

Leopold Levy was born on October 7th, 1877, in Roehrenfurth near Melsungen. His parents were Mendel and Lina Levy. He was married to Paula Levy whose maiden name was Mosheim. She came from Korbach. Leopold was a merchant and traded in technical oil and grease. Therefore, he was nicknamed "Grease Levy". He and his wife were deported to Theresienstadt. Leopold Levy died there on December 30th, 1942. Paula Levy was deported from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz and died there. A precise date of her death is not known. Later a more precise addition was made: deported to Auschwitz on September 7th, 1942; murdered there on October 12th, 1944.

The couple had three children. All of them survived. **Henry Levy** was born on May 18th, 1910, in Melsungen. She moved to Italy early enough. Her daughter Henny J. Changeat survived and lived in Italy. **Wilhelm Levy** was born on September 7th, 1914. He survived and died in Hinterzarten at the age of 55. **Werner Levy**, the youngest son, was born on December 25th, 1910, emigrated to USA on February 23rd, 1934 and lived in New York.

In the eyes of their Aryan employees Leopold Levy and his wife Paula were exceptionally friendly and caring employers. A former home help brought the starving couple something to eat in a basket again and again, until they were reported to the police. The driver was sent to prison in Kassel because he stood by his employer and supported him.

Leopold Levy was a respected war veteran of the First World War. He had been wounded on the neck and had suffered from the after-effects since then. In the Night of Broken Glass (Kristallnacht) the first nationwide and systematic pogrom organized by the Nazis on November 9th, 1938, he was beaten up, last but not because he was a war veteran. Jewish veterans, especially when they were highly decorated were the last Jews to be deported to extermination camps. This also happened to Leopold Levy.

(Dieter Hoppe berichtet über den Aufruf am 1. Weltkrieg ausführlich in seinen Lebenserinnerungen. Lesen Sie mehr dazu hier.) In the memories of his life Dieter Hoppe is recording something more about the appeal to Jewish citizens to be ready for the First World War.

(See beyond)

Appeal to Jewish citizens to be ready for the First World War (1914-1918)

At the outbreak of the First World War national and chauvinistic emotions were triggered off in the whole of Europe to such an extent that no-one would probably have expected before. Everyone believed that the evil enemy could be defeated in no time. The desire to volunteer for front-line service was big.

During a talk between the two representatives of England and France in Berlin these two representatives said that there were only three persons in Europe who would really regretted the outbreak of the war: they themselves and the **German emperor William II.**

But he was as one historian put it, at the wrong place at the wrong time. William was on a cruise in Norway on his royal yacht. After his return he told off the **German chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg** for his mishandling the crisis: I will have to take the blame for the mess you have created. When the Emperor William was right, he was right, indeed. He was possibly, the only one who knew the dimensions of the coming catastrophe. His attempt to keep England out of the war through his Jewish friend and ship owner **Ballin** and to avoid the worst this way failed. After the end of the war was a culprit had to be found the only culprit: the German emperor William II.

There was also another person who could have prevented the whole extent of the war if he had been at the right place at the right time although he had no political function at all. It was the monk **Rasputin** in Russia. He foresaw the coming extent of the terror and violence that would hit Russia.

At the outbreak of the war the Imperial Eagle (the national symbol) fell off the National Post Office in Berlin. That was seen as a bad omen, especial, for the German Jews. In the Second World War the Post Office was considerably damaged by air raids. Today it is used as a museum of communication in Berlin.



According to the Jewish calendar the outbreak of the war in the middle of the year 1914 coincides with the fasting period Tisha Be'Aw. This period of time reminds the Jews of the darkest events in their history. The ninth day of the month Aw corresponds to a different date each year in the Christian calendar. It is associated with various catastrophes:

- The outbreak of the First World War.
- The announcement of the 40-year-old long way through the desert because the Israelites had aroused the anger of God.

- The destruction of the first and second temple. It marks the beginning of the exile of the land Israel.
- The massacres inflicted on the Jews during the crusades in Jerusalem.
- The expulsion of Jews from England (1290).
- The expulsion of Jews from Spain (1492).

For the German Jews the outbreak of the war was therefore, was a double opportunity to prove themselves. Their main objective was to do their utmost as German Jews and German patriots in order to achieve full civil recognition at long last and not only legal recognition. Since about 1873 in the era of the struggle between the Catholic Church and the German state and when the term anti-Semitism was created, anti-Semitism had spread again in Germany.

