

NOTES

1. West German Mission quarterly report, 1939, no. 12, CHL LR 10045 2.
2. Presiding Bishopric, "Financial, Statistical, and Historical Reports of Wards, Stakes, and Missions, 1884–1955," 257, CHL CR 4 12.
3. Waltraud Weiss Burger, interview by the author in German, Fürth, Germany, May 27, 2007; unless otherwise noted, summarized in English by Judith Sartowski.
4. Lorie Baer Bonds, interview by Michael Corley, Provo, UT, March 6, 2008.
5. Helga Mördelmeyer Campbell, interview by the author, Provo, UT, May 28, 2009.
6. Gerda Gentner Kammerer, interview by the author in German, Bamberg, Germany, August 13.

COBURG BRANCH

At the far northern extent of the former kingdom of Bavaria, the city of Coburg was about as far as it could be from any other German city in which a branch of Latter-day Saints was found in 1939. About ninety minutes by train from Nuremberg, the city was otherwise not located along any major transportation routes. The members of the Coburg Branch were very isolated in that location and also few in number.

The records of the West German Mission show a branch population of only twenty-nine persons, none of whom were Melchizedek priesthood holders. The branch president when the war began was Johann Schmidt, who traveled to Coburg from his home in Nuremberg to direct the activities of the branch. According to the mission directory, there were no Sunday School, Primary, or MIA programs operating in the branch at the time. The Relief Society was led by a local woman, Alma Bauer, and she enjoyed the services of a secretary, Metha Franke.¹

The formal address of the Coburg Branch in 1939 was Kalenderweg 5, the house in which Sister Franke lived. It is not known whether she invited the branch members into her home each

Sunday, or whether other rooms in the building were used. The mission directory offers a little additional information with the statement, "A small room is rented whenever larger sacrament meetings are held."²

Coburg Branch ³	1939
Elders	0
Priests	1
Teachers	2
Deacons	1
Other Adult Males	4
Adult Females	19
Male Children	1
Female Children	1
<i>Total</i>	29



Fig. 1. The home at Kalenderweg 5 in which the Coburg Branch held meetings in 1939. (W. Kohlase)

Two meetings were held on Sundays in August 1939: a sacrament meeting at 3:00 p.m. and a cottage meeting at 8:00 p.m. The only other meeting scheduled at the time was Relief Society on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.

Due to a lack of eyewitness testimony and branch records as of this writing, nothing else is known about the Coburg Branch during World War II.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Albert Christian Beck b. Frankenheim, Mittelfranken, Bayern, 29 Aug 1884; son of Johannes Beck and Karoline Guttman; bp. 6 Sep 1933; conf. 6 Sep 1933; k. in battle Dec 1939 (FHL microfilm 68802, no. 453)

Flora Maria Becker b. Coburg, Bayern, 8 Jun 1914; dau. of August Wilhelm Becker and Johanna Karoline Luise Menke; bp. 5 Nov 1932; conf. 6 Nov 1932; m. 21 May 1938, Alfred Bernhard; d. heart failure 15 Aug 1940 (FHL microfilm 68786, no. 37; FHL microfilm 68802, no. 439; IGI)

Rudolf W. Bosseckert b. Kleinhennersdorf, Dresden, Sachsen, 8 Jun 1917; son of Walter Bosseckert and Elsa or Ella Binczik or Bincyik; bp. 27 Jun 1934; conf. 27 Jun 1934; ord. deacon 4 Nov 1934; ord. priest 5 Apr 1936; corporal; k. in battle Flanders, Belgium, 27 May 1940; bur. Lommel, Belgium (FHL microfilm 68786, no. 44; FHL microfilm 68802, no. 470; www.volksbund.de; IGI)

Margot Hanst b. Bald Wildungen, Bayern, 7 Mar 1925; dau. of Johannes Hanst and Ella Richter; bp. 11 Jun 1934; conf. 11 Jun 1934; d. suicide 16 Mar 1943 (CHL CR 275 8 2458, 107; FHL microfilm 68802, no. 467)

Paul Jakob Naumann b. Mittwitz, Bayern, 14 Feb 1910; son of Alwin Gundermann and Christina Margaretha Jakob; bp. 4 May 1920; conf. 4 May 1920; d. meningitis 8 Oct 1940 (FHL microfilm 68786, no. 35; FHL microfilm 68802, no. 300; IGI)

NOTES

1. West German Mission branch directory, 1939, CHL LR 10045 11.
2. West German Mission branch directory, 1939.
3. Presiding Bishopric, "Financial, Statistical, and Historical Reports of Wards, Stakes, and Missions, 1884-1955," 257, CHL CR 4 12.

FÜRTH BRANCH

Located just six miles northwest of the Nuremberg city center, Fürth was a city of 78,838 people when World War II began. The branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had existed there for not quite one year at the time, as we read in the records of the West German Mission:

Sunday, September 11, 1938: The newly organized Fürth Branch held a special sacrament meeting with Pres. [M. Douglas] and Sister [Evelyn] Wood in attendance.¹

Fürth Branch ²	1939
Elders	2
Priests	5
Teachers	3
Deacons	3
Other Adult Males	13
Adult Females	34
Male Children	5
Female Children	4
<i>Total</i>	69

Although less than a year old, the Fürth Branch had a stable unit, with thirteen men and boys holding the priesthood. As was the case in so many branches in Germany in those days, the number of women over twelve years of age dominated the Fürth Branch population at 49 percent. The smallest portion of the branch consisted of the children.

The branch president in July 1939 was Johann Schmidt. A resident of Nuremberg, he may have been chosen for the assignment as an expatriate of Fürth.³ According to the branch directory, President Schmidt could be reached by telephone at his office in a Nuremberg insurance company from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. His wife, Frieda, was the leader of the YWMIA. President Schmidt's counselors were Heinrich Beck and Georg Beck. Georg Völker was the leader of the YMMIA, and Anna Beck was the president of the Relief Society. Robert Beck was the superintendent of the Sunday School and the instructor of the genealogical research group.

The Fürth Branch met in rooms on the third floor of a Hinterhaus at Pfisterstrasse 16. Sunday School began at 10:00 a.m. and sacrament meeting at 7:00 p.m. MIA met on Tuesday evenings at 8:00