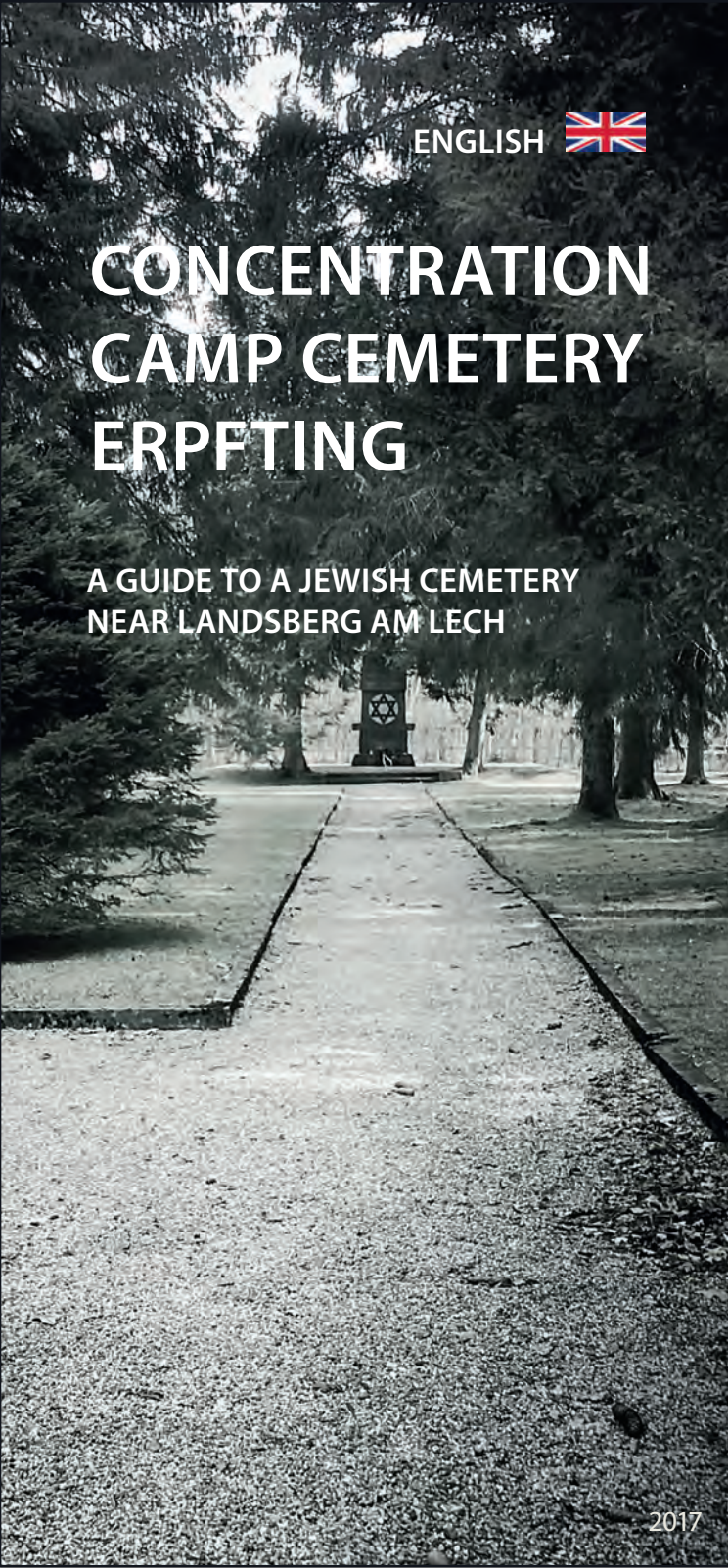


CONCENTRATION CAMP CEMETERY ERPFTING

A GUIDE TO A JEWISH CEMETERY
NEAR LANDSBERG AM LECH



2017

CEMETERIES AND MASS GRAVES

The cemetery in Erpfting is one of 13 concentration camp cemeteries around Landsberg. Until October 1944, the dead from the Kaufering/Landsberg camp complex were transported for incineration to the crematorium in Dachau. Later, dead inmates were buried in mass graves. They fell victim to ruthless forced labour, catastrophic living conditions, and the, in many cases, violent clearance of the camps.

