

The Firnbachers - trapped in the wheels

Everything they tackled in Regensburg flourished. Life was kind to the Jewish cattle dealers Leopold and Abraham Firnbacher. One after the other, the brothers came from Goßmannsdorf in Main Franconia and were ready to try something new. It was 1900 and the old trading town on the Danube gave them a chance. Both quickly became self-employed, acquired civil rights and in just a few years achieved prosperity and prestige.

In the slaughterhouse, the verdict of the cattle dealer Firnbacher counted. They ran their trading business on a large scale, just as they had once learned from their father Moses in Goßmannsdorf. Their connections extended beyond the Alps or far north, to Belgium or Holland. The district chamber of farmers took advantage of this cosmopolitanism and appointed Leopold Firnbacher to a commission that traveled to Tyrol on behalf of the Regensburg Chamber of Commerce to buy cattle.

The Firnbacher brothers led a comfortable family life. That was the custom - and when the high festivals were celebrated in the Orthodox Jewish community, it was always in the family community. For many years life remained in balance, survived World War I, inflation and the global economic crisis.

As a matter of course, two of Abraham Firnbacher's three sons, Max and David, grew into the role of successors in the cattle trade. Julius, the second son, emigrated overseas in 1920 at the age of 23. When the Firnbachers bought the inn "Zum Rappen" in Ostengasse, the relatives were in the same boat in the newly founded "Gebrüder Firnbacher OHG". As with everything they tackled, this business also ran to the delight of "Regensburger Brauhaus AG", which supplied the beer.

When the Nazis took power, initially nothing changed in the long-established relationships with the Upper Palatinate farmers. They valued the growing ties to the Jewish cattle dealers they called knew reliable and real merchants. To the great annoyance of the Nazi farmer leader Rabl, whose agitation against the Jewish cattle dealers found no response. With brute force and ordered Nazi thugs, the NSDAP district leadership forced the exclusion of Jewish cattle dealers from the slaughterhouse in November 1936.

Senior Abraham Firnbacher had officially withdrawn from his business activities at the turn of the year 1934/1935. His eldest son Max (41) had long since taken over the direction. For several years he had been married to Ida Schmitt from Baiersdorf, who was taking care of the early widowed

father-in-law Abraham. When Abraham's youngest daughter, Ida, who was born in Regensburg in 1910, was just 13 years old, his wife Sara died on a spa stay in Bad Mergentheim.

The family group of Abraham and Max Firnbacher lived for many years at Graspasse 12 until they moved in 1934. The married couple Max and Ida bought a neat little villa at Proskestrasse 5. It was a bold and daring undertaking, because Max had already experienced the brutality of the Nazis several times. The last time he was arbitrarily arrested in 1934 and taken into "protective custody". Nevertheless, the villa in Proskestrasse, which became an object of bourgeois desire after the pogrom night, was to become a "vanishing point" for the Firnbachers in Regensburg in recent years.

The house on Roritzerstrasse

Leopold Firnbacher started his "Regensburg Life" in January 1900. He was 28 years old and well sorted. When he married 22-year-old Sofie Bermann in Gunzenhausen six years later, he had already established himself financially. The young couple moved to the first floor at Roritzerstraße 10a in Regensburg to rent. In April 1907, Max Jr. Born, "Junior" to distinguish him from his 13 years older cousin Max. In 1909 daughter Irma was born and in April 1924 the straggler Fritz was born. That was the family completely. She was fine. The Firnbachers easily financed the stately, two-story town house at Roritzerstraße 10a when it was offered for sale in 1917 for 40,000 RM. Perhaps it was the cosmopolitanism that Leopold Firnbacher had as a young man that made him think of emigrating with the beginning of Nazi rule. Encouraged by his wife Sofie, who in autumn 1934 applied to the city police for a passport to visit her sister in Czechoslovakia. In the summer of 1935 the "emigration to Palestine" option took shape. At least for the now 28-year-old son Max, who had followed his father in his career choice as a businessman. Officially, Leopold applied to the tax office to give his son, Max Firnbacher Jr., an amount of RM 25,000 as a gift for the purpose of emigrating.

