

The history of a camera

Leonhard Zimmak grew up in Pestlin, Stuhm district, West Prussia (today Postolin, Poland). Here his parents had a grocery store. Around 1928 they expanded the business with a bakery and therefore employed the Evangelical master baker, Wendelin Richert. My father's sister Frieda and Uncle Wendelin fell in love and got married.

I am not sure about the date for all photos. I once asked my aunt Friedel when all photos were taken and I just realize that her dates don't always fit when the camera was bought. But it maybe not so relevant. For several photos there also dates and behind.



Lisbeth Wilhem Helene Frida o Wendelin Günther Otto Elsbeth Leonhard
Richert Grübenau Zimmak Richert Richert Zimmak Richert Zimmak

I do not think this photo was taken by this camera.

Uncle Wendelin's sister Edith worked in a drugstore in Marienwerder (today Kwidzyn, Poland) which also had cameras. The sister sold a camera to my father.

The camera and the photos survived war in a suitcase from my uncle Wendelin. A sister to uncle Wendelin and friends from my father in England also had some photos.



Around 1929. Rehhof, Stuhm district, West Prussia (today Ryjewo, Poland) not far from Pestlin. Sitting in the middle is my great-grandmother Sophie Rosenberg. At the age of 15 she had to marry her 50-year-old uncle Lewin Rosenberg. His wife had just died leaving two older sons. They quickly had 7 children in the district town of Stuhm and Lewin Rosenberg died shortly after the last one. Sophie Rosenberg worked as a midwife in Stuhm and the surrounding area.

The son Gustav Rosenberg (back left) opened a shop in Rehhof with the help of his sister Johanna (bottom left) and Ernestine. Johanna and Ernestine were mentally handicapped. My father was present when Johanna died in 1936. I just found out that Ernestine 1939 was murdered by euthanasia.

Around 1915 my great-grandmother moved to her children in Rehhof. According to my father, Gustav and his Sophie Rosenberg came to Stutthof concentration camp and were killed there.

In the back left my grandparents Helene born Rosenberg and Otto Zimmak. They and my father's family were deported from Hamburg to Jungfernhof and killed there.

Another daughter Ella and her family where able to escape to Shanghai and later to USA.

A son Albert Rosenberg and second wife where deported from Hamburg to Jungfernhof with the same transport as my father's family and killed there.



Stuhm around 1929. My father and their horse Lotta. They take their goods to the farmers by horse and cart, fetch grain and have it grained.



Around 1930 my father bought a motorcycle. Behind is Aunt Friedel. Uncle Wendelin also had to buy a motorbike.



Later my father had to sell his motorbike and the family bought a car to take goods to the farmers.





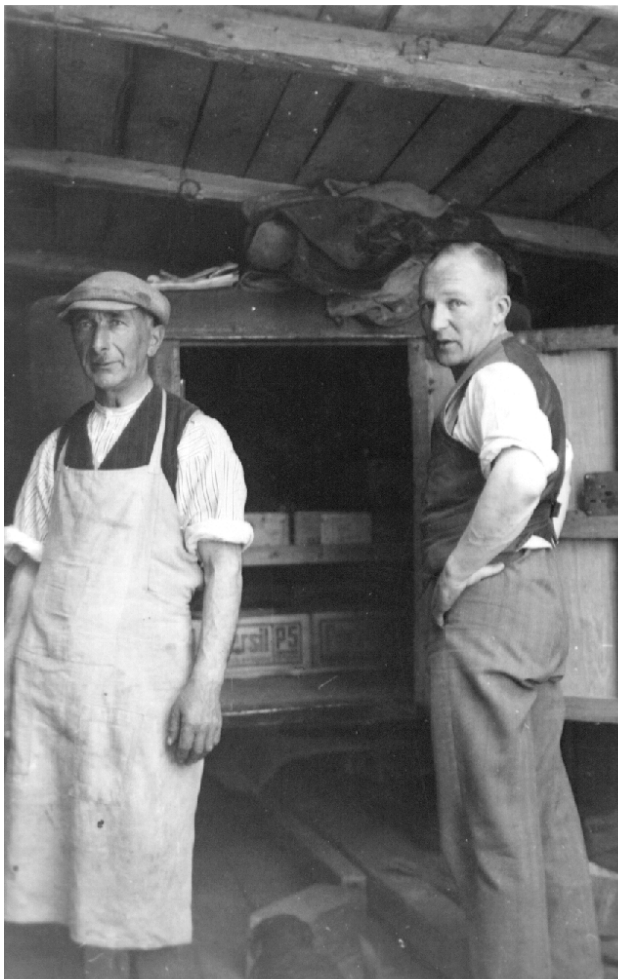
In the garden from my grandparents.



New year Party 31 December 1931. From left: my grandmother, Lisbeth Richert (Sister to Uncle Wendelin), Aunt Friedel and Uncle Wendelin.



In the bakery 1932. Aunt Friedel and uncle Wendelin.