Even after the end of the war in May 1945, liberated concentration camp inmates died from the consequences of their camp confinement. They were also buried here. In the beginning, survivors and the American military government made an effort to provide a dignified funeral. In 1950, Bavarian authorities arranged for a redesign of the cemeteries. All cemeteries have a simplistic design; precise information of the dead and their fate is missing. The respective memorials serve the commemoration of the historical occasion.

Signs point the way to the cemeteries. Often they are only accessible via unpaved roads or footpaths. There are no official parking spaces, but parking facilities can be found in the vicinity.

Since 2013, the Stiftung Bayerische Gedenkstätten (Foundation for Bavarian Memorials) has been managing all concentration camp cemeteries in Bavaria.



THE CONCENTRATION CAMP CEMETERY ERPFTING

The 2,624-square-meter cemetery was erected in connection with Camp VII. According to contemporary records, about 2,000 unknown victims of the concentration Camp VII are buried there. The redesign of the cemetery began in October 1945 and its inauguration took place in 1950.

Five known victims who died after the liberation in DP- or UNRRA-camps (1948/49) were moved into the cemetery grounds from the adjacent part. This part, which was intended for further Jewish concentration camp victims, was then abandoned.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ARMAMENT BUILDINGS 1944-1945

From 1944, the German aircraft industry was largely destroyed by Allied air attacks. In order to protect the production sites, NS leaders, the SS and industrial representatives decided to build underground and bombproof installations.

Fighter aircrafts were to be constructed in three semi-underground armament bunkers in the Landsberg area. The buildings were given the codenames "Walnuß II" (Walnut II), "Weingut II" (Winery II) and "Diana II" and each occupied about 400 meters in length.



Until the end of the war, only one concrete building with a length of almost 233 meters was finished. This bunker lies in today's Welfenkaserne (a former military base).

LEIB FREUDENREICH

One of the few persons known to be buried in Erpfting is Leib Freudenreich (born March 21, 1897 in Lodz). He came to Auschwitz in 1944 and was hauled together with his son Itzy Freudenreich to the camp Kaufering VII. He died on February 23, 1945.

On May 2, Itzy Freudenreich was liberated by American soldiers. He searched for his fiancée Irma and his mother in all German camps. On June 25, he found Irma in Bergen-Belsen. His mother had died of typhus four days before the liberation.

Itzy and Irma were married on July 1, 1945. They lived initially in DP camps in Munich and Hamburg before immigrating to America in 1950.

They had two daughters; both were born impaired – a consequence of the confinement of the parents.

Itzy Freudenreich died on June 26, 1974 and the daughter Tonika 1985.

The class 8M was able to get in contact with the 100-year-old Irma in Dallas (USA) and her daughter via email and to find out more details about her life.



Picture on the headstone

DP-CAMPS

After the war, many former forced labourers and concentration camp prisoners came to Landsberg. These "Displaced Persons" (DPs) found new lodging in the DP camps. There they waited for the opportunity to leave the country – in particular to the newly founded state of Israel or to America. Largely isolated from the local population, they used their time preparing for a new life. Schools, workshops, art and culture were part of their self-organized educational program, which was financed by international organizations.

CONCENTRATION CAMP COMPLEX KAUFERING/LANDSBERG

To facilitate the large construction program, the labor force of concentration camp prisoners was systematically exploited. For this reason, work camps in the vicinity of the construction projects were established and given to the control of the SS.

The forced labourers, most of them Jewish, were accommodated inside the camps.

In 1944, the biggest satellite camp complex of the Dachau concentration camp emerged in Landsberg, with ten subsidiary camps in Landsberg, Hurlach, Kaufering, Obermeitingen, Seestall, Utting and Türkheim. They were all named after the train station "Kaufering".

