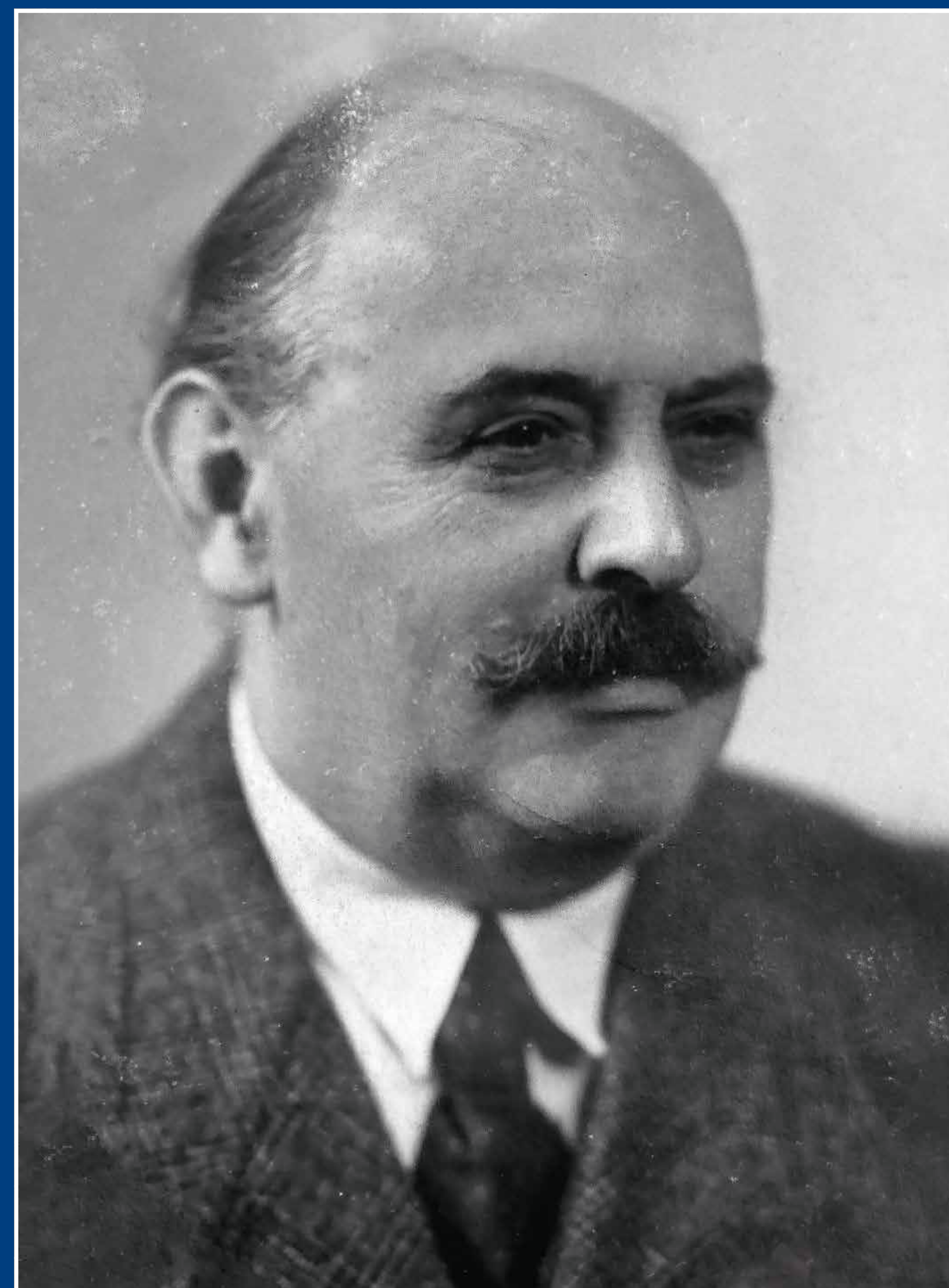


“I’m not allowed to do that, but today there are many things one is not allowed to do.”



Erinnerungskultur am Obermain



WILHELM AUWER

(1883 – 1958)

Wilhelm Aumer was a senior civil servant in the Lichtenfels district office (from 1939: Landratsamt).

