



## **Ashes from Belzec. Willie Glaser's travels in Poland 2008 Part III: Izbica**

Dr. Kuwalek was my guide in Izbica. He is a terrific guy to take off two full days from his duty. I did enjoy my beer with lunch and supper. It was between 32 and 34 degrees Celsius.

Izbica is exactly as I expected, a small "Flecken" (market town), the size of Baiersdorf. Dr. Kuwalek told me the Jews were concentrated in the town's center.

The houses are all very small and all have been rebuilt, except for two adjoining houses, which are still in the original state. I have now a good idea how the people lived when Izbica was a transit camp, 10 - 12 families in a small house.

We looked at the unloading ramp. I took pictures of the original railway station sign "Izbica". The original railway tracks are not used anymore.

While doing this there were a lot of gunshots echoing from the surrounding hills (Izbica lies in a valley). Dr. Kuwalek told us the hunters are very busy this time of the year.

I was thinking my mother must have heard the same sounds echoing through Izbica. It is a fact that the SS commandant of Izbica Engels very often shot people just for fun.

Toive Blatt, who was born in Izbica (I interviewed him several times) tracked Engels to Hamburg where he lived after the war and confronted him, but this is another story.

I looked at the "Denkmal" (memorial site) erected by cities in Franconia from where Jews were deported. Originally it was to be placed on the Jewish cemetery in Izbica, but there are already at least four memorial sites there. It was erected pretty well in center of Izbica.

The last place I visited was the Jewish cemetery. In November 1943, when the Izbica transit camp was shut down, about 2000 Jews were taken to the cemetery and shot. They all are buried in a mass grave. The students of the local school are looking after the cemetery.



**Willie Glaser on the tracks to Izbica**

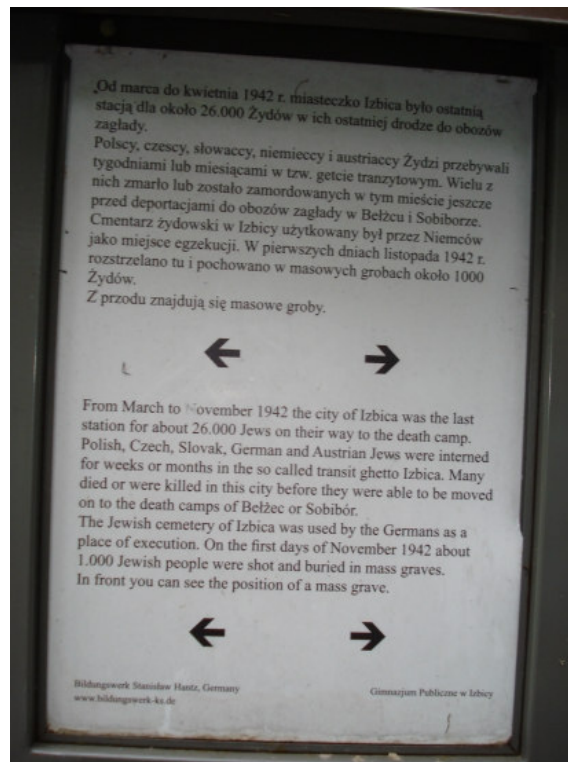


**Town center of Izbica**



**Memorial for the Jews deported from Franconia**





The Jewish cemetery





*Willie Glaser*

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