
The Economy Crisis

Apparently the fragile economy of the twenties doesn't leave the Dottenheimer business untouched. In 1926 rooms on ground level are rented by the Bavarian Animal Breeding Inspection and the Breeding Control for yellow cows.

In April of 1930 dentist Karl Liebl moves his office from Schillerstraße 10 to this house.

On January 6th 1933 the family deregisters their wine and spirits store, only a few weeks before Adolf Hitler takes power. It is unknown to us what Sigmund Dottenheimer is doing now in terms of work. He is now 46 years old, much too young for retirement.

The family stays in their home and experiences the first measures that are taken and discrimination acts that are made against Jews. These began very soon in Gunzenhausen. On March 25th 1934 the town experiences the first pogrom. Two Jewish residents lose their lives and many are arrested, imprisoned and tortured. The Dottenheimers have the same fate.

On 1.9.1937 dentist Reinhardt Carben from Berolzheim takes over the dentists office.

The family feels they couldn't leave their home, therefore they also experience the Reichskristallnacht in November of 1938. Most of the Jewish men, including Sigmund and his son Kurt, are deported to the concentration camp at Dachau in the days following. Wife Frieda is now alone with daughter Irene and youngest son Werner. The country uses this situation to take the house into possession. It is most likely that mayor Appler pressures the woman into signing the house over to the county for 910 RM. He has also done this with Kirchenstraße 13/15 for example.

At this time paying larger amounts of money to Jewish people isn't permitted anymore. Apparently they receive the money though, because the family uses it to move to Frankfurt after the two men have been released from the concentration camp.