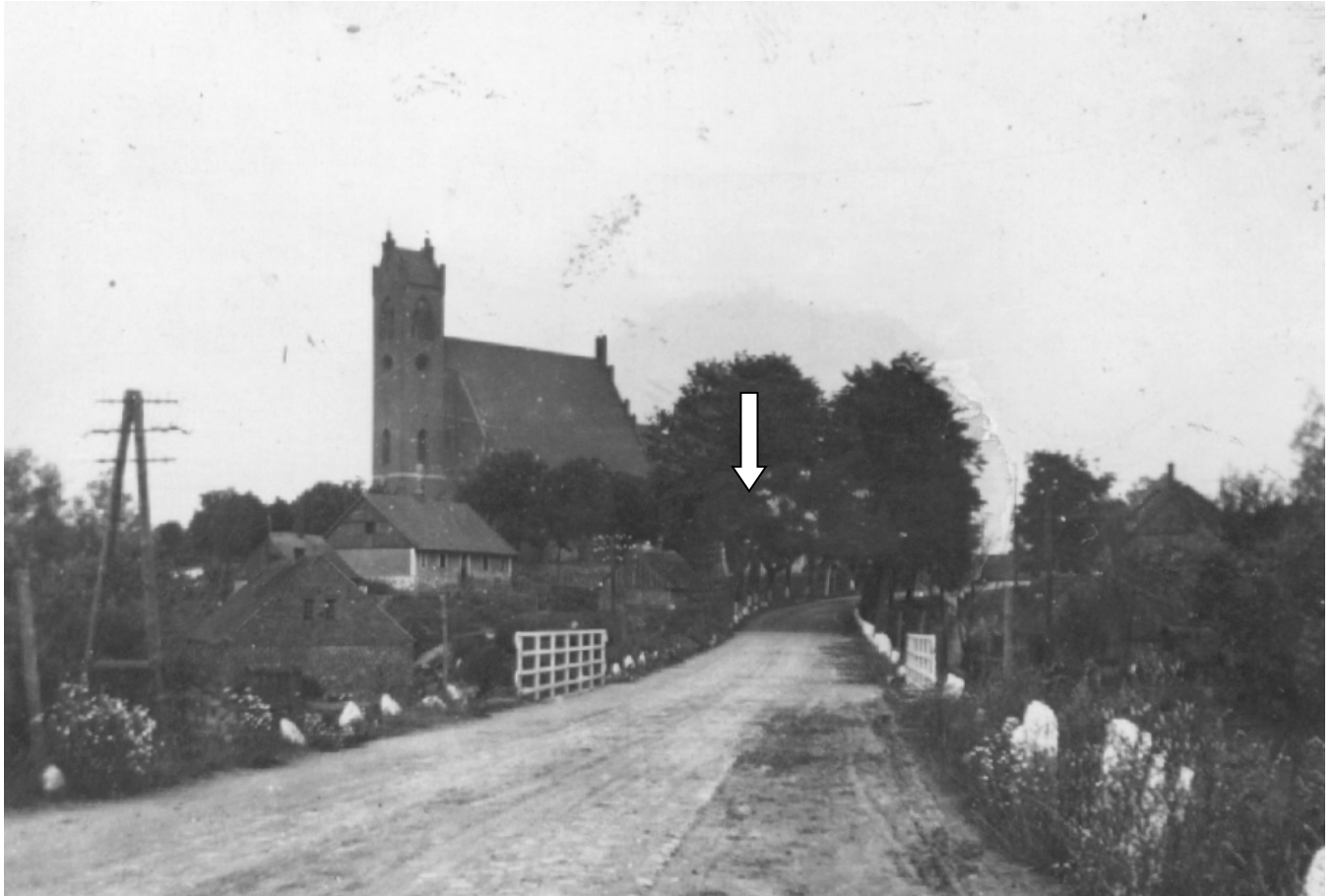
In the bakery



Foto: Wendelin Helene Lisbeth Frida Pestlin
Leonhard Richert Zimmak Richert Richert Sommarens 1931
Zimmak



Church party in Pestlin 1932. Selling bakeries and other things. From right help wife, my grandmother, aunt Friedel and uncle Wendelin.



The very little village Pestlin in 1930th. The house of my grandparents must be at the point, behind the trees.



