

Schlüchtern during the Holocaust



The Jewish history in Schlüchtern between the Middle Ages and Holocaust

The history of the Jewish community in Schlüchtern can be traced back to the 13th century.

The first historical source that proves the existence of a Jewish community in Schlüchtern can be dated back to the year 1236. According to this historical source, there was a fire at the so called Steffens-Mühle near Fulda on Christmas Eve in 1235. Five children died, while their parents were at church. The Jews were blamed for having held a ritual that involved drinking human blood and for that reason, the crusaders that were stationed in Fulda at this time, carried out a bloody pogrom on the Jewish population.

On December 28, 1235 they killed 34 Jewish inhabitants (8 women, 8 men and 18 children). Their cruelly mutilated bodies were brought to Schlüchtern, to be buried at the Jewish cemetery that was, at this time, situated outside the city walls.

Another pogrom happened in Steinau in 1349. The Jewish population was given the blame for having poisoned the wells, which was believed to be the explanation for the outbreak of the Black Death that killed a lot of people in Steinau at that time.

Only a few families managed to escape into the woods around Steinau. Most of them settled down in the village Ratzerod, situated between Bellings and Seidenroth, which was destroyed by the Black Death in 1496. Two families escaped to Schlüchtern, where they were allowed to live in the monastery under the protection of Abt Hartmann II.

The survivors of the massacre declared the „Cherem“ onto Steinau, banning any Jewish person from ever settling down in Steinau again. During the pogrom the Jewish cemetery in Steinau was completely destroyed. The grave stones were used to build houses and during the last century, a sink in a restaurant was found to still bear the inscriptions of the Jewish gravestone from which it had been made.

For Schlüchtern itself, no historical evidence has been found for any massacres during this time. Sources from the 15th century only tell us about yellow circles which the Jewish people had to wear on their clothes.

At the beginning of the 17th century, around 1622, the ancestors of the Wolf family came to Schlüchtern, fleeing from the inquisition in Spain, where Jewish people were being persecuted by the Christian Church. The family name „Lobo“ (Spanish for Wolf) can first be found in the documents from 1694, when a member of the family, Schneur ben Jehuda Señor Lobo, who was a teacher at the Jewish school in Schlüchtern, wrote down a copy of the Jewish „Memorbook“.

Around the same time, in the second part of the 17th century, the first synagogue was built at the place where the department store „Langer“ can now be found.

From this time on, the number of Jewish people in Schlüchtern increased enormously.

In the 18th century only 13 Jewish families lived in Schlüchtern. In 1811 there were already 41 families and by 1880 14% of the population was Jewish (around 70 families).

Because the synagogue in the „Obertorstraße“ was no longer big enough for all the people, the Jewish community started to build a new one at the corner of Grabenstraße/ Weitzelstraße. This synagogue, that had seats for 300 people, was inaugurated on August 27, 1889.

At the beginning of 1933 around 400 Jewish inhabitants lived in Schlüchtern, making up 10% of the total population.

The professional composition and the economic situation of the members of the Jewish community varied greatly.

For example there were:

15 drovers

11 clothiers

2 bakers

2 butchers

2 shoemakers

1 book shop with book printing house

several dealers für ironmongery, scrap and coffee

1 wine business

2 soap factories

1 drugstore

In addition to this there was a Jewish elementary school, that was attended by 27 children in 1930.

After the takeover of the Nazis in 1933 most of the Jewish families left Schlüchtern. The majority of them went to Frankfurt, where they could live more anonymously.

Some families managed to escape to England, Palestine, the USA or South Africa.

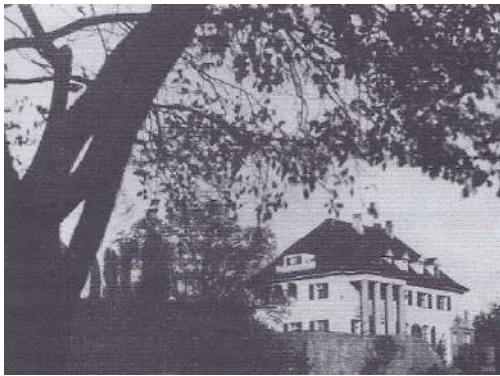
In 1942 only 26 Jewish people still lived in Schlüchtern. According to the documents, all of them were „unbekannt verzogen“ (moved to unknown address) on May 30, 1942 or September 5, 1942.

Actually they were deported from the city of Kassel on June 1, 1942 to the death camp Sobibor and on September 7, 1942 from Kassel to the concentration camp Theresienstadt.

In total 137 of the former 400 Jewish people living in Schlüchtern lost their lives during the national socialist extermination program between 1942 and 1945.

1. Home of the (Max) Wolf family

Am Wäldchen 6 (formerly: Alte Bahnhofstraße 35)



The Wolf family was one of the most famous Jewish families in Schlüchtern.

Max Wolf was the owner of the „Dreiturm“-soap factory that can be found nowadays next to the railway station in Steinau. He inherited the factory, previously called „Viktor Wolf Seifenfabrik“, from his father. He decided to rename his factory to „Dreiturm“ (three towers) because from the first floor of his house he had a great view over Schlüchtern with its three towers of the monastery and city-church.



Max Wolf was one of the most popular employers in Schlüchtern and Steinau, because he paid above-average wages and the employees only had to work 40 hours per week, which was very unusual at that time. When they became ill, the employees still got 90% of their wages, public holidays were paid and at Christmas all employees received a Christmas bonus. In their factory they had a library with a lot of different books and all daily newspapers, so that the employees could form.

Max Wolf had a big heart for the poor population.

Although he didn't celebrate Christmas himself, he and his wife Ilse bought more than 300, personally chosen Christmas presents for the children of poor people in Schlüchtern and Steinau every year.

