorenson to get a wagon. All trucks and horses have been confiscated this morning. We left Dresden at 12:54, arrived Berlin about 3:30.²

Annelies Höhle recalled that American missionaries had assisted members in renovating the rooms for the Altstadt Branch when the property was first acquired:

When we started, the missionaries were still here and helped with the construction and painting. Suddenly they were gone, and we thought, well, they will be returning soon. The branch house was dedicated in early September.³