The astonishing thing happened: In October 1935 the tax office issued the "clearance certificate" and announced:

There are no tax concerns about the donation and the transfer of the amount. The donation amount comes from the donor's own assets. Tax arrears exist neither for Leopold nor for Max Firnbacher.

Max Firnbacher Jr. emigrated to Palestine in March 1938.

(Photo by Leopold Firnbacher)

The photo by Leopold Firnbacher shows a broad-shouldered, almost bald, strong man, probably around sixty. He looks confidently into the distance. A studio shot. Leopold Firnbacher died on June 30, 1937 as a result of an operation. He was 65 years old. His widow Sofie (53) had prepared nothing, absolutely nothing, for this disaster in her life. The letters she writes to the tax office speak of helplessness, excessive demands, but also trust:

I ask the tax office to take into account that I have never taken care of my property matters, much less the value of my property. This was the business of my husband, who suddenly died a year and a half ago.

The tax office was not interested, it responded with demands. Within a short time, the wealthy merchant widow was systematically plundered. Concern for her youngest son Fritz, 13 years old when his father died unexpectedly, now dictated the actions of his mother Sofie. She fought for his departure to Palestine. Sofie's only daughter Irma, who married the doctor Erich Wiesen in 1932, lived far away from Regensburg. The young couple lived in Eisenach, where their son Peter was born in 1934. In 1944 the Wiesen family was deported to Auschwitz. Irma, 35 years old, and ten-year-old Peter were murdered in the gas chambers in Auschwitz. Erich Wiesen survived Auschwitz, left Germany and spent the rest of his life in New York.

In June 1938, one year after the death of her husband, Sofie Firnbacher applied to emigrate to Palestine. She wanted to have completed the official approval requirement when Fritz had finished the preparatory school in the Hachschara camp (relocation camp) in Schniebinchen in Lower Lusatia. Mother and son wanted to emigrate together.

In Schniebinchen 14-year-old Fritz Firnbacher learned the farming trade for a settler life in Palestine. Sofie paid 3,000 Reichsmarks to the Zionist supporting organization for this preparatory lesson. Thousands of young Jews prepared for settler life in Palestine on the estate in Niederlausitz in the 1930s.

In response to Sofie's application to leave the country, the regional tax office in Nuremberg sent a "questionnaire with a statement of assets for emigrants". She filled this out properly and made herself richer than she actually was. In the trying not to make any mistakes, she overestimated the sales value of her house and the co-ownership of the "Rappen" inn in

Ostengasse. For her, the evaluation criteria for real estate were a book with seven seals. Nobody was there to protect Sofie Firnbacher from these fatal mistakes. She should no longer be able to correct the error.

The planned joint emigration of Sofie and Fritz Firnbacher before the November pogrom in 1938 failed. The fifty-four-year-old Sofie was exposed to the attacks and looting after the Reichspogromnacht on November 9th. The tax office demanded 19,500 RM Jewish property tax, payable in five installments of 3,900 RM each.

(Photo Sofie Firnbacher)

As the photo shows her, meek and with a haunted look, she faced the unreasonable demands of the Nazis. In childish calligraphy, she filled out the questionnaires and handed over what she had. She had confidence in the legal security of a purchase contract once it had been concluded when the notarial sale of her house on Roritzerstrasse was certified on January 9, 1939. The Gruber couple accepted a purchase price of RM 35,000. They assured the seller Sofie Firnbacher under point XI: The seller may stay in the sold property in her previous apartment against payment of the already agreed rent as long as she is in Regensburg.

The mayor approved the sale. The municipal property management had previously had the Firnbacher residential building appraised by master builder Scharnagl and determined a market value of RM 37,600. In March 1939 the responsible mayor confirmed:

There are no concerns about the acquisition of the property by the Gruber couple. The buyers want an apartment that will become available in the house move in yourself and therefore buy the property. I do not know of any other applicants.