Approximately 23,000 concentration camp prisoners were deported to Kaufering/Landsberg. According to the documents, 6,334 of them were killed.

KAUFERING CAMP VII

In September 1944, the first prisoners arrived in Camp VII. At times there were more than 2,000 people in the camp.

From the winter of 1944-45, the camp served as a "Krankenlager" (camp for the sick), in which the prisoners were left to their fate without care.

On April 24, 1945, a few days before the arrival of the American troops, the camp was cleared by the SS and the survivors were sent on the death march toward Dachau.

The well preserved clay tube buildings of Camp VII are regarded as "monuments of national importance".

PROJECT



In the 2016/17 school year, pupils of class 8M from the Mittelschule Landsberg worked on the "KZ-Friedhof Erpfting" project.

The focus was on the largely unknown part of the cemetery. Results from the project are this leaflet with a map and a website with further information on the cemetery.

In addition to the resources of the Stiftung Bayerische Gedenkstätten and the Military-Historical collection, information from the International search service Bad Arolsen was collected.

The students wished to participate in the care of the cemetery. They cleared the graveyard from weeds, cut bramble stems and removed roots and moss to reveal the demarcations of the mass graves.

Through street surveys and interviews in Landsberg and Erpfting, they examined the awareness of the population regarding the cemetery and its history as well as the question on how to deal with memorials.

WEBSITE

Recordings, videos, interactive panorama photographs and other research results are published on the project's website.

www.NS-Dokuzentrum-Landsberg.de

THE CONCENTRATION CAMP CEMETERY ERPFTING

INSCRIPTION ON THE MEMORIAL

COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD
TRUST IN HIM AND HE WILL DO THIS
HE WILL MAKE YOUR RIGHTEOUS
REWARD SHINE LIKE THE DAWN
YOUR VINDICATION LIKE THE
NOONDAY SUN

PSALM 37 OF DAVID

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
CONCENTRATION CAMP VICTIMS OF
CAMP ERPFTING
RAISED IN 1950

In 1980, teenagers vandalized the memorial. That's one of the reasons why some letters from the description are gone.