Erwerbelosen-Kinder in Schlüchtern.				Erwerbelosen-Kinder in Steinau.			
Name des Vaters	Mädchen	Alter	Knaben	Name des Vaters	Strasse	Mädchen	Knaben
			Alter			Alter	Alter
Assum Wwe.			Karl 6	Appel, Konrad	Bahnhofstr. 234	6	
Berthold, Ludw.	Anneliese 4		Hans 11	Althoff, W.	Ziegelsg. 63	4	
			Ludwig 9	Bensch, Heinr.	Hauptstr. 162		10
			Heinz 6	Beist, Adam	Marstall 1	9	
			Karl 4			11	
			Adam 2½	Bolander, Mich.	Marstall 1		
Böhm Wwe.			August 12	Blum, Fritz	Erbeeng. 199	4	
Backhaus			Erwin 4			10	
"	Helga 2½			Buchwald, Heinr.	Ziegelsg. 72		2
Desch, Joh.	Ria 9						7
"			Willy 11	Becher, Adam	Ziegelsg. 38	5	
"			Hans 3				3
Eckardt, Fritz	Auguste 11						8
"	Elisabeth 6			Kress, Peter	Viehhof 6	12	
"	Anna 3						13
"			Dietrich 9	Eberhardt, J.	Schloßstr. 317	10	
Engelhardt, Maria	Maria 10			Euler, Joh.	Viehhof 6	9	
Eberhardt, Carl	7						7
			Fritz 11	Flach, Albert	Schloß 1	4	
Fehl, Johs.	Käthe 10			Fehl, Anns Wwe.	Merzg. 24		10
"			Heinz 4	Fuchs, Karl	Hauptstr. 141	8	
Freund, Phil.	Greta 12			Götz, Kasp.	" 107	13	
	Maria 10			Geier, Heinr.	Marstall 1	10	
	Auguste 7						

On the list you can see, that she not only gave the most necessary things like warm clothes etc. but also a lot of toys. Especially the poor families couldn't afford any toys in this time.

Steinau			
Name des Vaters	Strasse	Mädchen	Knaben
		Alter	Alter
Klauder, Friedr.	1. Elisabeth	9	
"	"	7	
"	"	Karl X	
Hönig, Fritz	6. Magdalene	10	
"	"	10	
"	"	8	
"	"	9	
Mach, Albert	1. Katharina	6	
Euler, Joh.	6. Katharina	7	
"	"		
Grundt, Heinr.	Käthe	3	
"	"	5	
"	"	Karl	
Hesse, Heinrich	1. Katharina	9	
Hesse, Karl	6. Katharina	9	
"	"	10	
"	"	1	
Röhl, Adolf	6. Katharina	7	
Hessendorfer	1. Katharina	2	

After the takeover of the Nazis, Max Wolf wasn't allowed to own a factory any more. After his brother Arnold was arrested by the Nazis for a short time, Max Wolf decided to escape to England together with his family. His factory was expropriated by the Nazis and sold very cheaply to the competitive company „Sidel“.

After the war Max Wolf fought hard to reclaim his property. He died in 1948 shortly after he received the long-awaited information that he would get back his factory.

After Max Wolf's death, the factory „Dreiturm“, as well as his residential house were given back to his descendants.



Max Wolf as a young man in the Kaiserreich-uniform. He was fighting for Germany during the first World War.



Ilse Wolf with her three children Renate, Gerhard and Peter near Acis-Brunnen.



Max Wolf in the 1930th in England.

2. Home of the (Fritz) Wolf family

Alte Bahnhofstraße 33



Fritz Wolf was the cousin of Max Wolf, who lived next to him in „Alte Bahnhofstraße 35“.

Like his cousin Max, Fritz Wolf was the owner of a soap factory.

The factory Fritz Wolf ran together with his brother Hugo was called „Schlächterner Seifenfabrik Meier Wolf“ and was located in Breitenbacher Straße, next to the old Jewish cemetery (today senior residence „GAMA“).

Like many other Jews, Fritz Wolf fought for Germany during the First World War. He went to war when he was 18 and was injured several times, resulting in the loss of use his right arm..

After the his cousin Max's soap factory was expropriated by the Nazis, Fritz and Hugo Wolf decided to sell their factory, before the same thing happened to them. They sold their company as well as their residential house to Eugen Heinlein in 1938 for far below the realistic price

Shortly after that all Jews were forced to give all their wealth to the German state..

With only 20 Dollars in his pocket, Fritz Wolf managed to escape to England together with his wife Paula. Their children Anne and Ernst were already living in England at a boarding school because of the violence they had to suffer in Germany..

From London they went on to New York, where they managed to open a new soap factory.



Fritz Wolf with his wife Paula and their children Anne and Ernst.

3. Stadtschule Lotichiusstraße 29



In 1933, 27 Jewish children attended the Stadtschule Schlüchtern (city school of Schlüchtern). They had to sit at the back of the classroom and the teachers ignored their questions. Often they were harassed by other children.

Fritz Wolfs tells about his experiences at that time:

„Anne and Ernst had a lot of trouble. They were insulted and jostled by other children. One day Ernst - he was about 7 years old - came back home without his coat. Another boy had thrown it into a tree and made it impossible for Ernst to get it back.“

This is why Fritz and Paula Wolf decided to send their children to a Jewish school in Frankfurt and later to a boarding school in England.

After 1938 all Jewish children had to leave German schools.

The last Jewish child was expelled from school on November 15, 1938 in Vollmerz.



Adolf Hitler visiting the Stadtschule during a maneuver in 1936.

4. Police station (former NSDAP headquarter)

Lotichiusstraße 36

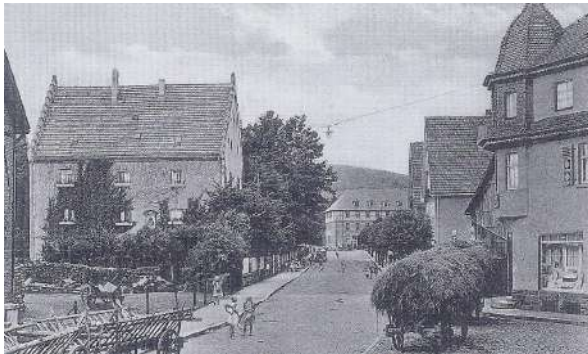


During the time of National Socialism this building was the headquarter of the NSDAP in Schlüchtern. It officially opened on December 15, 1935.

The older inhabitants still speak about the „brown house“ when they talk about this building.

5. Store of Nathan Oppenheimer

Schlossstraße 10



Before the takeover of the Nazis, Nathan Oppenheimer had run a business for high quality textiles for many decades. In the so called „Reichspogromnacht“ from November 9 to November 10, 1938, Nathan Oppenheimer's store was looted by members of SA, HJ and civilians.

Nathan Oppenheimer himself was badly abused during that night.

An eyewitness tells:

„Around 11 o'clock pm I could hear loud blows that were most likely caused by axes. We could see how all the stuff (textiles) flew out of the door which had been smashed. As quickly as it was thrown out it also disappeared.“

Another witness:

„Next to the „Schlößchen“ was a car. The two men, who the car belonged to, were busy loading it with items they had taken out of the Oppenheimer store. They were busy from 11 pm till 2 am. The textiles were thrown on the street where they were stolen by the amused crowd.“

When the children went to school the next morning they had to step over all the textiles straggled all over the street.