That was to change suddenly when police sergeant major Alois Hoch discovered the "Ordinance on the Use of Jewish Assets" of December 3, 1938 and used it to enrich himself personally.

The "old fighter", to whom the party felt obliged, applied to the NSDAP district leadership for approval to purchase the coveted "Jewish house". On April 5, 1939, district economic advisor Dr. Ludwig Linhardt in Bayreuth to the government councilor Trossmann, who was responsible for "forced carriages" in the government of the Upper Palatinate and Lower Bavaria:

Re: Roritzerstrasse 10a property in Regensburg

The Gauleitung Bayerische Ostmark of the NSDAP hereby gives its consent to the purchase of the above-mentioned property by the police sergeant major Alois Hoch in Regensburg, Am Brückenfuss 1.

Hoch has five children. Currently in a small, unhealthy apartment and for this reason deserves preference over the other applicant, Gruber.

I ask you to give your approval in this case.

Those involved in the "forced Aryanization" approval process immediately agreed. The complicity of the officials in the authorities with the Nazi system of predatory expropriation of Jewish citizens worked. The city let the businessman Peter Gruber know:

The purchase contract between you and Sophie Sara Firnbacher of January 9, 39, cannot be approved. The approval has already been granted to another applicant.

Less than two weeks after the objection of the NSDAP Gauleitung, Sofie Firnbacher sat again with notary Karl Schöpferl and signed the new "purchase contract" with Alois and Maria Hoch. The large Hoch family bought Sofie Firnbacher's house for 34,200 RM. The files do not reveal where the money for the purchase price came from. Sofie Firnbacher should never reach the purchase price. Notary Schöpferl was given the blocked account to which Hoch had to pay. This account was nominally in the name of Sofie Firnbacher, but payments to them could only be made with the consent of the Regensburg tax office and the regional finance president.

How it was with the solvency of the police superintendent Hoch, who was soon listed as "police chief pensioner" in the administration, should show a few weeks after the purchase. Alois Hoch wrote to the tax office of the district president:

The duties, taxes and fees associated with the acquisition of the property at Roritzerstraße 10a are so high that it is now impossible for me to pay the government fees of 46.10 RM, especially since I have a family of seven to support. I ask for an interest-free deferral until September 1, 1939.

Two weeks after the notarization, the new house owner, Hoch, moved in with his group of children. Sofie Firnbacher was now a tenant at the Nazi policeman Hoch. Her assets have decreased significantly, are frozen and irrecoverable, she informed the tax office.

After the sale of their house, the tax authorities withheld RM 20,000 as security for the Reich escape tax. In addition, the tax authorities levied contributions and flight tax for the sons Max and Fritz.

In terms of real estate assets, Sofie still had half of the value of the "Zum Rappen" inn in Ostengasse / Kalmünzergasse. It was the legacy of her late husband Leopold, who had run the prosperous inn for 25 years with younger brother David and nephew Max as the "Firnbacher Brothers Company". The 40-year-old David Firnbacher lived here in a two-room apartment and was now planning to emigrate to South Africa. On January 20, 1939, he emigrated from Nazi Germany.

The "forced Aryanization" of the "black horse" and the "golden lion" The well-frequented inns of the Jewish cattle traders, such as the "Rappen" in Ostengasse 4 and the "Goldene Löwe" in on Fröhliche Türkenstrasse 5 was woken up early by the long-standing beer supplier. In August 1938, the "Brauhaus Regensburg AG" wrote to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry that the Firnbacher brothers had offered the "Zum Rappen" inn for sale:

We have also been supplying this outlet for more than 25 years and are interested in the purchase for operational reasons ... the owners are asking for a purchase price of RM 100,000. We consider a purchase price of RM 55,000 to be ample.

