#last seen

Welcome to the final edition of the #LastSeen: Images of Nazi Deportations newsletter in 2024.

A New Identification

In May of this year, we received an email from Mrs. Claudia Witte-Kirschbaum. Her husband's relatives — Jakob and Mina Brandstädter (née Rothschild) and their children Heinz, Josef, and Lore — were deported from Würzburg to Krasnystaw on April 25, 1942. None of them survived.

Mrs. Witte-Kirschbaum reached out to us to confirm her identification of Lore Brandstädter in a photograph. After a thorough review of the available documents and images, we were able to verify her identification with a high degree of certainty. We are honored to include Lore Brandstädter's biography in our picture atlas.

In Mrs. Witte-Kirschbaum's own words:

"Inspired by the #LastSeen project, I picked up my magnifying glass and carefully examined the photos of the Würzburg deportation. Suddenly, a familiar face appeared before me: a young girl with an open gaze, looking directly at the camera. Lore!

Her parents Jakob and Mina, her brothers Heinz and Josef, her uncle Jakob, and her aunt Bertha can also be seen among the crowd labeled by officials as 'Jews scheduled for evacuation.' Once the train carrying its 1,000 passengers arrived in Krasnystaw, Poland, the trail vanished, and the atrocities began.

Did Lore succumb to typhus in the Izbica transit ghetto? Did she starve in Krasniczyn because her family had nothing left to barter for food? Was she executed or suffocated in a gas chamber? Where should we lay small stones to honor the memory of the Brandstädter family? In Sobibór? In Bełżec? We are grateful to #LastSeen for commemorating Lore and the countless other Jews taken from life without leaving a gravestone."

#LastSeen Goes Museum

Our photo series documenting the deportation from Brandenburg an der Havel is currently featured in the *Brandenburg*. *Ausstellung* at the Brandenburg Museum for Future, Present, and History. The materials we curated are displayed in the section dedicated to Jewish life in Brandenburg. Collaborations like this are possible for other locations as well.



Recognition for Alina Bothe

We are thrilled to announce that our project leader, Alina Bothe, has been named one of the *Tagesspiegel's* 100 most important minds in Berlin science for 2024. Honored in the category "History Rediscovered," the *Tagesspiegel* praised her work:

"Through their invaluable research, these scientists help us better understand the world in which we live."

Congratulations to Alina on this well-deserved recognition! The article was published on November 6, 2024.



Upcoming Event

On January 23, 2025, the #LastSeen project will collaborate with the city of Fulda for a special commemorative event. At 6 p.m., the Marble Hall of the Fulda City Palace will host a presentation of unique images from the project.

Young members of the "Jewish Life in Fulda" working group, who contributed to cataloging the photographs, will share their findings. They will be joined by project manager Alina Bothe and research assistant Lisa Paduch, alongside Anja Listmann, Fulda's representative for Jewish life.

More details about this significant event will be shared in the next issue of our newsletter.

We wish you wonderful holidays and a happy New Year! See you in 2025!



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