The following placard shows the spirit and determination of the German Jews to do their utmost for Germany.

German Jews!

In this historic moment it is our duty to show again that

- taking pride in our descent and Jewish race –
we will belong to the best sons of our mother country.

The noble spirit that we find in our history of thousands of
years is an obligation for us to do our national duty.

We expect our youth to volunteer for front-line service with
enthusiasm and ardour.

German Jews!

We call on you to serve your country with all your heart and the
best of your ability in the spirit of the old Jewish
commandment that requires Jews to do their duty.

National Assoziation of German Jews	Zionist Union for Germany
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* * *

We welcome the appeal of the National Association of German
Jews and of the Zionist Union for Germany.

We have great confidence that our youth will distinguish
themselves in all military virtues – strengthened by the pursuit of
Jewish values and the physical training that aims at a strong belief
in Ideals and male courage.

**The Committee of the cartels of Jewish Associations
The Committee of German Gymnasts**

The beginning of the war 1914
Appeal to defend Germany

The appeal was a great success. Although Jews had already been full citizens by law for a long time, there still existed a strong anti-Semitism in Germany. Jews had – beginning in the cast of Germany – not only fought against Napoleon in the Napoleonic Wars (1813-15) to show that they were just as good patriots as all the other Germans. During the First World war Jews fought in elite units, e.g. in the German Air Force which were basically the privilege for the German aristocracy.

Jewish soldiers however, suffered casualties above average, but were promoted and decorated like all the other soldiers.

It had been said again and again that Jews were not promoted to officers, which was interpreted as a typically, anti-Semitic attitude. It should be remembered that in the German army in the era of William II. (1888 – 1914) officer cadets were originally reserved for aristocracy. With the heavy casualties during the First World War the Number of officers needed could not be covered by the aristocracy alone. Therefore, non-aristocrats and also Jews could move up to the ranks of officer and reserve officer. It should be remembered that Frederic the Great (King of Prussia 1740 – 1786) was the first ruler who did not respect all existing conventions. In 1760 he promoted **Konstantin Nathanael von Salomon** to general because of his bravery. For many, that was an insult. The historian Michael Wolffsohn once said: “It was chiefly German Jews who did everything for German unity and freedom in the past 200 years.”



Leutnant Wilhelm Frankl,
Träger des 'Pour le mérite', zeitweise der
erfolgreichste lebende deutsche Jagdflieger.
Herman Göring flog an seiner Seite.

The German air force pilot Lieut. **Wilhelm Frankl** also belonged to the highly decorated officers. He was the most successful living fighter pilot after the death of Boelcke (a very famous German fighter pilot in the First World War. He was killed in 1916 in a battle on the Somme, in France.) Hermann Goering, who later became Reichsmarschall in the Third Reich under Hitler (1933-1945) flew by Frankl's side. Later Goering could not (did not want to ...) remember that the better man by his side was a Jew. Goering made propaganda for the Nazis by saying that all Jews had been incompetent and cowardly soldiers and they received their decorations by fraud.

Some members of the small Jewish community in Melsungen took part in the First World War. But only little is known about them, unfortunately two members of the Jewish community in Melsungen were killed: **Sussmann Siegmund Levy** and **Joseph Stern**. Their remains rest in foreign soil. Six Jewish fellow citizen from neighbouring Felsberg were killed, too. There, the veteran association also paid their last respects to Isidor Weinreich, who died in 1928s as a war veteran.

Sometime before in Melsungen Jews succeeded in receiving public recognition by Joseph Speyer becoming town councillor. Julius Levy, the Jewish head of the Jewish community became councillor later. The graves of both Jewish citizens are situated in the Jewish cemetery in Melsungen.

Leopold Levy also belonged to the active combatant in the First World War. Because of his age he first belonged to the reserve forces. He was born in Roehrenfurth near Melsungen on October 7th, 1877. He was married to Paula Levy, Mosheim with her maiden Name. She came from Korbach. Leopold was a merchant and traded in technical oil and grease and was nicknamed “Grease Levy”. He and his wife were deported to Theresienstadt. Leopold Levy died there on December 30th, 1942. Paula Levy was deported from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz and died there. Later a more precise addition was made: deported to Auschwitz on September 7th, 1942; murdered there on October 12th, 1944.