6. Home of Meier Rothschild

Schlossstraße 4



In November 1938 the wife of the drover Abraham Hein lived together with the Rothschild family in this house.

Describing the occurrences of the night from November 9 to November 10, 1938 he tells:
*„At the beginning of November my husband travelled to Frankfurt for a few days. That's why I was alone in our apartment when, in the evening of November 9, members of the Hitler Youth entered the house. They smashed the doors and windows and beat me bloody with a truncheon while I was lying in my bed.
We couldn't call a doctor because everybody was too afraid to leave the house.
I suffered a mental breakdown because of these events.“*

Mrs. Hein survived the Holocaust so she could speak about her experiences. The owner of the house, Meier Rothschild was deported on November 11/12, 1941 to the concentration camp in Minsk and was killed at the same place.

7. Home of the Neuhof family/ „Jewish house“

Unter den Linden 12



Before the Holocaust Julius Neuhof lived here with his children Jakob und Henriette and with Jakobs wife Meta and their daughter Ruth Regina. Julius Neuhof was employed with the synagogue, as was Metas father Jakob Seelig.

Metas father was a so-called Schamasch, a synagogue servant (Schamasch is also the name of the 9th candle of the Chanukkia – in German: „Dienerkerze“). The Neuhofs were very pious.

It is known that Jakob Neuhof, unusual for Jews, had very blue eyes and that he fought for Germany in WW1.

Otherwise, according to his granddaughter Deborah Tabb, he was busy with his cows in the first place and was known for his wit. His wife Meta was known as an unusually beautiful woman. She worked in a soap factory.

In 1939 Meta and Jakob decided to bring their daughter Ruth Regina to England via the Refugee Children Transport. People in Schlüchtern assumed Ruth Regina to be dead, as her parents loved her and looked after her very much.

It is hard to imagine that Jakob and Meta would transfer their daughter on her own to a new country. Ruth Regina survived in England and later moved on to the US where she married Stanley Snyder.

Ruth Snyder followed the Stolperstein placement on October 21 2020 via a facebook livestream, along with her children.



Ruth Snyder with her husband Stanley and her children Charlotte, Marcia, Jeffrey und Deborah

Jakob, Meta and Henriette did not survive the war. Along with nine other inhabitants of the house Unter den Linden 12 they were deported to the extermination camp Sobibor where they were murdered.



Gunther Deming during the laying of the „Stolpersteine“ for the Neuhof family on october, 21 2020

The building „Unter den Linden 12/14“ as „Jewish house“

Already ahead of the deportations persons of Jewish faith were forced to leave their houses and to move into so-called „Jewish Houses“. The Schlüchtern „Jewish House“ was located in the former residence of the Neuhoof family Unter den Linden 12.

Altogether in 1942 26 Jewish men and women lived there. 12 of them moved on to an „unknown destination“ on May 30, 1942, further 14 persons on September 5, 1942.

In fact they were moved from Kassel to the extermination camp Sobibor on June 1 and on September 7, 1942 to the concentration camp Theresienstadt.



Right next door was the Nazi party headquarter before it moved on to the new, larger building in the Lotichiusstraße 36.



8. Gasthaus „Zum Löwen“ Obertorstraße 4



During the time of National Socialism the restaurant and hotel „Zum Löwen“ that was run by Adam Denhard and his son Fritz could be found in this building. Adam Denhard especially, distinguished himself by the fact that he protected his fellow Jewish citizens against the crimes that took place in November 1938. During the night from November 9 to November 10, 1938 Adam Denhard, who was the leader of the local fire brigade, gave the order to extinguish the fire inside the synagogue.

On November 10 he and an unknown bookseller (Martin) were threatened by fellow citizens because they had openly expressed their disgust about the crimes against the Jewish community.

On November 12, Adam Denhard was seen nailing up the store windows of a shop run by the family Goldschmidt that lived next to him.



9. Home of the Goldschmidt/ Hubert family

Obertorstraße 4



Isaak and Martha Goldschmidt lived with their children Manfred and Martha in the building Obertorstraße 4. Isaak worked as a merchant. Whereas Manfred moved to Frankfurt in 1929 already, Martha on August 13 1931 got married to Arthur Hubert, who lived nearby in the Schmiedsgasse 15, where he was conducting a metal business trade with his father Willi and his mother Kathinka.

After the wedding they moved into Marthas parents house in the Fuldaer Str. 2a (today Obertorstraße 4). In 1932 their son Walter was born.



Isaak, Meta and Martha Goldschmidt



Arthur Hubert with his wife Martha, son Walter and his parents Kathinka und Willi Hubert

On November 10, the day after the Pogrom and shortly after the death of his mother-in-law Meta due to cancer, Arthur Hubert was arrested and detained at an unknown location close to Schlüchtern. From there he was moved to the concentration camp Buchenwald, where he, among others, met his brother-in-law Manfred, who by then lived in Frankfurt. On December 24 1938 he was released and from then on began to plan his emigration. Meanwhile Isaak Goldschmidts health deteriorated and he had to be transferred to the „Israelitische Hospital“ in Frankfurt.

There he died by a stroke on March 16, 1939. On April 1, 1938 Arthur moved with his family to Frankfurt, Mauerweg 34. In Frankfurt Walter Hubert, who was seven at the time, was able to visit a school for the first time. Six months later the family managed to escape to England. Despite the persecution in Germany, the family at first was detained in a camp for „hostile foreigners“ due to the beginning of the war.

At last they came to the small industrial town of Blackburn, where Arthur initially worked as a night watchman in a slippers factory. Later he founded a metal trading business and became a wealthy man, making it possible for him to initiate and support numerous philanthropic projects.

Above all he got involved in Jewish education and religion, financially supporting e.g. Jeschiwas (Jewish graduate schools) as well as Jewish old age institutions, schools and other youth projects.