During the National Socialist state of injustice, he acted according to the standards of humanity and decency, which were more important to him than keeping to the letter of inhumane laws.

Violating official instruction, he deliberately issued passports to Jews in a way that facilitated their escape from the Nazi regime.

At considerable personal risk, he warned Henriette Bamberger, Otto Bamberger’s widow, in 1938 of the imminent confiscation of her passport, thereby enabling her to flee from Germany in time.

In contrast to the regime’s demands, he treated Jewish women and men politely and appreciatively. His willingness to help them and others who were discriminated against is documented many times.

He successfully tried to improve the fate of foreign forced laborers in Lichtenfels against the instructions of the GeStaPo.

The district of Lichtenfels honors Wilhelm Aumer also on behalf of the – few – other public servants who dared to be a spanner in the works of the Nazi machinery.

Christian Meißner

District Administrator of Lichtenfels
Juli 2023

Wilhelm Aumer, about 1943

Source: Aumer family



Handwritten note by Wilhelm Aumer in Frieda Marx's passport

Source: Descendants of Frieda Marx



Henriette Bamberger

Source: Descendants



Lichtenfels district office in Kronacher Strasse (around 1931)

Source: City Archive Lichtenfels



... Mr. Aumer worked in the District Office and was responsible for passports. His wife had gone to school with my mother; the families knew each other well. To be able to go to an office without being snarled at was a rarity. Claude (Klaus) Bamberger described how Mr. Aumer came to his mother one night to warn her that her passport would be confiscated in a few days and to advise her to leave as soon as possible. I did not know where I would be able to go abroad, so we asked Mr. Aumer to issue the passport for two countries, England and North America. “I’m not allowed to do that, but today there are many things one is not allowed to do,” he said, and so he did. These were hardly heroic deeds, but such small episodes felt exceedingly good and made life much easier.

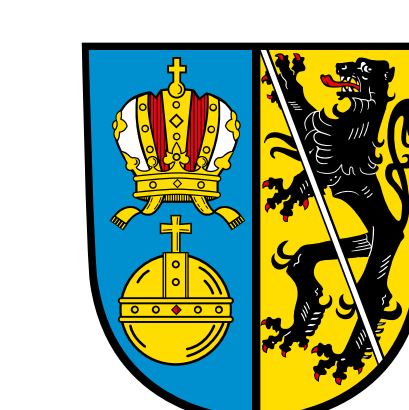
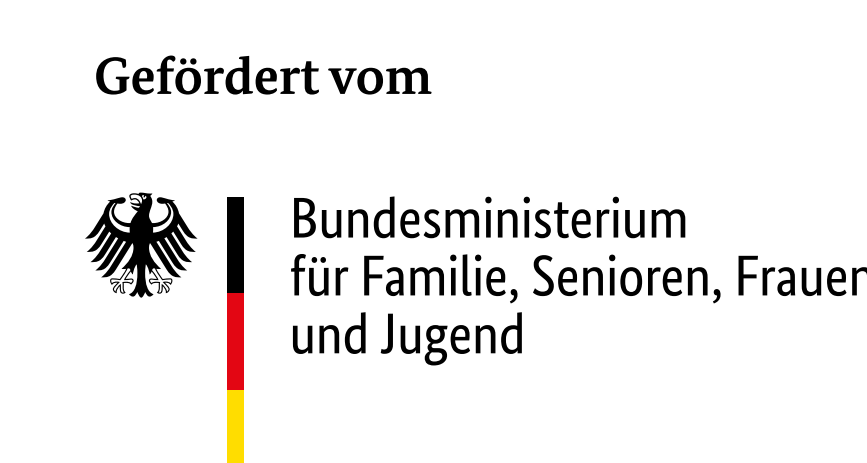
[translated from the German original]



From a letter from Prof. Dr. Walter G. Kohn to Mrs. Susanne Troche dated September 14, 1993

MORE INFORMATION ON JEWISH LIFE AND THE CULTURE OF REMEMBRANCE IN THE OBERMAIN REGION CAN BE FOUND AT:

WWW.JUDEN-AM-OBERMAIN.DE



LANDKREIS LICHTENFELS