Leopold Levy was a respected war veteran in Melsungen. He was heavily wounded on the neck and suffered from the after-effect of that injury. In the Night of Broken Glass in November 9th, 1938, he was beaten up, last but not least because he was a war veteran. Jewish war veterans, especially, when they were highly decorated, were the last Jews to be deported to extermination camps. This also happened to Leopold Levy who probably rose from reserve officer to officer.

Hugo Rothschild was another well-known front-line soldier from Melsungen. He was born in April 18th1888, in Rotenburg on the Fulda. He was married to Bertha Rothschild. Her maiden name was Levy. The couple lived in 48, Bridge Street, (Brückenstraße) in Melsungen. The parents of Bertha Rothschild, Julius and Rebecca Levy, had a textile shop there. Hugo Rothschild was a merchant by profession. Hugo Rothschild belonged to the first wave of soldiers who went to war in the First World War. Still, in August 1914 he was devoted with the Iron Cross as a corporal.

Hugo Rothschild was sent to the Concentration Camp Breitenau near Cuxhagen in the Night of Broken Glass on November 9th 1938, after the riots against the Jewish population. After that, the family emigrated to Brussels in Belgium and lived there in 162, Rue Émile Feron, St Gilles. He and Bertha were deported from there to Auschwitz and killed there in October, 1942. Their son Hanns Joseph Rothschild, lives in Johannesburg, South Africa.

After the war, various associations of war veterans were founded, which, primarily related to a party. All of them shared the same opinion: The old parties had failed. In particular the war veterans felt obliged to campaign for a better Germany. So, many of them joined one of the paramilitary organizations of the parties in order to play an effective part in party politics. Very often, this simply meant radicalization and violence.

Also the Jewish war veterans joined to play an active political part in the new state. They faced a double task. On the other hand, they wanted to be politically active just as they had been in the German Monarchy (German Empire) before the war (1871 – 1818). On the other hand, it was their objective to combat the spreading anti-Semitism which was shared of some members of all parties, openly or secretly. Churches and trade unions were also involved to various degrees.

William II., who held his protective hand over the German Jews during the so called census of Jews in 1916 in the First World War, was no longer around. With the census the All-German Nationalists wanted to prove that Jews were shirking the war and were cowards, whereas the National Liberals to prove the opposite.

In the Reichstag (the German Parliament) were seven anti-Semitic MPs at that time. The Emperor relieved the responsible Defence Secretary **Adolf Wild von Hohenborn** of his post and fired him. He had to go to war. Nowadays, he would be temporarily retired with a full salary and with a high compensation (a golden handshake).



Jewish war veterans also founded a pressure group of their own: The National Association of Jewish Front-Line Soldiers. This association presumably comprised the majority of the Jewish war veterans. They emphasised that it was their most sacred duty, their right and their most fervent desire to help create a new Germany.

It can be assumed that the war veterans from Melsungen also belonged to the local organization in Kassel. The choice of the location for meetings directly by the station suggests that Jewish veterans from outside also belonged to this local organization.

The second item of the agenda “Our defensive actions during and after the parliamentary

elections” seems to have been the most important to me. It was about the defence against the anti-Semitic attacks which the National Socialists (Nazis) were responsible for, in the first place. The Communists also had enough Anti-Semites in their rank and file. They followed the motto: As long as the Nazis do the dirty work, we won’t get our hands dirty.

Jewish Weekly, February 1929

Celebration of the 10th anniversary of The National Association of Jewish Front-line Soldiers

Berlin: The National Association of Jewish Front-line Soldiers marks the celebration of its 10th anniversary on February 9th and February 10th this year. In Berlin, the location of the National Board and the place where the National Association was founded a rally in the former House of Lords/Peers will take place, which will be attended by national and federal state authorities, high military officials, urban authorities, Jewish officials, organizations and authorities, federal state associations, local associations of The National Association of Jewish Front-line Soldiers from all over Germany. On Sunday, February 10th, a church festival service will be held in the New Synagogue in Oranienburg Street. Subsequently, sport events, and in the evening, a get-together of comrades from Berlin and outside will take place in the Germania Festival Halls. On Sunday morning, flowers will be laid in the Berlin Garrison Cemeteries and at the War Memorial in the Berlin Cemetery in Weißensee.

The article in the Jewish Weekly on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the National Association played an essential part in the consciousness of the non-Jewish German population as well.

Jewish Weekly, March 1929

National Sozialists (Nazis) attacked and tried to break up a meeting of the Central Association. Rioters thrown out.

