

„To the memory of the men, women, and children of this town and neighbouring villages who were forced to climb into cattle cars in order to be taken to concentration camps and murdered there so they never came home.“

Margaret Brewer, granddaughter of Rosel and Willi Spier from Treysa

The following pages provide data and short biographies of the Jewish citizens who were deported in 1942 from Platform 2 of the train station in Treysa, listed according to their places of residence and in alphabetical order.

The first deportation took place on 31 May 1942. Altogether 39 Jewish men, women, and children were deported from the station in Treysa and taken first to Kassel and then from there on the following day to the concentration camps Lublin-Majdanek-Sobibor. They came from different towns and villages in the former county of Ziegenhain (Altkreis Ziegenhain). Some came from Oberaula (13 people) and Neukirchen (8 people), situated along the Knüllwald railway line. At that time this railway line was still in existence (until 1984/1995), connecting Hersfeld and Treysa. The Jews were under surveillance by local gendarmes and taken to the station of their respective places of residence, Oberaula and Neukirchen, in order to continue on to Treysa. Whether the train halted at Ziegenhain's south station at 6 o'clock, as intended by the Gestapo order to district administrators and police stations, remains uncertain. In Ziegenhain there were no longer any Jewish residents at the time. It is certain that all of those deported on Sunday, 31 May 1942, were taken to the station in Treysa. Whether they had to change trains to Kassel or stayed in the Knüllwald railway carriage, which would then have been added onto the train coming from Marburg, remains uncertain. The three Jewish residents of Willingshausen and Merzhausen were also taken directly to Treysa. There 15 more people boarded the train, the Jews from Treysa. All of those deported were between the ages of 7 (Rahel Isaak) and 63 (her grandfather, Max Isaak). None survived.

The twelfth deportation took place on 6 September 1942 and went via Kassel to the concentration camp Theresienstadt. At that time all remaining Jews from the Schwalm region lived in Treysa, most of them in "House Schön" (Schön'schen Haus), a so-called house of Jews (Judenhaus) in the street called Steingasse. Many were at least 80 years of age, if not even older. Between May and September 1942 the few remaining Jews from other villages had been forced to move to Treysa, which was also the case at the time of the deportation in May. This was probably done for "logistical reasons" to facilitate deportation.

Josef Abraham from Treysa and Solomon Spier from Merzhausen were the only survivors from the group of Jews deported in September, all others were murdered. Josef Abraham lived in Switzerland after 1945, Solomon Spier died in 1947 in his home village of Merzhausen as a result of abuse suffered in captivity. He was buried in the Jewish cemetery in Merzhausen.