

November Pogrom in Rimbach

On the evening of 9 November 1938, the usual commemorative ceremony of the NSDAP and its affiliated organisations for the 15th anniversary of the Beer Hall Putsch took place in Rimbach at the Zum Weschnitztal restaurant. Towards the end of the party meeting, orders were passed down from “the top” instructing participants to assemble at midnight in the schoolyard of the secondary school, strictly in civilian clothes, so that the entire operation would appear to be a spontaneous act of vengeance by the citizens of Rimbach.

Destruction, looting and assaults

Promptly at midnight, around 80 men from the SS and SA, including local residents who were not formally organised, assembled in the schoolyard of what is today the school Martin-Luther-Schule (MLS). The men were sent out in several groups with specific instructions by the local NSDAP group leader of Rimbach at the time.

One group went to the synagogue, which is today the Catholic church, and destroyed its interior. The others went to the eleven Jewish houses in the town that were

still inhabited. They destroyed and looted all shops and apartments. In the process, the residents were subjected to inhumane treatment and abuse. The following families were attacked during the night:

1. David Weichsel (Staatsstraße 16)
2. Max Weichsel (Gymnasiumstraße 13)
3. Leo Wetterhahn (Rathausstraße 13)
4. Jakob Westheimer (Rathausstraße 9)
5. David David (Rathausstraße 1)
6. Hermann Oppenheimer (Rathausstraße 1)
7. Alfred Weichsel (Brunnengasse 6)
8. Berthold Marx (Brunnengasse 15)
9. Moses Mayer (Fahrenbacher Straße 4)
10. Rudolph Hamburger (Fahrenbacher Straße 6)
11. Henriette Aschenbrand (Fahrenbacher Straße 11).

Image and information sources:

- *Rimbach im Odenwald – A journey through local history* edited by Karl-Ludwig Schmitt

- *History of the Jews of Rimbach* by Wolfgang Gebhard

www.juden-in-rimbach.de | www.rimbach-odw.de



The photograph shows the first major march of the Hitler Youth (HJ) on what is today the market square of Rimbach in early July 1933. The occasion was the incorporation of the Scout associations and the Protestant youth associations into the Hitler Youth. At the same time, a considerable number of schoolchildren was transferred into the “Jungvolk.”