Koenigsberg (East Prussia) On February, 23rd in the evening, National Socialists (Nazis) forced their way into a meeting of the Central Association of German citizens of Jewish belief in large numbers in order to break it up. A massive force of police prevented that. The Nazi ringleaders were expelled by force, so Counsel Arthur Schweriner could continue with his presentation undisturbed. A file was charged against the Nazi gang for breaking and entering and resistance to state authority.

The newspaper report from March 1927, on the disruption of a meeting of the Jewish Central Committee shows how ruthlessly and indiscriminately the Nazis disrupted Jewish meetings in general. To be fair, it should be mentioned that violent disruptions of meetings of other political groups were quite common in the Weimar Republic. (1919-1933).

(The Weimar Republic was the first republic in German history. It existed between the German Monarchy »German Empire, 1871-1918« and Nazi Germany (1933-1945). Unfortunately, it failed – great disaster.)

Even the Federal Republic of Germany of today has not remained unaffected by violent activities that sort. The following article which reports on a protest against the creation of a professorship for anti-Semitism, shows how strong anti-Semitism was in the Weimar Republic.

Jewish Weekly, May 1930

Jewish News

May 1930

**The German League for Human Rights enters a protest against the
Creation a professorship for racial anthropology and the appointment of
Dr. Hans Guenther**

"The German League for Human Rights" calls on the Government and the intellectual elite in Germany to resolutely object to the appointment of Dr. Hans Guenther to the newly created professorship for racial anthropology at Jena University, decreed by the current Thuringia's education minister. The League points out that all serious anthropologists in Germany regard works (publications) of Dr. H.G. as a hodgepodge of a tendentious concoction that the appointment of such a writer at one of the most respected German universities evidently serves the purpose of party politics and that the scientific activity of such a professor outrageously contradicts article 148 of the German Constitution as regards the education of German students. Therefore, we demand that the German government intervenes and takes action.

The report on former Jewish front-line soldiers would be incomplete if those Jews were not mentioned who remembering the close comradeship their experience with their Christian comrades in the trenches irrespective of party directives – preference to work for a better Germany and also to stop and prevent the isolation of Jews in the tensest society. The memory of these men did not watch the mainstream view on Jews after the First World War, a view that determined and shaped by propaganda and ideology.

The association concerned – would you believe it – was the Steel Helmet Association (paramilitary organisation of frontline soldiers). This association campaigned for a new system of moral values in Germany, after the general barbarization after the First World War. The proper political system had yet to be found, especially as the new republic had been proclaimed by Scheidemann (a leading Social Democrat) without any democratic legitimacy, as Ebert (leader of the Social Democratic Party and first president of the Weimar Republic), too. Because of this lack of legitimacy the credibility of the new republic was considerably damaged and shaken in the eyes of many Germans from the beginning.

Initially, the Steel Helmet Association was quite popular in many parts of Germany, because it was always ready to help in times of blood, unrest and looting in times, when the police or the responsible politicians shirked in their duty because they could lose votes in the next election.

Many meeting places/club restaurants of the Steel Helmet Association were in Jewish possession and the deputy Chairman Theodor Duesterberg was descended from an old rabbi family. The Steel Helmet Association and the National Association of Jewish Front-line Soldiers occasionally worked together, cooperated against the SA (paramilitary branch of the Nazi Party NSDAP-Storm Section of the Party) like on the Day of the National Front-line Soldiers in 1930. In 1932 Duesterberg ran for president against Hindenburg and Hitler in the presidential elections from a hopeless position. Gradually the Steel Helmet Association was infiltrated by the Nazi ideology. Many Jews meeting places/club restaurants were abandoned.

Hitler needed the Steel Helmet Association for various reasons. First of all, he usurped the moral principles of the Steel Helmet Association and used them for propaganda purposes as if they were his own. Then, he needed the Steel Helmet for a reason that appears very macabre from present-day perspective. During the bloody conflicts after 1918 the Steel Helmet Association had to suffer the greatest number of dead of all other political groups. The Nazi had the smallest number of dead. According to the Nazi “blood and soil” ideology Hitler needed those dead men as martyrs of his Movement although they had nothing to do with the Nazi ideology, absolutely nothing. The same applies to the victims who did not belong to the Steel Helmet Association. All that suited his propaganda. Dead people cannot stand up for themselves. The post-war propaganda adopted the Nazi classification (abuse) of these victims to a large extent. The stigma to have been Nazis has been attached to those victims of violence till today. Nobody takes about them any more.