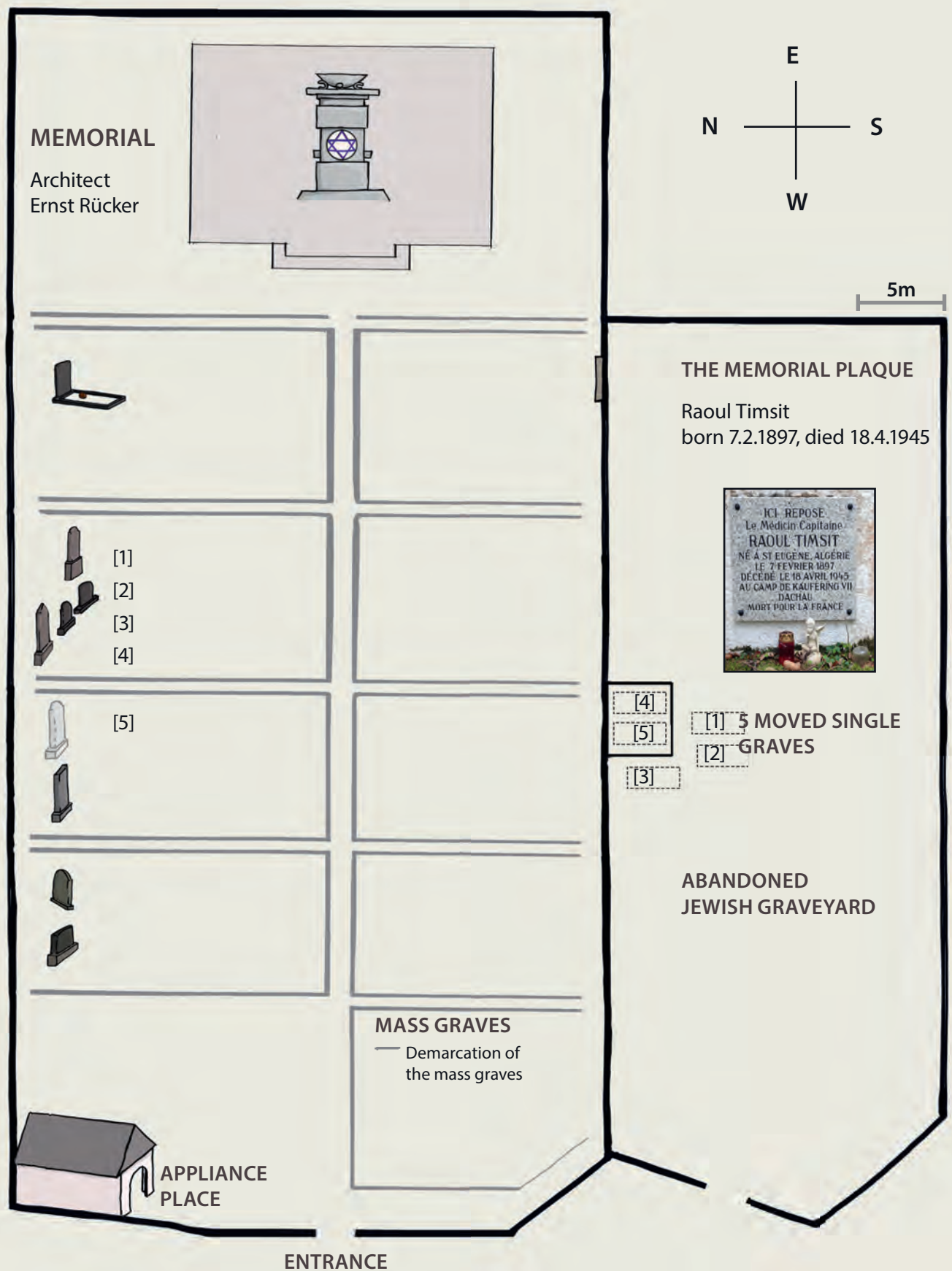
THE HEADSTONES

- Margarete Lesser, born 15.9.1870**, died 1945
- Dwora Derschowitz, born 1909 or 1919, died May 1949 [1]
- Bracha Finkenstein, born 1909, died 1949 [2]
- Abraham Zeitl, died 12.3.1949 [3]
- Szmul Mordka Zlotnik, born 30.6.1908, died 12.9.1948 [4]
- Zenon Reiber, born 28.8.1926, died 1945*** [5]
- Rabbi Menachem Ben Mordechai Neyman, gest. 9.12.1943
- Alexander Bar Yizchak Kratz, born 4.7.1889, died 24.3.1945
- Leib* Freudenreich*, born 21.3.1897, died 23.2.1945

* There is an alternative spelling of the names. ** Correct is 1869.
*** current whereabouts unknown (status 2017)