The management of the brewery learned from Betty Jordan, widow of the cattle dealer Jordan, that the Jewish owners had nothing to give away and knew the real prices for their restaurants. As the owner, she had asked for 150,000 RM as the purchase price for the "lion". The brewery refused, negotiated further and engaged the "Aryanization actors" for its own purposes. The brewing industry association in Munich assured the Regensburg management with approval:

I am of the same opinion that a purchase price of 80 to 100,000 RM can be considered appropriate ... But it goes without saying that I will not approve the purchase of another brewery at a price of 150,000 RM.

In the spirit of the brewery, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce urged the mayor to quickly take over the two inns at a "bargain price" and urged action:

In this case too, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry would consider an early settlement to be imperative as the elimination of the Jews. Without prior official determination of the purchase price, however, the matter will hardly be able to be resolved soon. There are special reasons for the previous official determination of the purchase price.

The pogrom night of November 8, 1938 increased the pressure: for the Jewish owners who wanted to emigrate as well as for the "Aryanization profiteers". The number of "Aryan" candidates who wanted to enrich themselves by "eliminating the Jews" rose rapidly after the pogrom. In December 1938 Sofie Firnbacher and her nephew Max signed an "agreement" with Fritz Schricker, brewery director and sole board member, that they would sell their inn 'Zum Rappen' in the current condition, along with all the inventory, at a price of RM 65,000.

Months later, the municipal property office assessed the property and came to the conclusion: The current market value of RM 73,000 estimated by master builder Scharnagl is not too high given the stated capitalized earnings value and the good structural condition.

The brewery would have to transfer a compensatory levy of 5,000 RM to the Reich Treasury. In the end, the purchase price agreed with the Firnbachers remained, which was notarized on July 12, 1939.

Less than a month later, the notary Ernst Reiser in his office at Moltekeplatz 1 notarized the sale of the "Golden Lion" for the price of RM 93,000 to the Regensburg brewery. The contractual partners of the brewery director Fritz Schricker were the two children of Betty Jordan who were still living in Regensburg. The owner died in May 1939 after the planned emigration with her daughter Clara had failed. Two of her four children, Paula Brock and Eugen Jordan, were already living in New York by then. The son Julius Jordan, his wife Rosa and their three children Annelore, Inge and Klara were deported from Regensburg to an extermination camp in the Lublin district in eastern Poland on April 4, 1942.

Sofie's unsuccessful request

Sofie Firnbacher wrote on July 12th on the day the "Rappen" was sold, right after the appointment with Notary Reiser:

Today the estates at Ostengasse 4 and Kallmünzergasse 1 were sold to Brauhaus AG for RM 65,000. I am half the owner of the property. As far as I know, the purchase proceeds are placed on a blocked account and only released under certain conditions. But now I have the opportunity for my

son Fritz Firnbacher to either take a two-year training course at the Haifa craft school or to emigrate to Palestine with the youth Alija. In the first case I would have to shoot RM 9,000 in the second RM 4,000. The emigration of my son depends on the payment of one or the other amount.

The transport to Palestine is already on August 7th. J. stated. Since I do not have this cash available, I am solely dependent on the release of the amount from the sale of the property. It is certainly to be expected that the amount to be deposited will be requested in the next few days. For this reason, bearing in mind my predicament, I ask you to grant my request and to let me know immediately so that I can get the requested amount from the notary's office.

As in most cases, it was a futile request. The foreign exchange office unequivocally requested that the entire purchase price remaining to be paid in cash be transferred to the blocked account.

As planned, the 15-year-old Fritz Firnbacher went on the long journey to Palestine with the youth Alija on August 7, 1939. His mother Sofie had accomplished the feat of securing his escape.

Only a few weeks later it was a question of financing their own survival. On September 1, 1939, Sofie and nephew Max Firnbacher wrote to the Regensburg tax office that after all taxes had been deducted, 21,893 RM would remain on the blocked account. We ask the tax office to release the remaining amount.

The Regensburg tax office confirmed to Sofie Firnbacher that she had paid for everything and referred to the necessary approval for departure from the foreign exchange office at the regional finance president in Nuremberg. They sent a form: The payment is refused because ... the person concerned intends to do so

to emigrate. From her balance in the blocked account she can dispose of 500 RM per month.