When Hitler seized power in 1933, Duesterberg, of course, lost his office and was sent to prison. The Steel Helmet Association was integrated into the SA by force and was banned for good, in 1934, because of hostility to the Nazi Party. Until then the last Jews had left the Association but they did not end up in prison like Duesterberg or in one of the unofficial concentration camps of the SA.

In site of everything, German Jews tried to be good Germans incomplete misapprehension of the facts. Evidently, also **Dagobert Loewenstein** in Melsungen was one of them. He had volunteered for the German army (Reichswehr) only after the war. He was born on June 25th, 1900 in Olsberg in Sauerland (a region in the west of Germany). He was a teacher and married Franze Abt, née Spangenthal.

Because of his age Dagobert Loewenstein could volunteer for the army, only after the defeat of Germany in the First World War (1818). He was taken on although the German army was reduced to 100.000 men according to the “Versailles Dictation”, as all parties called the Versailles Treaty (Peace Treaty, 1919). Like the other Jews Dagobert Loewenstein wanted to show that he supported Germany expressly at a time of catastrophe German defeat and fall of the Monarchy). He became reserve officer.

Already at the beginning of the First World War, the German historian Golo Mann wrote:
No matter where they lived in Rheinland, in Silesia, in East Prussia in Swabia or in Bavaria (regions and federal states in Germany), the Jews were Germans in their virtues and vices. They were patriots and most of them conservative. This Jewish merchant, doctors, scholars, these Jewish volunteers from 1914-1917 – no German was more German than a German Jew.

These Jews were not willing to be isolated and marginalized by the Nazis. Even after their emigration, they maintained contact with their former comrades in the German army, e.g. the Nobel Price winner for chemistry Fritz Haber. He supported the Technical Emergency Aid

Organization and made an essential contributing to the foundation of the Emergency Society, the Research Society of today. He opened the international reconciliation of scientists. Through his personal commitment he tried to ease the heavy burden of war reparations. He had 50.000 water samples from all oceans checked for their gold content between 1922 and 1928, in order to build swimming gold factories in the mother country. The gold content proved too low so that Haber dropped these plans. In 1933 Haber was forced to dismiss all his Jewish employees and he went to Cambridge. In August 1933 he still gave hints to some friends among German generals. He died January 29th, 1934.

We do not know when Dagobert Loewenstein did his military service and when he became reserve officer. He belonged to the "First Reserve I". We do not know either how Dagobert L. reacted to the seizure of power by the Nazis for a while. A great number of Germans did not understand the long-term implications and likely consequences of Hitler's rule, especially as diverse signals emerged from the Nazis in power. On the one hand, there were riots of the SA, the boycott¹ of Jewish shops and the job bans for Jews. On the other hand, the former Jewish front-line soldiers were exempted from the Nazi laws regarding the civil service² and the Jewish soldiers were expelled from the German army on the instruction of the army office: 7 officers 8 officer cadets, 13 corporals and 28 units, and yet Jewish front-line soldiers were also awarded the Cross Honours, even in 1935, in the name of the Leaser and German Chancellor Adolf Hitler. Therefore, it was not surprising that after the announcement of the draft, in 1934, many Jews volunteered for the German army again because they wanted to prove that they were good Germans like 1914. They were turned down because of unfitness for military service. Only from 1941 on, Jews were not allowed to wear badges of honour and decorations.

It is amazing Dagobert Loewenstein was still reserve officer, in 1938. This could be an indication that some army officers ignored Hitlers's instructions on purpose. When he wanted to go to England as a reserve officer liable for military service with his wife, in 1938, he had to apply for leave at the Army Record Section, also, in order to get a passport. The text of the two years leave read as follows:

The drafty Dagobert Loewenstein is granted leave for the USA
From 1/9/1938 till 1/9/1940
Stamp
Army Record Officer Melsungen
Recruiting District Headquarters Berlin
Issued on 30/8/1938

The issue of the passport is astonishing for another reason. Since July, 2nd, 1939, Jews got passports only in exceptional cases. Just in time, Dagobert Loewenstein and his wife Franze could emigrate to England (London) on August 15th, 1939. From there they could get to the USA.

¹ On April 1933 a nationwide boycott of Jewish shops, businesses, law firms and surgeries took place – on the express order of Hitler. It was organised, coordinated by a Nazi Committee headed by Julius Streicher, a very radical Nazi. He was the owner and the editor of the extremely vulgar anti-Semitic weekly "Der Stürmer" (The Attacker).

