



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

**MS-763: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman Collection, 1930-2004.**  
Series A: World War II/Displaced Persons Camps, 1944-1990.  
Subseries 1: Documents, 1944-1990.

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Box  
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Folder  
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Berlin, Germany. 1945-1946.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the  
American Jewish Archives website.

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Judische Friedhof - Wersien  
112,000 graves  
founded 1885 { all records intact

Joseph Schwartz - Opera singer

Rabbi's Row - 25-30

Lewandowski - Composer

Bruchemwald - 317

Sachsenhausen - 308

Ravensburg (women) - 89

Dachau - 85

Matt Hansen - 7

Auswitz - 3

809 - brought in sums

(85)

Solly Epstein - convicted of shooting

Herb Weisel - beheaded on

Germany's wedding-day 20 April

Suicides (greatest number in 1942)  
1000 when deportations began  
mostly by venereal

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50 bombs fell on cemetery  
land-mine destroyed chapel

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560 Toraks collected all over  
Germany - brought here by SS.

Room where kept was bombed 3 times.  
About 300 remain.

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1943-44 - secret R.H. Y.C. Success  
services held - with Succah underground.  
18 people - very secret.

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Russian artillery was placed in  
western part of cemetery in April 45.  
First Russian soldier in cemetery  
was Jew.

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Rabbi was arrested once -  
almost sent to Dachau - but saved.  
Allowed to live in country.  
Forbidden to preach at burials -  
only ritual.

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Rabbi Martin Riesenburger - 50  
worked with Jud. Gemeinde since 13  
was spiritual + welfare officer  
for old age home, for prisons.  
After was placed in this capacity of  
Praediger + Cemetery.

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Now he makes burials, weddings -  
does this "chaplaincy" work in various  
institutions - handles the cemetery - runs  
two schools - 50 in one + 20 in other.

37 full Jewish kids in all Berlin -

Berlin is a great and sprawling city - to day the center of the 4-Power Allied Control of Germany. It is quite different from any other place in the land. Just as Germany is divided into 4 zones, each administered by one of the powers, so is this city divided into 4 sectors. The Americans and Russians have the two largest sectors, while the British and the French have somewhat smaller territories. Intercourse and travel between the zones is strictly controlled, but within the sectors of the city one may travel without hindrance.

The largest part of Berlin lies in complete ruin - bombardment here was something terrific. What the Russians now occupy seems to have been hit the worst. The erstwhile famous landmarks are now visited by a curious throng of soldiers of all nationalities. Standing in Potsdamer Platz, one can see the shell of the Reichstag Building, where the Nazis staged the infamous fire of 1933; the Brandenburger Tor which opens onto Unter den Linden, the broad avenue down which the German armies have always marched; Goebbels home, completely gutted; and part of the Reichschancellory, where Hitler's office was, and in the garden of which he and Eva Braun reputedly met their death.

Out towards the southeast section of Berlin is the Jewish cemetery - the famous Judische Friedhof. Its tale comprises one of the most interesting narratives in a city replete with historical significance.

The Judische Friedhof was founded in 1885 and contains 112,000 graves, thus representing not only Berlin Jewry, but Jews from all over Germany and even other parts of Europe, who have been buried there. All the records of the cemetery are quite intact, having been preserved through ingenuity and good luck during the terrible years.

Occupying a prominent place, just inside the main gates, is the Rabbiner Reihe - the Row of Rabbis. Standing in a long line are some 30 high stones, marking the resting place of these

former spiritual leaders of German Jewry.  
Right behind the Rabbiner Reihe is another row of graves of famous German Jews - Joseph Schwartz, the opera singer; Lewandowski, the composer of so much of the liturgical music used in the early Reform Temples, and many others.

In 1942, when the mass deportations from Berlin began, deportations to the murder camps in Poland and elsewhere, there was a wave of suicides in ~~Berlin~~ the city. Over 1000 people who killed themselves, mostly by taking overdoses of veronal, are buried in a special section of the cemetery. No dishonor attaches to this section - it is simply set aside as witness to the fiendishness which caused such mass despair.