The exit to the sons in Palestine had thus finally failed. Though nominally wealthy, Sofie Firnbacher did not have the cash and passport to leave town. On April 4, 1942, the 58-year-old was deported to her death. She died in a gas chamber in an extermination camp in the Lublin district in eastern Poland.

The foreign exchange office confiscated your bank balances. The Regensburg tax office auctioned the last belongings of Sofie Firnbacher

after her deportation. The Regensburg Gestapo had given the keys to the sealed apartment to the tax office.

Dispute over a city villa

The object of desire is at Proskestrasse 5, in the middle of an enclosed garden. The Danube flows only a stone's throw away and the Grieser Steg bridges the river from Unteren Wöhrd to Stadtamhof. In 1910 Christian Metzger built the neo-baroque villa with the playful tail gables, the bay window on the upper floor with the look of Art Nouveau. It is understandable that this ambience aroused desires for a good life. Ida and Max Firnbacher hoped for this when they bought the villa for 24,000 RM in August 1934 and built on the fact that the horrible "Nazi ghost" would go away and people would become sensible again.

When Max Firnbacher was the last Jewish cattle dealer and sole trader to liquidate his business in June 1938, he drew the line: save life, leave Regensburg, emigrate to America. By then it was too late for the orderly withdrawal from Nazi Germany. From the end of the fateful year 1938, the provisions of "forced Aryanization" applied. Before they were allowed to leave Germany, the Firnbachers had to deal with the sale of their house. This "forced Aryanization" of the villa on the Danube turned out to be one of the most controversial cases. A total of 7 applicants appeared, Government Councilor Trossmann recorded. In agreement with their leader and his anti-Semitic hatred, supposedly respectable citizens should fall out of place in this bitter dispute over Jewish property. Greed, envy and resentment unfolded unchecked.

At the beginning of the "Enforcement of the Ordinance on the Use of Jewish Property" of December 3, 1938, there is a factual description of the property by the city property management:

It is a detached, villa-like single-family house of solid construction with 2 high gable ends and a gable roof. The single-family house has a built-up area of around 170 square meters, consists of a basement, ground floor and first floor, and a partially developed attic. Modernized in 1923.

The city appraiser estimated 27,000 RM as an economically justified price. At first everything seemed to be going well for Max and Ida Firnbacher for a quick sale of their property. The neighbor next door, the district chimney sweeper Wilhelm Kehrer, had never made a secret of his interest in the Jewish villa. At the beginning of January 1938, Kehrer, party member since May 1933, wrote to the NSDAP district leadership in Regensburg and asked for support to take over the house from Jewish hands. He simply derived his claim from the fact that he was renting his brother Otto at

Proskestrasse 3, but now needed a larger apartment because his wife was expecting their fourth child. In addition, he has been block leader since 1935 and Gaufachschaftsleiter at the German Labor Front.

Me and my brother are master chimney sweeps in the city of Regensburg. We were able to represent each other very well in the event of illness or other hindrance because we live together in one house. Since the said object is now adjacent to my brother's house, it is very convenient for both of us, since we have a common courtyard and garden and would be able to support us in any business way as before.

Almost a year passed before, in December 1938, the sales contract between the married couple Max and Ida Firnbacher and Wilhelm and Luise Kehrer was notarized by Judiciary Franz Schroder at Moltkeplatz 1. The villa was supposed to change hands for 25,000 RM. The quick approval by the government of the Upper Palatinate was denied to this notarized purchase contract. She informed Kehrer that the situation had changed with the new ordinance of December 1938:

The negotiations are still ongoing. For the time being, however, permits cannot be issued because the implementing provisions are not yet available and instructions exist not to issue any permits for the acquisition of Jewish properties before they are issued.

