

**Letter written by Martin Ansbacher on 9th November 1947
To senior prosecutor Schulze-Brachmann – Page 01**

Martin Ansbacher
43. Annette Street
Glasgow – S.2, Scotland
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Mister Arno Schulze- Brachmann
Senior Prosecutor
County Court Landshut
LANDSHUT/Lower Bavaria
Bavaria/ Germany.U.S.Zone of Occupation.

To the honorable chief prosecutor.

I refer to your advertisement in "Aufbau" and hope, that my great-cousin Siegfried Ansbacher has contacted you. He was luckily already in the U.S. or on his way there on 9th November 1938, so he was spared the experience of that night at our house in Seligenthaler Street 38 in Landshut.

My parents, Guido and Babette Ansbacher and I lived on the first floor of Seligenthaler Street 38 and I personally underwent the while 9th November 1938. I am going to give you an account of the events hereafter.

Sadly, I know very little about the merchant Hans Mehlhardt, who, as far as I know, had the rank of Sturmbandfuehrer (which equaled the rank of major in the German army) in the SA. It later became known, that he was the leader of the SA-group, that broke into the premises of the draper's shop Textilhaus M. & W. Ansbacher, Landshut, owned by Wilhelm Ansbacher and me. I do not know what happened there, for as was not present myself, but later reports by other people, among them merchant Geistbeck, Landshut, said that the SA group led by Mehlhardt was ransacking the place. The shop's cash register was also forced open and its contents stolen, of this, as far as I know, a police report exists. Based on that report the stolen money was given back later, but we were never told who the thief was. Later on this November 9th Mehlhardt was one of the armed SA men guarding us arrested Jews and Mehlhardt had a rifle, too.

One of the main ring leaders in the SA group was a teacher Huber, who used my younger relative Max Ansbacher and me to sweep the floor and light a fire. Actually, this man had harassed the before mentioned Max Ansbacher in the meanest ways in school, so that he (Max) nearly feared going to school.

I'll now speak of the events that took place in our house Seligenthalstraße 38 on that morning of the November 9th. The campaign was led by Sturmfoehrer Georg Nickel, who was known to me personally through his work at the main post office Landshut and who acted as a particularly mean brute. Around 5 o'clock in the morning that day were awoken by wild ringing of the doorbell, and a look out of the window showed us around 10 SA-troops, who demanded entrance. After a short deliberation among all members of both our families we decided to not obey this demand, and

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I tried to call the police to tell them that SA wanted to get in and I wanted to have at least one police officer on site when I opened the door. The man I talked to on the phone and I believed to be police, was a SA man, who occupied the telephone in the shop in Isargestade, so the desired police did not appear. In the meantime the SA started to forcibly gain entrance in our house by breaking the windows and that is how they came in. Once in the house they madly beat us. They caught me on the second floor and at least 4 SA men whose names I don't know beat and pushed me down to the first floor. There Sturmfuehrer Nickel had injured my father Guido Ansbacher with blows to the face so much he bled from his ear. This injury was later diagnosed as eardrum rupture by the prison physician in the county court prison, and since then my father had problems hearing with that ear.

Upon arriving from the second floor I saw a SA man (whose name I do not remember anymore, but who lived in the house next door which belonged to the paper factory. I believe he lived on the first floor, but he was not a member of the families Fischer and Zuechner) hit my grandmother, Karolina Eckmann, a woman of 76 years, in the face and verbally assault her. Due to this abuse my grandmother needed treatment with Dr. Schweiger, Landshut, for months, because she nearly lost her eyesight. Here I want to note that Dr. Schiller, Hofberg, Landshut, our parent's family physician, who we called first refused to treat her.

The members of the family Fritz Ansbacher were beaten, too, especially my business partner Wilhelm. After we were brought to the SA-Standarte building around 6 o'clock in the morning, the SA men occupied our house until the afternoon and wreaked havoc inside. Here are just a few examples: all draped were slashed from top to bottom with the use of honor daggers ("Ehrendolche"), the lightbulbs in the lamps broken, a large glass cabinet had been pushed of its stand including all the Nymphenburg and Meissen porcelain figurines and cabinet and content smashed to pieces, a big grandfather clock toppled over and broken, every piece of a table set for 12 persons smashed to pieces, the gramophone damaged and all disc records broken, dozens of jam and canned fruit jars smashed on the floor, chairs broken, cupboards knocked down, etc. Additionally a lot of things were stolen. All of this is best described in the reaction by a farmer Gabriel Huber from Kreuth near Pfeffenhausen, a family friend, who came by to our house in Seligenthalstraße 38 and, as witness reports told, broke out in tears when he saw this picture of destruction and is said to have remarked, that through the whole wartime of 1914 to 1918 he never saw anything worse.

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I would be really pleased, if as a result of my information enough evidence were given to bring the herein mentioned criminals to their deserved punishment and I would be much obliged if could would further tell me what happened to the accused persons.

Furthermore I would appreciate, if you could tell me, if it is possible to file charges about the fact, that in 1933 we were only discharged from custody after we agreed to pay a hefty amount of money to SA and NSDAP. That money was divided between Standartenleiter Hillmeyr, Gauleiter Göbl and others probably. A second extortion happened one or two years later in form of the so called "Ostmark" donation. I can give you more information about this on request.

Respectfully

Martin Ansbacher.

P.S. I want to add the following to my report: After the abuse of my grandmother, Mrs. Karolina Eckmann, as I already described, I protested to Sturmfuehrer Nickel, after which he tried to hit me in the face. When I fought back he called 3 other SA men to help and they all hauled me into my bedroom and closed the doors. There I was beaten bloody by 3 SA men (*one abstained from abuse completely) and kicked. They only stopped, when one of them said, it's enough now. I want to mention here, that Sturmfuehrer Nickel was armed with a revolver he carried in a holster on the belt the whole time spent in our house. If Sturmfuehrer Nickel was intend on murder when I was brought to my room, I cannot say, but I can confirmed that at the end of my beating he buttoned up the revolver case, that seemed to have been unbuttoned before.

* Not Nickel though. He was the worst in this beating.