On the left:
Arthur und Martha on their 40.
Wedding anniversary in august
1971

On the right:
Arthur Hubert with prince Philip
in 1972



Further information on Manfred Goldschmidt

In his youth, Manfred went to secondary school near Fulda. He continued to live in Schlüchtern and thus travelled by train to school, His goal was to become a dentist. But as the political situation changed, he had to give up his dream. He moved to Frankfurt where he was employed in the shoe factory of Lothar and Fritz Adler. (The shoe factory at the time was a significant sponsor of the soccer team Eintracht Frankfurt, one of the reasons why the players often were called „Juddebuwwe“ or „Schlappekicker“). After Manfred had been arrested in 1939 and sent to Buchenwald, his boss paid for his release. In Frankfurt Manfred met the nurse Hildegard Lewinsohn, who was working in the israelit hospital, where Manfred visited his parents who at the time were there to have their illnesses treated. In 1939 Manfred emigrated to England, where he once more was working in a shoe factory in Blackburn. In 1940 he married Hildegard Lewinsohn, who in the meantime had been moving to Blackburn as well. Shortly after the wedding he went to New York; his wife joined him a few months later. In New York he initially worked as a salesman for broomsticks, mop brushes and other cleaning items, which he delivered himself on weekends.

Later he was naturalized, joined the army and fought three years in the Pacific. After the war, Manfred (who by then called himself Fred) in 1945 moved back to New York They had two children, Helen and Martin. He passed away in the Booth Memorial Hospital on December 14, 1967 at the age of 57.



Fred Goldsmith with his newborn son Martin and together with his family at Martin's Bar mitzvah.

On August 17, 2022, Stolpersteine were placed for the Goldschmidt and Hubert families in front of their former home.

10. Butcher's shop of Abraham Seelig



Walter's daughter Sarah Fromson with her husband Bernard praying the Kaddish during the Stolperstein ceremony and during their visit at the town hall on August 17th, 2022 in Schlüchtern



Fred's son Martin with his wife Eileen and daughter Arielle with boyfriend Brad in Schlüchtern on August 30th, 2022



Arielle Goldsmith visiting the grave of her great-grandmother Meta Goldschmidt

Wassergasse/ Heideküppel (Kirchstraße)



The butcher's shop run by Abraham Seelig was one of the many Jewish shops in Schlüchtern.



On this picture you can clearly see the roof hatch, that makes it obvious that it was a Jewish house. Nearly all Jewish houses had roof hatches like this. They were opened every year at Sukkot because the Jews built their Sukka under the roof.

The house has been demolished but at the Old Jewish Cemetery you can still see Abraham Seelig's grave stone. It is one of the few stones that weren't destroyed during the era of National Socialism.

11. Ehrenfriedhof der Stadt Schlüchtern Behind St. Michael's Church



Behind St. Michael's Church you can find the cemetery for at least 338 people who lost their lives as a result of the violence of war during World War I and II.

Next to many German and Russian soldiers there are also Polish forced labourers and at least 6 concentration camp prisoners. These prisoners were forced to produce arms for the German Reich at „Adlerwerke“ in Frankfurt.

The camp was closed in March 1945 upon the arrival of the American Army.

In order to destroy any evidence for the existence of concentration camps, the prisoners were sent on a „Todesmarsch“ (death march). They had to walk from Frankfurt to Hünfeld, from where they were taken by train to the concentration camp Buchenwald, near Weimar. Approximately 350 prisoners followed the former Reichsstraße 40 (now Bundesstraße 40) through Langenselbold, Gelnhausen, Wächtersbach, Steinau, Schlüchtern and Neuhoof until they reached Eichenzell. From there they followed the Reichsstraße 27 (today Bundesstraße 27) through Fulda to Hünfeld, where they had to board freight wagons to bring them to Buchenwald.

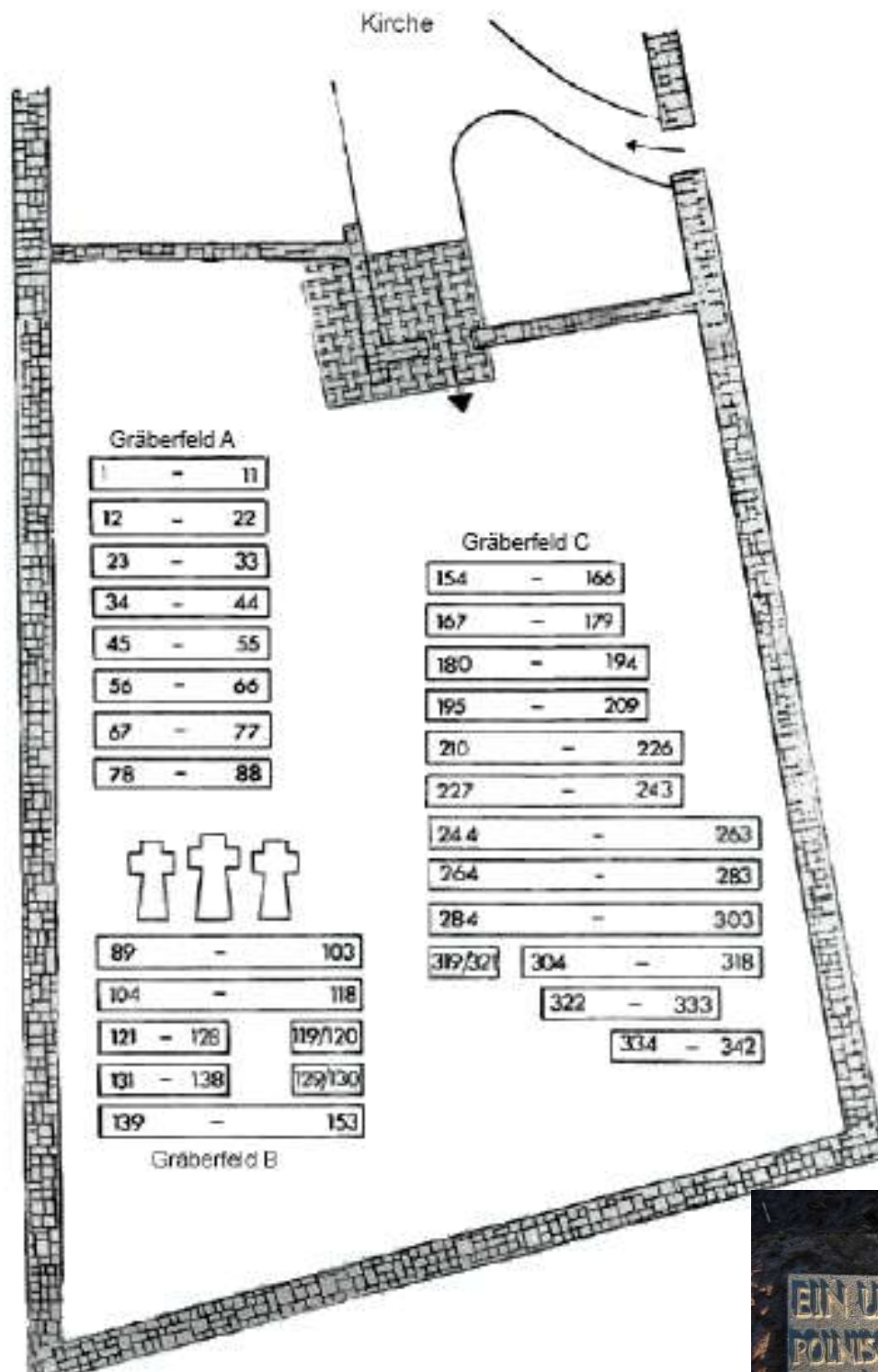
Roughly 70 prisoners lost their lives during that march.