After the pogrom on November 9, 1938, the Nazi leadership tightened its anti-Jewish policy with a host of new regulations, harassment and economic sanctions. The "Ordinance on the Use of Jewish Assets" now also called on the "bargain hunters" who wanted to enrich themselves cheaply. The competition for the award of Jewish property picked up speed, the breeding ground for the abandonment of bourgeois values was created. With the acceptance of the regulations, the applicants made themselves accomplices of the perpetrators. As of January 1, 1939, Jews had to sell their businesses and houses, all property, stocks, jewels, and works of art. For this they could use the services of "trustees" to complete the sales within the set deadlines. Registering sales with the licensing authorities and depositing all capital proceeds with the tax authorities was mandatory, because the Nazi state always retained control and benefited primarily from the raid of Jewish property. With the self-description "decent and honest National Socialists" too

up to a dozen prospective buyers initially applied. Seven were shortlisted. Applicant no.5 was the owner of the Rucker stone industry and expected to be assigned to the house at Proskestrasse 5 so that his five children between the ages of four and 13 can grow up to be healthy, productive German people, not only for their parents, but also for them

Volksgemeinschaft has interest. The house applicant's special qualification: he possessed the "Book of Honor of the German Family", was a war participant in the officer rank, then a member of the right-wing extremist "Freikorps Epp" and the SS-Reitersturm. Now he wants to go to the "Judenhaus" with his family, along with the cook and maid, and has made 15,000 RM free for it. If the purchase price does not come to the amount of RM 15,000, I would ask you to make a note of another Jewish residential building and to notify me if necessary. With this last letter, Rucker was sorted out by Government Councilor Trossmann, because the clammy Nazi state had nothing to give away.

The tug-of-war over possession of the villa on the Danube dragged on for almost two years among the Nazi applicants. A master mechanic reported and announced:

that I have decided to build a training workshop approx. 20 x 10 m to train apprentices in the motor vehicle trade at my own expense and to conduct the courses on a voluntary basis, if I come into possession of the above property, as this house is only of economic value for me because it is in the immediate vicinity of my company.

The director of Süddeutsche Holzverzuckerungswerke AG also tried economic reasons to achieve the quick takeover of the house: The commissioning of our plant requires the employment of senior technical staff ... In this case I could vacate my current apartment for one of the gentlemen. Of course the director was

Party member, father of three sons, wealthy and determined to pay the purchase price in cash.

None of the three other well-to-do, PhD citizens of Regensburg who had no qualms about activating their personal contacts in order to take possession of the villa knew any inhibitions. It was of no use to them in the tough argument about the Firnbacher house.

In the end, the first applicant with the block leader mentality achieved his goal. During the struggle for the villa, Wilhelm Kehrer had no problems using anti-Semitic topoi from the "fighting time" and denouncing his competitors. These were mixed with Jews with genuine Jewish business conduct or "led a lavish way of life with his Talmudic brother.

In this "Aryanization case", the President of the Chamber of Crafts took up a position against the President of the Chamber of Commerce. After two party court proceedings, which were unsuccessful, the district economic consultant in Bayreuth decided in favor of the chimney sweeper, against whom nothing could be objected politically and who was in possession of the notarial purchase contract.

The unspeakable Nazi dispute over the villa destroyed the Firnbacher's hopes for a quick emigration. The Jewish "seller" never had any influence on the handling of the approval process. If he wanted to emigrate, he was at the mercy of the Nazi bureaucracy. A passport was only issued by the Gestapo if the tax authorities had previously issued a "tax clearance certificate".

With the beginning of the war, the arduous everyday life of the Jewish population intensified, and at the same time the Nazis increased the taxes for emigrants. Anyone who emigrated after the outbreak of the war had to accept the murderous exchange rate of the Reichsbank and accept that, at best, 4 percent of their assets were paid out.

When Max and Ida Firnbacher registered with the Gestapo that they were emigrating to America and applied for passports in February 1940, their fortunes had shrunk drastically. The Nazi state systematically plundered them through taxes and levies. The credits from the sale of the residential building Proskestr. 5 and the "Rappen" were blocked. The foreign exchange office granted Max Firnbacher 700 RM a month from his assets. However, this allowance may only be used to support yourself and your family as well as for small expenses. The transfer of the tax exemption not used in a calendar month to a later month and the anticipation of tax exemptions from later calendar months are not permitted.