Helene o Otto Zimmak Pestlin, 30-talet?, Stora rummet

The living room



29 Mars 1936. Behind the house, my grandfather is watching the zeppelins.



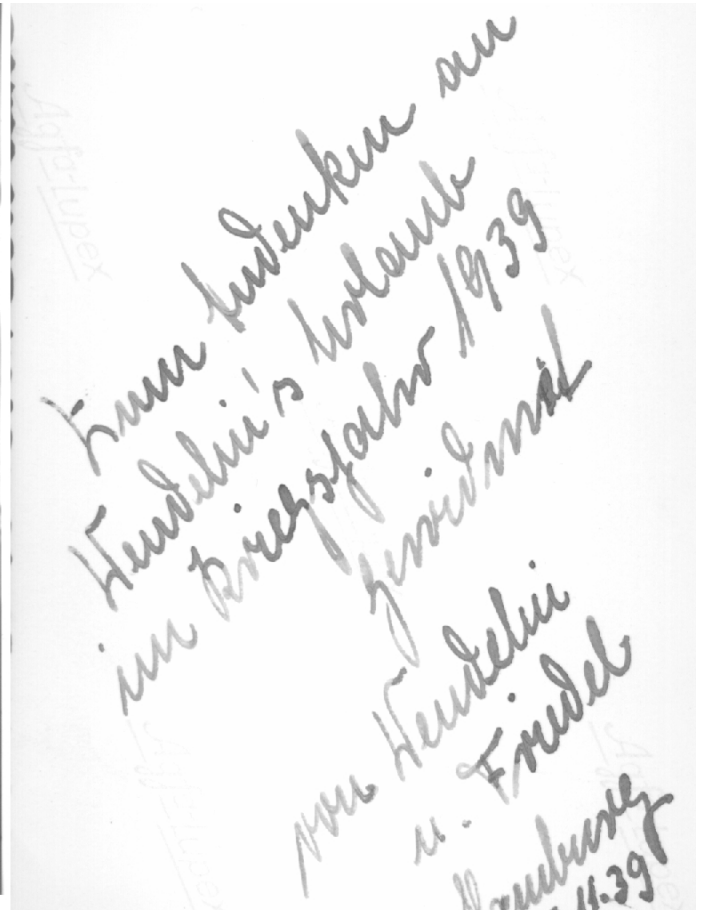
Hamburg 1938. Remembering photo to uncle Wendelin sister Edith, who becomes 32 years.



Hamburg in wartime 1939 (September?). Left my father's first wife Else born Herbst. From a cousin to her I was told that she had beautiful red hair.



Frieda o Wendelin Richert Hamburg, November 1939



Hamburg war year in November 1939. A remembering photo to ? when uncle Wendelin had permission from military.

Uncle Wendelin had to be in military for a while. I do not know for how long. The first he said to the officers was that he was married to a Jewish woman. The officer answered that you should fight not you wife.

Aunt Friedel experienced the bombings of Hamburg. She was just operated in the Jewish hospital in Hamburg around 1943, when uncle Wendelin visited here and told that their house was bombed an nothing was left. They both were evacuated to Kalmsee, Nordrhein-Westfalen where uncle Wendelin got a work.

In April 1944 aunt Friedel was caught by the police and sent to Stutthof concentration camp where she was until mars 1945. Then she was sent on a death March and was liberated from the Russians. She managed to come back to Hamburg and could meet uncle Wendelin again.

Many of the Jungfernhof people was sent to Stutthof in September (I think) 1944 and had to do death marches and liberated by the Russians. I think it was several marches and could be that my aunt also was among them.



Hamburg, krigssylvester 1939 Frieda o Wendelin Richert

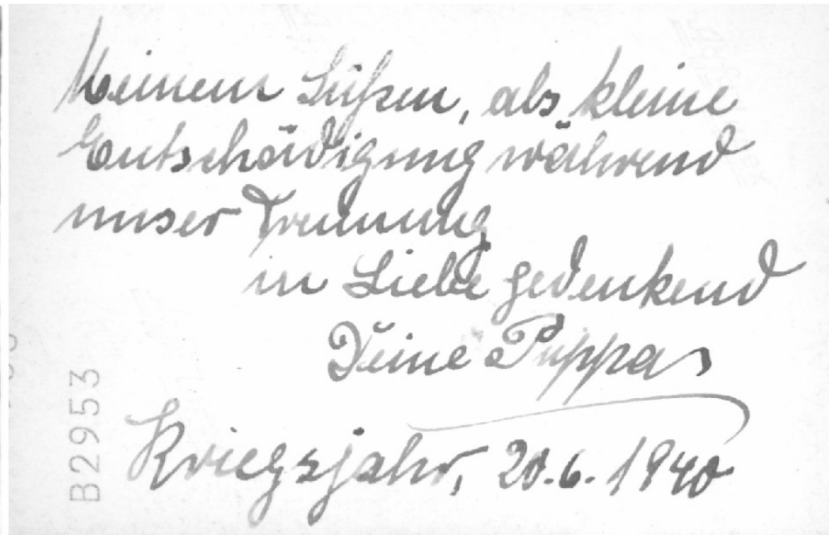
War time Sylvester 1939. I am not sure if my father took this photo. But how else could its be. This must be from Heinrich-Barth Strasse 17 which also was a "Judenhaus", were Jews were forced to live together in the same apartment with other Jews. This is interesting because my grandparents also lived in this house. And it was also here my father learned to know his first wife Else Herbst. Her family also lived in this house.



Hamburg 1940



Frieda Richert



Hamburg, 20 Juni 1940

My sweetheart, as a little compensation during our separation.
Remembering with love
Your Puppa [nickname for someone you are in love with]
[Hamburg] war year 20 June 1940,

Because her husband, uncle Wendelin was in the military she writes him this.



Hamburg. Bogenstrasse 25, a so called "Judenhaus". Today it is a memorial house, and you are not allowed to change anything outside or inside. This is after 13 June 1941 when my half-brother Danny was born. The hair from him below also survived war. Little macabre.