The 15 year old Andrzej, who survived the march remembers:

„I can remember we were carrying another prisoner for a long time because he was too weak to walk. He lay down on the floor and covered himself with a blanket. An SS-man unlocked his gun and waited until he took away his blanket. Then he shot him in the head.“

The concentration camp prisoners buried in Schlüchtern died in the area around Maintal-Dörnigheim. They are buried as „unbekannte polnische Kriegstote“ in grave field C, no. 328-333.

Belegungsplan



12. Home of the Goldschmidt family

Krämerstraße 16



During the time before the takeover by the Nazis, Salomon and Rebecka Goldschmidt lived in this house together with their son Juda and wife Lilly and the grandchildren Herbert and Fränze Lore (later called Doris).



Lilly, Juda, Fränze Lore and Herbert Goldschmidt



Juda and Lilly during their honeymoon

Salomon worked as a shoemaker and in 1919 he built a shop window into his house.

In 1939, after the events of the Reichspogromnacht in 1938, Juda and Lilly decided to save their children's lives by sending them on a Kindertransport to England.

On April 20, 1939 Herbert and Fränze Lore arrived in England where they were taken separately to host families.

Lilly and Juda really hoped to see their children again.

Lilly wrote the following letter to Herbert's host family on May 12, 1939:

„Liebe Familie Ruben. Wir danken Ihnen herzlichst für Ihre liebe Zeilen und sind Ihnen dankbar dass Sie dem lieben Herbert ein so schönes Heim geben. Es ist dieses doch für uns hier eine große Beruhigung wenn man weiß dass die Kinder mit Liebe aufgenommen sind. Hoffentlich ist lieber Herbert auch artig und folgsam und macht Ihnen nicht allzuviel Arbeit. Herbert ist ja feste bemüht auch uns zu helfen dass wir bald nach [...] kommen und hoffen wir – dass wir Ihnen auch einmal persönlich für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit danken können. Bei uns ist es sehr einsam – nachdem die lieben Kinder fort sind. Lassen Sie öfters bei Herberts Briefen von sich hören und empfangen Sie die freundlichsten Grüße von Ihrer dankbaren Lilli Goldschmidt.“

„Dear Family Ruben. We thank you so much for your kind words and are very grateful to you for giving our dear Herbert such a nice home. It is a great relief for us to know that the children are received with love. I hope Herbert is being good and obedient and isn't causing you too much work. Herbert is striving to help us to come to (...) soon, so we hope that we will be able to thank you personally for the attention you give him.. Here it is very lonely since our beloved children are gone. Please let us hear from you more often in Herbert's letters we send you our kindest regards , your grateful Lilli Goldschmidt“

Despite all efforts the family didn't manage to leave the country. Finally they had to leave their house to live together with the other Jews that still remained in Schlüchtern, at what was known during this time as the „Judenhaus“ in the street „Unter den Linden 12“.

From here Juda and Lilly were deported on May 20, 1942 to the concentration camp Sobibor, where they were declared dead on June 3, 1942.

Several month later, on September 9, 1942, Salomon was, deported to the concentration camp Theresienstadt. He died at same year in the concentration camp Treblinka.

Rebecka died of heart failure on November 20, 1941 in Schlüchtern. By this time there was no medical care for Jews any more.

Fränze Lore, who survived the Shoah in England, emigrated to the United States on May 4, 1947. She had two daughters, Linda and Judy, for whom it is very important to keep the memory of the Shoah alive also for future generations. Thanks to their efforts we were able to lay Schlüchtern's first Stolpersteine in front of this house.



During the ceremony on July 4, 2019

Fränze-Lore's daughters Linda and Judy during their visit in Schlüchtern on July 12, 2019

Felix Goldschmidt

As of April 19, 1941 Felix Goldschmidt, Judas brother, again lived in his parents house in the Krämerstraße 16. In between he had lived in Karlsruhe where he was married to Lina Goldschmidt. When Lina became pregnant with their child the couple separated and was divorced. Felix' son Robert was born on January 9, 1938 in the Jewish Hospital in Frankfurt. Due to the separation from Felix Lina with her newborn son sought support in the „Home for uprooted Jewish girls, unmarried pregnant and mothers with their children“ in Neu-Isenburg, which had been established by the Jewish feminist Bertha Pappenheim. Afterwards Lina worked as a household help in Karlsruhe while her son was put in a foster family. Felix was deported to the concentration camp Dachau on November 9/10, 1938 and was released in January 1939. In 1941 he moved back to Schlüchtern, from where he and his brother Juda and his wife Lilli were deported on May 30, 1942. Felix was murdered shortly after his arrival in Sobibor. Lina Goldschmidt was already displaced on October 22, 1940 to the Gurs camp in southern France. She died in 1942 in Auschwitz. Their child Robert, together with 41 other children and six care workers, was deported to Theresienstadt. He was murdered along with 7.000 additional prisoners in a gas chamber on July 11./12., 1944.

13. Home of the Leo Neuhof family
Weitzelstraße 1
(formerly Jakob-Sprenger-Straße 1/ Kaiserstraße 1)



In the Weitzelstraße 1 lived, among others, Leo and Rosel Neuhof with their daughter Ursula. Ursula was a Zionist and visited a so-called Hachschara school. In these schools young people were prepared for a life in a kibbutz. Focus of the education was agricultural work but Hebrew was also taught. Altogether there were more than 30 schools of this type in Germany. Ursula visited the Hachschara school in Urfeld close to Bonn. In the Hachschara she met her later husband Ernst Schwarz from Cham. They married on June 3, 1938 in Schlüchtern.



Leo, Rosel and Ursula Neuhof



Ursula and Ernst

On September 10, 1938 they emigrated to Kfar Jedidja in Palestine. Kfar Jedidja is a small desert place, which was founded by Jewish refugees from Germany on April 9, 1935. Meanwhile the village has around 730 inhabitants.



