

21. Karl Walker, telephone interview with Jennifer Heckmann in German, March 13, 2009.
22. See the introduction for more details about such precautions that were carried out all over Germany and Austria.
23. See the West German Mission chapter for more details about Ilse Brünger Förster's work at Schaumainkai 41.
24. Otto Hugo Förster, autobiography (unpublished, 1998); private collection.
25. Elsa Heinle Foltele, interview by the author in German, Frankfurt, Germany, August 19, 2008.
26. Frankfurt Branch general minutes, 167.
27. *Ibid.*, 173.
28. *Ibid.*, 173.
29. *Ibid.*, 174.
30. *Ibid.*, 174–76.
31. Babette Rack, *110 Jahre (1894–2004) Gemeinde Frankfurt*, 112–13, CHL.
32. This was a common occurrence with explosive bombs. In older homes, the roofs and floors on the various levels were often not solid enough to activate the fuse, so the bomb went off only when it hit the concrete floor of the basement; then the entire structure collapsed.
33. Rock, *110 Jahre Gemeinde Frankfurt*, 9.
34. Ilse Brünger Förster, autobiography.
35. Otto Förster, interview.
36. Otto Förster, autobiography.
37. Hermann's sentiments about church attendance were similar to those expressed by many eyewitnesses in this study: "Whoever really wanted to attend church meetings found a way to do it."
38. See the West German Mission chapter for details about that specific air raid. Eyewitness Otto Förster recalled much more damage: all exterior and some interior windows were broken, and two bombs bounced off of the exterior walls without exploding. An artillery shell entered the corner office, tore through the floor into the basement, and exploded.
39. Frankfurt Branch general minutes, 177–78.
40. Otto Förster, interview.
41. *Ibid.*
42. Frankfurt Branch general minutes, 178–79.

MAINZ BRANCH

The city of Mainz, which had 154,003 residents, was home to a very modest branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1939.¹ The branch president in July was an American missionary who served without counselors. After his departure on August 25, the Saints there were

dependent upon elders visiting from other cities—principally the leaders of the district of Frankfurt.

According to mission records, the meetings of the Mainz Branch were held in rented rooms at Pfaffengasse 13 in the first Hinterhaus. The Sunday School met at 10:00 a.m. and sacrament meeting began at 7:00 p.m. There were enough active members in 1939 to have Mutual on Thursday evenings, Relief Society on Wednesday evenings, and Primary on Tuesday afternoons. The monthly schedule also included a genealogical class, choir practice, and teacher training.²

Mainz Branch ³	1939
Elders	0
Priests	0
Teachers	0
Deacons	2
Other Adult Males	12
Adult Females	39
Male Children	1
Female Children	0
<i>Total</i>	54

As of this writing, no eyewitnesses or documents could be found to tell the story of the Saints in Mainz during the war. Only two civilian members of the branch are known to have died from 1939 to 1945, which is remarkable given that the city suffered fifty-five attacks from the air in which 60 percent of the city was destroyed and 2,800 civilians were killed. According to city records, several thousand soldiers from Mainz lost their lives. The war ended there for all practical purposes when the American army arrived on March 22, 1945.⁴

IN MEMORIAM

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

Elisabeth Philippa Fischler b. Mainz, Mainz, Hessen, 23 Jan 1892; dau. of Johann Philipp Fischler and Margareta Beck; bp. 27 Jan 1928; conf. 27 Jan 1928; m. Mainz about 1919, Karl Kloshöhn; 3 children; d. lung disease 12 or 13 Dec 1941 (FHL microfilm 68791, no. 268; FHL microfilm 271380, 1930 and 1935 censuses; Frankfurt District book II)

Emma Karolina Philippi b. Wiesbaden, Hessen-Nassau, 9 Dec 1865; dau. of Heinrich Ludwig Wilhelm Philippi and Caroline Luise Charlotte Hartmann; bp. 22 Mar 1914; conf. 22 Mar 1914; m. Frankfurt am Main, Hessen-Nassau, Preussen, 17 Apr 1889, Friedrich Adam Philipp Fach; 4 children; d. senility Nauroth, Wiesbaden, Hessen-Nassau, 2 Jan 1945 (FHL microfilm 68791, no. 39; FHL microfilm 25764, 1925, 1930, and 1935 censuses; Frankfurt District book II; IGI)

NOTES

1. Mainz city archive.
2. West German Mission manuscript history, CHL MS 10045 2.
3. Presiding Bishopric, "Financial, Statistical, and Historical Reports of Wards, Stakes, and Missions, 1884–1955," 257, CHL CR 4 12.
4. Mainz city archive.

MICHELSTADT BRANCH

The charming little city of Michelstadt is located in the Odenwald Forest about thirty-five miles southeast of Frankfurt. Its main attraction is the beautiful city hall that dates to at least 1484, one of the oldest in all of Germany. The Büchler family brought the gospel to this small city just after the turn of the century, but the branch was not officially established there until 1932.¹

When World War II began, the Latter-day Saints in Michelstadt were holding meetings in a modest building at Horst Wessel Strasse 22. Annaliese Büchler (born 1929) described the meeting place in these words:

There was a large room and one smaller classroom, a cloak room, and a restroom. In the large room . . . there was a large table, and behind

that, the branch presidency sat. On the side was a smaller table for the sacrament. We made music with a pump organ. With everybody there, we might have been twenty people in all. The building was right by the street, and there was a sign saying that [the branch] met there.²

Surnames represented among the branch leaders in the directory dated June 1939 were Walther, Büchler, Megner, Leopold, and Jakob.³ Eleven of the thirty-seven registered members at the time held the priesthood.

Michelstadt Branch ⁴	1939
Elders	2
Priests	2
Teachers	1
Deacons	6
Other Adult Males	2
Adult Females	19
Male Children	3
Female Children	2
<i>Total</i>	37

The meeting schedule for the Michelstadt Branch was similar to that of other branches all over Germany: Sunday School began at 10:30 a.m. and was followed by Relief Society. Sacrament meeting was held at 8:00 p.m. Mutual met on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 p.m., and a genealogy class was held on the third Sunday of the month at 8:00 p.m. There was no Primary at the time. When the war began, the branch president was Jakob Walther, and his counselors were Martin Büchler and Heinrich Büchler.

When Germany attacked Poland on September 1, 1939, Annaliese Büchler was a member of the Jungvolk. About her membership in the Jungvolk, she recalled:

I liked it. For me it was a wonderful time because we learned new things and had fun with all of our friends. Although we had to wear a uniform