When their taxable assets had decreased by another 20 percent in January 1941, Max and Ida Firnbacher wrote to the tax office in a joint letter:

Because we will soon need a new clearance certificate due to our emigration, we may ask, ours To want to deal with the request as soon as possible. It was a request with no response. As the weeks passed and fears about a ban on emigration grew, Max and Ida Firnbacher, 47 and 42 years old, drew the consequences of the persistent "silence". The tax office only found out new news from Firnbachers from their general representative in Regensburg, Dr. Karl Michel. He announced that Max and Ida Firnbacher emigrated to the United States on May 30, 1941 and lived in Goldsboro, North Carolina. He asked for the tax clearance certificate. The Reich Security Main Office (RSHA) issued the ban on the emigration of Jews on October 23, 1941.

Abraham Firnbacher, now 76 years old, stayed back in Regensburg. After giving up his business, he moved to the villa on the Danube. In the spacious house there was also space for his sister-in-law Klara Hellmann, who moved from Franconia after the November pogrom of 1938

Burghaslach immigrated to Regensburg with her husband Isaak. Even after the property was sold to master chimney sweeper Kehrer, the Firnbachers' right of residence remained, in accordance with point XVI. of the purchase contract:

The buyers grant the sellers and their family members the right to live in and use the sold property as before until their intended emigration for a rental price to be agreed upon.

At the end of February 1940, Abraham Firnbacher applied for his emigration and issue of a passport. He gave the Gestapo Palestine as the destination. Klara and her husband Isaak Hellmann also wanted to emigrate. Isaak Hellmann had also made a living for the family by trading cattle. In August 1940, at the age of 57, Hellmann put an end to his life by suicide. His efforts to secure the scarce reserves of a few thousand Reichsmarks from being accessed by the tax office in order to finance the emigration had failed. Klara Hellmann was deported from Regensburg to her death on April 4, 1942. She died in the gas chamber of an extermination camp in the Lublin district in eastern Poland. She was 61 years old.

Abraham Firnbacher started his last trip from the Jewish retirement home. After the first deportation on April 4, 1942, the Gestapo forced the older Jews to "move" to the old people's home at Weißenburgstrasse 31. On September 23, 1942, Abraham Firnbacher was deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp. Here he met his brother Salomon from Straubing and his sister Babette, married Stern. Abraham Firnbacher died at the age of 77 on January 20, 1943. The concentration camp administration's "death report" noted "intestinal catarrh" as the cause of death. In fact, many thousands of older Jews died in the Theresienstadt concentration camp either starving or as a result of contagious diseases such as typhus.

1. StR, supplement to the Leopold Firnbacher family sheet.
2. StR, family sheet Julius Firnbacher.

Halter, p. 185 f.

StR, family sheet Abraham Firnbacher.

StA, Government of the Upper Palatinate 16282.

StA, Government of the Upper Palatinate 16284.

StA, Tax Office Regensburg 40/4 - 6.

StR, family sheet Leopold Firnbacher; Information from Leigh Firn, USA.

StA, Tax Office Regensburg 40/4 - 6.

StA, Government of the Upper Palatinate 16284.

StA, Tax Office Regensburg 40/4 6.

StR, family sheet Abraham Firnbacher.
StA, Government of the Upper Palatinate 16280.
StA, Government of the Upper Palatinate 16265.
StA, Government of the Upper Palatinate 16280.
StAN-L, OFD Nuremberg, Bund 15456.
StA, Government of the Upper Palatinate 16280.
StA, Tax Office Regensburg 36/1.
StA, Tax Office Regensburg 40/4 - 6.
StAN-L, OFD Nuremberg, Bund 15456.
StA, Government of the Upper Palatinate 16282.
StA, Tax Office Regensburg 39/4 - 6.
StA, Government of the Upper Palatinate 16282.
StAN-L, OFD Nuremberg, Bund 15456.
StR, supplement to the Abraham Firnbacher family shee