Kfar Jedidja in 1937, shortly before Ursula und Ernst Schwarz arrived there



Ursula and Ernst with their three sons in 1955



The house of the Schwarz family in Kfar Jedidja



The descendants of Ursula and Ernst on their visit to Schlüchtern on October 21, 2020.
Son Doron, granddaughter Limor, great-grandsons Ethan and Amistai and daughter in law Irit.

14. Home of the Siegmund Neuhof family
Grabenstraße 11
(formerly Grabenstraße 9)



Before the Holocaust the married couple Siegmund and Flora Neuhof lived with their children Meier and Ruth in the Grabenstraße 11. Siegmund ran a flour and grain business. While the law student Meier left Schlüchtern early on in 1929 to finally emigrate to New York on February 10, 1937, his sister Ruth reports the following on the Nazi time in Schlüchtern:

I was born in Schlüchtern in 1915 and visited the Volksschule beginning 1921. Later I moved on to the so-called Latin school and was part of the first year of students who was able to complete its high school degree (Abitur) at the newly established Deutschen Oberschule (today Ulrich-von Hutten-Gymnasium). Until 1933 I had a wonderful childhood. But with the beginning of the 1933 schoolyear I started to experience antisemitism personally. Upon returning to school after Easter vacation, already a part of the 20 fellow students had entered the SS or the SA, six of my fellow female students had joined the Bund Deutscher Mädel. Thus only two Catholic students were left who spoke to me. I remember one fellow student, who often came to visit us so that we help him with the homework. And he regularly borrowed books from us. One day in the Pentecost school break suddenly the door bell rang. As I opened four SS members stand there in order to do a house search. One of them was the student I knew. As I was alone with my mother, who was very sick, I asked whether the house search could not take place on another day. A cold „No“ was the answer. I then pointed at the student I knew and said: „ He knows the apartment and can show you around extensively.“ After five minutes the SS left the apartment, but after the school break I felt as in an icy basement. Somewhat later the headmistress tried to loosen the tense atmosphere in a conversation. Asking why I had exposed the fellow student, I

only answered: If he had the impudence to make a house search with the three others, then I can take responsibility for my behavior as well. The rest of the school year became difficult for Ruth and she had to break off her studies shortly before graduation due to mental stress. Her parents and her brother urged her to emigrate, first to the Netherlands, where she visited a Hachschara school and was trained in the kitchen in the Jewish Hotel Engelbert. Later she worked in a Amsterdam orphanage. She finally emigrated to Palestine, with a work certificate of the Hechaluz (umbrella organisation of Zionist youth organisations). There she qualified to become a nurse. Her parents Siegmund and Flora financed the education to spare her a life in a kibbutz. In 1941 she married Heinz Zvi Grünspan, who ran a café with his father in the Ben-Yehuda street in Jerusalem. Later Ruth and Heinz opened additional cafés in Tel Aviv and Haifa. According to grandniece Limor (granddaughter of Ursula Schwarz) the cafés were widely known in Israel, since often famous persons (artists, politicians) visited. Ruth and Heinz had two children. Still in 2001 the café Atara was considered one of the top addresses in Jerusalem according to the news magazine „Spiegel“ which at the time was run by Ruths son Uri Grünspan.



Meier Neuhof lived in California under the name Mark Neuhof until his death in 1960 where he worked as a lawyer.

He obtained an affidavit for the US for his parents Siegmund and Flora. Due to the war, however, no ships were allowed to depart to the US. Siegmund and Flora left Schlüchtern in September 1938 for Frankfurt and lived in the Beethovenstraße 21. In 1941 they were deported and murdered in Lodz.



Meier Neuhof, alias Mark Neuhof



Ruth Grünspan 1998 in Schlüchtern

15. The synagogue

Weizelstraße/ Grabenstraße



After the first synagogue in Obertorstraße 33 became too small for the fast growing Jewish community, the new synagogue in Weizelstraße, corner Grabenstraße was opened in 1898.

The synagogue had 300 seats. Women and men sat separately.

For 40 years the members of the Jewish community had prayed here, before, during the so called Reichspogromnacht from November 9 to November 10 1938, the inner space of the synagogue was totally destroyed.

Already one night previously, in the night to November 9, the synagogue was entered by several people who defiled it with urine. That's why on November 9, the Jewish community brought all the holy objects, like old Torah scrolls from the 16th to 18th century, into the Jewish schoolhouse next to the synagogue.

On the night from November 9 to November 10 the synagogue was looted before it was set on fire.

An eyewitness tells later:

„Police chief Lorenz Wolf took the wood he had torn out of the synagogue to build a shed for his rabbits.“

Only Adam Denhard's quick intervention could enable the exterior of the synagogue to be preserved.

An eyewitness:

„From far away I could see a lot of activity around the synagogue, where many people had gathered together. I could hear loud banging. From SS-mates I got the information that the Ortsgruppenleiter (leader of the local Nazis) had given free rein to the Hitler Youth, destroying the synagogue. The whole street was covered with broken glass and other smashed things. A was man playing around with a golden cloth. He was bragging that he had torn this cloth out of a gown with his teeth, because he hadn't got a knife.“

Teacher Kleeberg wrote in his diary:

„On my way to school I had to pass the synagogue. From far away I could see many people (you can't talk about human beings in this case) gathering together. It was as I had suspected, the synagogue's interior was burned and totally demolished. The fire department's hoses were still there. The scene made me freeze. It is a house of God! The people who commit crimes like this are not worthy of being called humans any more. And people like myself are not even allowed to express their disgust. All decent people are horrified about these cruel crimes. I am ashamed to be a German and fellow citizen of this brown gang. There are students that openly show their happiness about the occurrences and I am not even allowed to rebuke them.“

Next to the synagogue was the meeting house for the Jewish community where the Mikveh, the schoolroom and the teacher's apartment could also be found. Like the synagogue this building was a target of massive attacks during Reichspogromnacht. The Mikveh and Torah scrolls were destroyed.

The 62 year old drover Gabriel Hain, who had had to give up his business in the Fuldaer Straße because of the persecutions by the Nazis, lived in the meeting house at this time.

