

## Johanna Lieselotte Herzberg Beer

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Lieselotte Herzberg was born in Berlin in 1915 to Georg, who was Jewish, and Paola Bauchwitz, who was an evangelical<sup>1</sup>. The business and home of her father, who had a Ph.D. and was a pharmacist, were expropriated; he was arrested in September 1941, at the age of 71, and died on 21 November 1942 in prison in Brandenburg an der Havel<sup>2</sup>.

In 1933, Lieselotte obtained a high school diploma in science at the *Sophienschule*, a public high school in the German capital; in March 1935 she passed the preliminary pharmacy exam in Berlin and in October 1936 she graduated in the same discipline from the University of Geneva. This diploma allowed her to enter into the third year of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Rome for the 1936-37 academic year<sup>3</sup>. Instead, she attended her fourth year of studies in Florence; she graduated with a degree in Pharmacy on 14 November 1938 with a grade of 105/110<sup>4</sup>. She also completed eight months of practical training at the Barbieri pharmacy in Borgo Pinti, «standing out for her zeal and assiduity»<sup>5</sup>.

After the promulgation of anti-Semitic laws, Lieselotte decided to emigrate to Great Britain; on 23 October 1939 she appears to have been dispensed from internment as an enemy alien because she classified as a refugee<sup>6</sup>. She found a job as a housekeeper with a family in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

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1 ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Herzberg Lieselotte», enrollment form, AY1937-38; *ibid.*, certified translation of the birth certificate, 15 January 1937.

2 Cfr. the profiles in Sebastian Funk, *Genealogy of the Jewish Community of Eisleben, ad nomen* <[data.synagoge-eisleben.de](http://data.synagoge-eisleben.de)> (accessed 31 March 2019); <<http://www.jungegemeinde-online.de>> (accessed 31 March 2019).

3 ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Herzberg Lieselotte», Université de Genève, «Proces-verbal. Examen du diplôme de pharmacien», 6 November 1936.

4 *Ibid.*, University of Florence, School of Pharmacy, official report on the degree exam, 14 November 1938.

5 *Ibid.*, Enrico Barbieri's declaration to the rector, 31 August 1938.

6 The National Archives, Kew, London, *WW2 Internees (Aliens) Index Cards 1939-1947*, HO 396/301, *ad nomen* (available online at <<https://www.ancestry.com>>).

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On 19 August 1944 she married Otto Beer, who was of Czech nationality, and acquired his same citizenship<sup>7</sup>. In 1947-48, the possessions that had been confiscated from her family were returned to her<sup>8</sup>.

Lieselotte had to stay in Britain, but we do not know if she found another job after the war; she is reported as deceased in Camden (London) in 2000<sup>9</sup>.

### Archival sources

- ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Herzberg Lieselotte».
- The National Archives, Kew, London, *WW2 Internees (Aliens) Index Cards 1939-1947*, HO 396/301, *ad nomen*.
- General Register Office, London, *England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007*, *ad nomen*.

### Bibliography

- *Dr. phil. Georg Herzberg*, in Sebastian Funk, *Genealogy of the Jewish Community of Eisleben*, *ad nomen* <[data.synagoge-eisleben.de](http://data.synagoge-eisleben.de)>.
- Profile on Georg Herzberg in <<http://www.jungegemeinde-online.de>>.

Francesca Cavarocchi

Translated by Olivia Hewitt

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<sup>7</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>8</sup> Cfr. the profile on <<http://www.jungegemeinde-online.de>> (accessed 31 March 2019).

<sup>9</sup> General Register Office, London, *England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007*, *ad nomen* (available online at <<https://www.ancestry.com>>).

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