²On April 7th 1938 all political opponents of the Nazis were expelled and excluded from the German civil service, above all Communists, Social Democrats, and Jews, except those who had been soldiers in the First World War.

What attitude did the German government and the German society take to the former Jewish soldiers?

In the time of the Second World War (1939 – 1945) the author begins to remember how the former Jewish soldiers were judged by the German government and the German society. The judgements and the attitude of the persons in authority and power left a rather diverse impression in the course of the years after the Second World War.

When the war was still going on, I heard that Jews were not allowed to wear decorations and badges of honour in public on special occasions as it had been in common until the Nazi era and as it is still common in France and Russia today. That outraged me at that time. I still was a child.

When I, years later, in the Federal Republic of Germany, and even later, when I was a university student, indicated that also Jews had fought in the First World War, I was told that that was an anti-Semitic statement. I should rather keep my mouth shut. Even as a school student I was threatened with a slap in the face. I have not understood this attitude till today. Some people, however, gave me a nod as a sign of agreement. When I was a university student it was no problem at all to discuss the topic “Jews as front-line soldiers in the First World War” with some fellow students who were close to me.

The first important person, who did a lot to keep the Jews in the West German Army in good memory, was Franz Josef Strauss. In his function as defence secretary he saw to it that in 1961 the book “War Letters from Jews killed in the First World War”, which had appeared in 1935 on the instruction of the National Association of Jewish front-line Soldiers, was republished and distributed in the West German Army. He was the first German to restore the honour of these soldiers publicly. At the same time he reminded Germans of the incomprehensible wrongs that they had inflicted on their Jewish countrymen.

It took a long time till this recognition of achievements of former Jewish soldiers gained acceptance at German authorities and offices. The German media hardly took note of it.

The following article from the Jewish General Newspaper from November 29th, 2007 shows us that it took some time until a leading politician was courageous enough to stand up for the honour and the achievement of German Jewish soldiers openly and publicly.

Yet there remains a rather embarrassing question that was not mentioned openly and in the public. Political activists coined the phrase “Soldiers are murderers”, which was well-known in West Germany. That also applied, last but not least, to the soldiers of the West German Army who risk their lives in Afghanistan and in other places.

After protests in 1991 people were scolded several times for using the phrase “Soldiers are murderers”. In 1995, the German Supreme Court however, rejected these decisions and consolidated its practice of acquittals on the whole. In its verdict from November 7th, 2005, the Supreme Court emphasized that views and opinions on public controversies were ritually an essential feature of the free and democratic system in Germany.

According to this verdict, the assertion – to me a word of a loyal layman – “Soldiers are murderers” are allowed in its unlimited generalization, because nobody is insulted personally.

The Supreme Court referred to the soldiers of the West German Army, only in a very sophisticated way. Most of our members of parliament also proved of the Supreme Court. As a result of all that, the question arises: Were the Jewish soldiers in the First World War murderers, too? Did Bechstein and Knobloch honour murderers? Or does this judgement about soldiers not apply to Jews? That would be a discrimination against and an isolation of our Jewish fellow citizens as the Nazis had done it. No matter how you look at it, for the citizen a still and bitter after-taste remains against the background of grinning faces.

“Germany was their home country”

*Commemoration
for Jewish soldiers*

For the first time this year, the Bavarian Prime Minister came to the cemetery in Garching Street (in Munich) to honour the Jewish soldiers killed in the First World War. The chairman of the German Jewish Association, Charlotte Knobloch, said: “With this ceremony the memory of those brave men shall be preserved and they shall be brought back to our society” Guenther Beckstein, the Bavarian Prime Minister, added: “We want to give them what they went to war for, in vain: recognition Germany was their home country, and for this home country, and for this home country they fought bravely and they lost their lives for it on the battlefield of Europe. In this hour and at this place, it is our duty to think of them and to remember them.” His admonition: “Every effort which we make for peace and freedom is in the spirit of those whom we are honouring today.” The ceremony, which was attended by brigadier general Gert Wessels from the Military District Command in Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg – the highest representatives of the West German Army – ended with the prayer said by rabbi Steven Langnas.*gue*



Ehrten die Gefallenen: Charlotte Knobloch und Günther Beckstein

Foto: Gumbel

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translation and addition of remarks by Siegfried Bohn