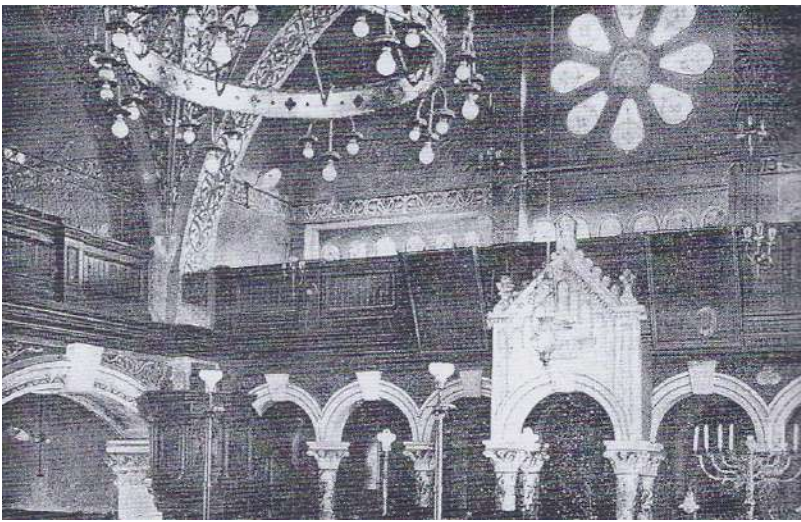


He recalls about that night:

„On this night in November I was badly mistreated. I was beaten bloody and was unconscious for several hours. As a consequence of the mistreatments I had to go to the Jewish hospital in Frankfurt. I had to stay there till November 15.“

Another eyewitness:

On November 9 I was standing around like many other people ,near the fence of the synagogue. I heard Hain scream very loudly. I rushed to help him. Just as I wanted to jump over the fence a man in a SA-uniform stopped me.“



The synagogue's interior before and after the Reichspogromnacht



Today the mezuzah next to the door still shows that this place was once a Jewish house of God.

16. The Catholic Rectory
next to the Catholic Church St. Bonifatius (Grimmstraße 1)



The Catholic priest Mähler refused to participate in the 1936 elections.

When people came to force him to vote, he was not at home which is why they wrote the words „*Achtung! Achtung! Hier wohnt ein Volksverräter*“ (*Attention! Here lives a national traitor*) on the walls of his house.

The priest did not remove the inscription.

Two years later his successor priest Becker had the house repainted.

17. Shop of Georg Baader Krämerstraße 29



During Nazism, the shop of Georg Baader was the only one, where Jews were allowed to buy their groceries. In an interview, Gerhard Wolf described Baader as a „nationally-rationally“-oriented person and who stated that he had nothing do with Jews beyond the shop. After seizing power, Baader was put under pressure by the Nazis. They demanded from him to refuse serving Jews in the shop, something he rejected.

That is also how Lilly Goldschmidt wrote in a letter of May 5, 1939 to her son Herbert, who at the time was staying with his host family in England:

„Thank God, here all is also well and, dear Herbert, I am able to do all my errands, because we can still shop at Baaders.“

In this connection, Gerhard Wolf emphasizes that precisely „smaller“ persons, as Baader, in the end showed real greatness and decency.

18. Home of Moritz Hubert

Schmiedsgasse 15



In 1938, 65 year old Moritz Hubert lived at Schmiedsgasse 15, together with his brother Willi and his wife Katinka. They had a business for raw products, that they inherited from their father Isaak.

Moritz Hubert tells about the happenings during the Reichspogromnacht:

„In Reichskristallnacht (a old word for Reichspogromnacht that is not used any more) a horde of four or five Nazis came into my house and abused me till I lay unconscious on the floor. They destroyed and cut up parts of my flat device, burst open drawers and stole silver, jewelry, money etc..

As weapons they used the twisted pillars and other parts of the banisters which they had torn out of the synagogue. After I regained consciousness, and covered with blood I crept, into a hideout inside the pigsty.

As I wanted to return to my apartment next morning, my neighbor greeted me with the words: „Du verdammter Jude, du lebst ja noch. Ich dachte, sie hätten dich totgeschlagen.“ (You damm Jew are still alive. I thought they had killed you). Under great danger I was able to escape to Frankfurt, where I found shelter at a relative´s house. I was so frightened that I hid for four or five days in a dark chamber under the stairs.

When the uproar had died down a bit, I returned to my hometown Schlüchtern. On my own house (!) I found a sign with the inscription: „Juden ist der Zutritt verboten“ (Jews are forbidden to enter).

After this experiences Moritz Huber managed to escape to South Africa.

His brother Willi and his wife Katinka were deported to the death camp Auschwitz in 1942. They were killed at the same place.



Wedding photograph of Arthur Hubert's Parents: Willie and Katinka Hubert.

Wir erhielten die traurige Nachricht, dass mein lieber Mann, unser herzensguter Vater, Schwiegervater, Großvater, Bruder und Onkel

Willi Hubert
(fr. Schlüchtern,
Bez. Kassel
in Theresienstadt verstorben ist.

Kathinka Hubert, geb. Adler
Theresienstadt, Aulenth.
z. Zt. unbekannt

Arthur und Martha Hubert
geb. **Goldschmidt**,
26 St. Mark's Road,
Blackburn (Lancs.), Engl.

Arthur u. Ricka Rosenstock
geb. **Hubert**, 85 Audubon
Ave., New York 32, N. Y.

Waller Hubert
Edith Rosenstock
Morris Hubert, 10 Luisa St.,
Doornfontaine, Johannesburg, S. A.

Death notice for Willi Hubert in the German-Israelian newspaper („Deutsch-Israelitische Zeitung“) from November, 2nd 1945.

19. Home and store of Dina Seelig Schmiedsgasse 2



In this house 71 year old Dina Seelig ran a small stationery store, together with her 48 year old daughter Rena.

They were well known because for decades all the children used to buy their copybooks for school in this little shop.

During the night from November 9 to November 10 Dina was attacked and heavily abused by two fellow citizens.

An eyewitness tells:

„They threw all the papers and copybooks out of the store and trampled on them. The shop was ruined. Nothing was left.“

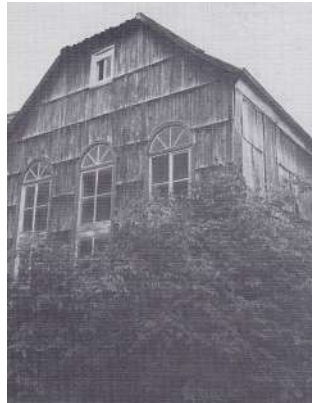
Another witness:

„Mrs. Seelig told me, that three or four days after November 9, Mr. and Mrs. X attacked her. Mrs. X poured hot water in her face and Mr. X beat her on her hand with the wood of an ax. While she was unconscious they locked her up in the basement.“

On December 28. 1938 Dina Seelig moved to Bäckerweg 48 in Frankfurt. Her further fate is not known. Her daughter Rena Loeb, born Seelig, was deported to the Minsk ghetto and murdered there.