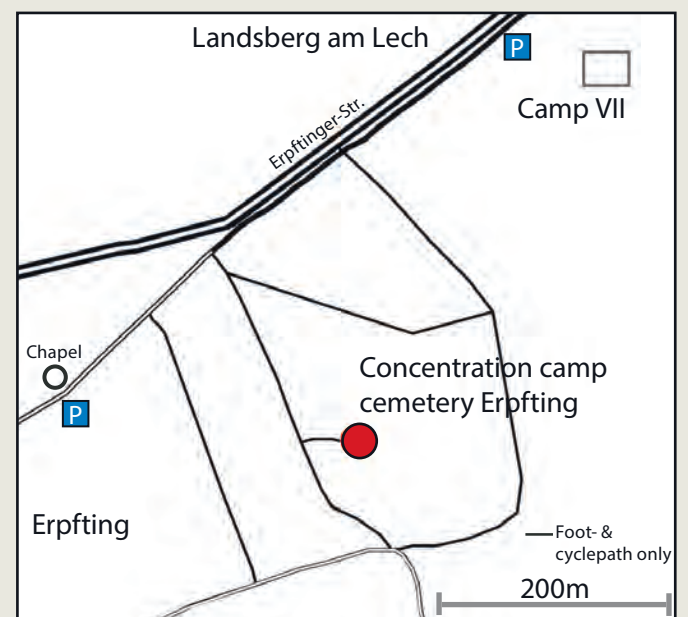
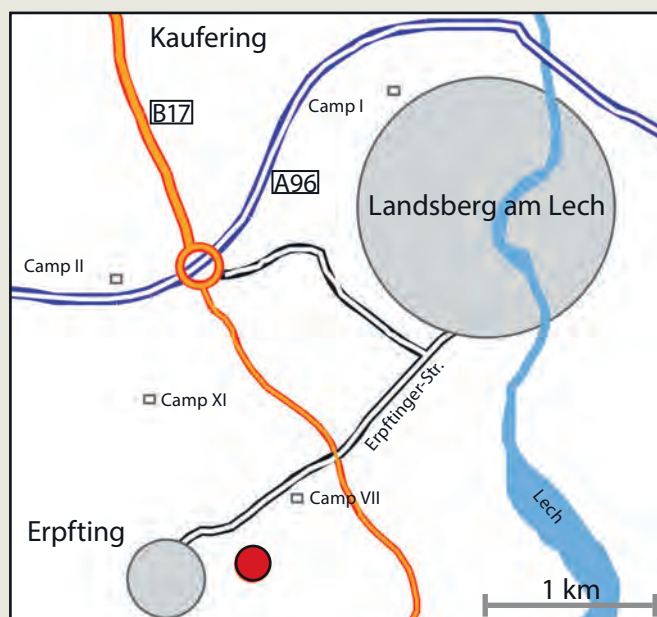
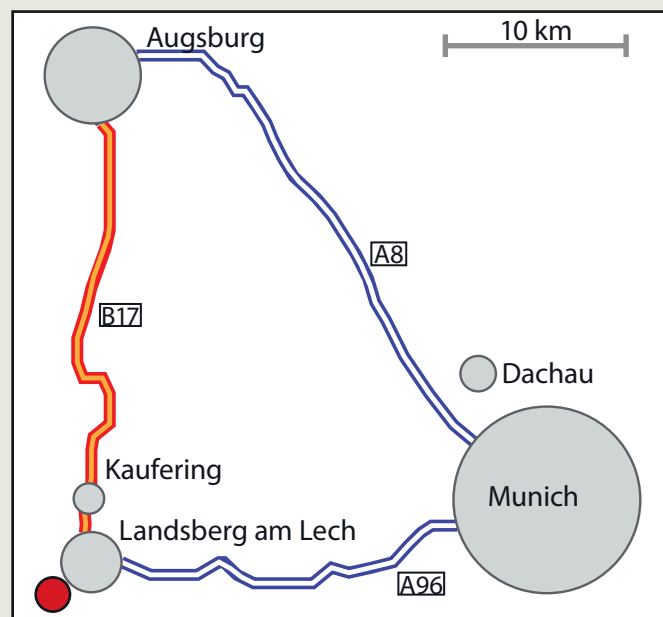
DOFÈK - A CUSTOM

Why are there pebbles on the gravestones? Jews leave small stones, in Hebrew called "Dofèk", on the graves when they leave a cemetery. There are many assumptions and theories about the background of this custom. It is believed that in ancient Israel the laying down a stone is a salute to the dead. The direct translation of the Jewish word "Dofèk" means "knocking".



DISTANCES TO

- Camp VII: 1.5 km
- Milk Pick-up station, Erpfting: 1.6 km
- Landsberg, Central square: 4.3 km



CREDITS/ IMPRINT

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