

**Lernen aus der Geschichte e.V.**

**<http://www.lernen-aus-der-geschichte.de>**

**Der folgende Text ist auf dem Webportal  
<http://www.lernen-aus-der-geschichte.de> veröffentlicht.**

Das mehrsprachige Webportal publiziert fortlaufend Informationen zur historisch-politischen Bildung in Schulen, Gedenkstätten und anderen Einrichtungen zur Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Schwerpunkte bilden der Nationalsozialismus, der Zweite Weltkrieg sowie die Folgegeschichte in den Ländern Europas bis zu den politischen Umbrüchen 1989.

Dabei nimmt es Bildungsangebote in den Fokus, die einen Gegenwartsbezug der Geschichte herausstellen und bietet einen Erfahrungsaustausch über historisch-politische Bildung in Europa an.

A standardized "condolence form letter" to the relatives of a murdered patient from the Bernburg nursing home, August 9, 1941. (Archive of the Bernburg Memorial.)

On the letterhead of the:  
State Hospital and Nursing Home Bernburg  
Bernburg, August 9, 1941  
Post Office Box 266  
Office hours only by advance appointment

Addressed to Mrs. Irmgard M. ...

Case History No. Be. 24/064/B  
(Refer to this file number in all correspondence)

Dear Mrs. M.,

We regret to inform you that your mother, Mrs. Louise B., ... died unexpectedly today, due to a strangulated hernia followed by sepsis.... Her transfer to our institution a short time ago was a war measure and occurred on grounds of national defense.

Because our institution serves only as a transfer station for patients being sent to other institutions in this region, their stay here is only for the purpose of identifying carriers of infectious disease. Experience has

shown that such carriers are often found among patients like these. To prevent outbreaks and transmission of infectious disease, the local police office, in agreement with those offices concerned, has therefore instituted extensive preventive measures, and has for that reason ordered the immediate cremation of the deceased and the disinfection of his/her possessions under paragraph 22 of the Decree to Combat Infectious Diseases. In these cases agreement of relatives, etc., is not required.

The possessions of the deceased are, after disinfection, retained here primarily as a deposit until we receive payment of the institutional costs of patient care. Regarding this, we hereby advise you that it is frequently impossible to prevent disinfection damage to the patient's former possessions because of the use of strong chemicals, and that often the shipping and/or settlement of the allocation of possessions requires more time and expense than the value of the possessions. We therefore suggest that you relinquish these possessions, so that any damaged items can be turned over to the Nazi party welfare organization (NSV) and otherwise may be passed on to other needy patients.

Should you wish to inter the urn at a specific cemetery, the shipment, but not the interment, is without charge. We request that you submit a certificate from a cemetery administration confirming that burial arrangements have been made. If such a certificate is not sent within fourteen (14) days, we will provide burial arrangements. We will also assume that you have agreed to relinquish the patient's former possessions, if you do not respond to us within the same period of time.

A death certificate for your use is attached.

Heil Hitler! Signed: Moll

1 certificate enclosed