20. Old synagogue

Obertorstraße 39 (formerly Obertorstraße 33)



In the second part of the 17th century the first synagogue was built near Obertor (upper gate - a gate inside the former city walls). It was used until the new synagogue opened in 1898.

The building was demolished in 1981.

Diagonally opposite the synagogue stood a clothing store that was run by the family Salomon Rosenbaum in the 1930s.

Jakob May and his wife Erna left Schlüchtern on November 12, 1936. They moved to Gaußstraße 14 in Frankfurt. From there they were deported on May 8 1942 and murdered. On October 19, 2006 Stolpersteine were placed for Jakob and Erna in front of their last residence in the Gaußstraße. Their son survived the Holocaust thanks to the Refugee Children Transport to England. One year after the Mays, on September 8, 1937, Salomon Rosenbaum and his wife Ida moved to Frankfurt as well. On November 12, 1941 they were deported to the concentration camp in Minsk and murdered there.



Next to the synagogue the store of Jakob May was located. He assumed the business in the early twenties from his father Nathan May. Around the same time he got married to Erna Gottlieb, whose father headed the Jewish community in Neuhof. They had two children, Norbert und Hans. Due to the Nazi boycott they had to give up their store in 1936 and left for Frankfurt and the Gausstraße on November 12 1936. The older son Norbert moved to his aunt Johanna Straßer in the Czech city of Teplitz-Schönau. Their younger son Hans survived due to a children transport to England. Jakob and Erna May were deported on May 8, 1942 and subsequently murdered, Jakob in Majdanek and Erna in Sobibor. On October 19, 2006 Stolpersteine were placed at the last residential location for Jakob and Erna in the Gausstraße 14 in Frankfurt.



Jakob and Erna May

One year later after the Mays, on September 8, 1937, Salomon Rosenbaum and his wife Ida moved to Frankfurt as well. They were deported on November 12, 1941 to the concentration camp Minsk and murdered there.

21. Home of the Kohn family
Obertorstraße 34
(formerly Fuldaer Straße 32)



In the Obertorstraße 34 the Reis family (Julius and Berta Reis with the children Ludwig and Margot) rented a house. In this rented house lived, among others, the Kohn family. The family consisted of the married couple Alexander and Paula Kohn and their daughter Margarete (later Margret Zentner).



Paula Kohn with her daughter Therese Margarete, 1925/ 26 in Schlüchtern

The Kohn family ran a small tobacco and cigarettes and other items shop for the daily use. Officially Alexander Kohn was listed as the owner of the shop, but according to his daughter the shop was mainly managed by the mother Paula. Alexander preferred to be outdoor, watching animals and to be hunting. Both Alexander and Paula were active Social Democrats in the region and in the city, having leading politicians of the Weimarer Republic as their guests. Reich Chancellor Brüning during the election campaign 1932 also came by. The Kohns were not very religious. Therefore, no kosher cooking took place in their house. Margret reports that her grandfather (Baruch Adler) during his visits ate only

hard-boiled eggs and drank black coffee. On April 1933, shortly after Hitler came to power, Alexander and Paula Kohn were arrested. Not because they were Jews but because of their Social Democratic beliefs. At this point Margret was 11 years old. Instead of going to school she looked after the shop which she managed on her own, as well as taking care of the five dogs. After five weeks Paula Kohn was released, Alexander after three months, on the condition that they leave the country immediately. The family therefore moved to Roßhaupt in Czechoslovakia, Alexanders native country. Alexander opened a shop there again. Five years later the Germans occupied Roßhaupt and Alexander and Paula had to escape once more. They moved to Prague where Margret had begun to study. In Prague Alexander was arrested once more and in the end was released only because Paula and Margret saved the life of a Gestapo man in the prison.

In between Margret had met her future husband Fritz Zentner. Early 1941 Fritz got the information that he was planned for a transport to Theresienstadt. Theresienstadt at this point in time was just an old, ruinous fort. Altogether 1300 young men as a „Aufbaukommando“ (AK1 and AK2) were drafted to build the future ghetto Theresienstadt. In order to be able to accompany Fritz, they got married on a short notice, still in 1941.



Margarete Kohn and Fritz Zentner at their wedding on October 24, 1941 in Prague

Margret stayed in Theresienstadt until 1944, where she met her parents and other friends over time as well. Most of them were transported onward after a short time, however. As a AK-member she was protected to be passed on to another concentration or extermination camp. This changed in 1944, however. Fritz was scheduled for a transport to Auschwitz and Margret decided to accompany him. The time in Auschwitz Margret describes as the worst period of her life and Auschwitz as the most horrible place one can imagine. There she was put in the so-called C-camp, which originally was built for horses. In each horse

hut 36 persons were put in three-story dormitory beds. Margret stayed in Auschwitz until December 1944. At this time women were looked for who could repair sewing machines. As Margret knew how to repair she volunteered and was brought to work in the concentration camp Groß-Rosen. She survived there until her liberation in May 1945. Alexander and Paula Kohn survived the Holocaust as well. At the time of the liberation, they were still in Theresienstadt. The Kohn/Zentner family was the only family who returned to Schlüchtern and their former apartment. But life in Schlüchtern turned out to be difficult, in particular because Paula repeatedly suffered from panic attacks. Therefore, they decided already in 1949 to emigrate to the USA. Margret and Fritz decided to follow at the time when their daughter Helen was about to enroll in school in Schlüchtern. They wanted to avoid to let their child being the only Jewish child in the school. Margret completed an education as medical assistant in the USA. She told her life story to the Shoah Foundation. The corresponding video is available in the Visual History Archive.



Margret and Fritz Zentner with their daughter Helen, 1947 in Schlüchtern



Alexander and Paula Kohn 1956/57 in New York



Margret Zentner with her second husband Don, her daughter Helen Zentner-Levy and son in law Marc Levy.

22. Victor Wolf soap factory

Fuldaer Straße 8



Before it moved to Steinau, the „Victor Wolf Seifenfabrik“ run by Max Wolf, could be found here. Later the factory was renamed „Dreiturm-Seifenfabrik“.

Max Wolf decided to move his factory to Steinau because he could not get permission to enlarge his factory at this place.

On July 28, 2022 Stolpersteine were placed at this site for Max and Ilse and their children Gerhard Viktor, Peter and Renate Wolf. Gerhard Wolfs sons, David Wolf (left) and Max Wolf (right) with the current managing director of Dreiturm on July 28, 2022.



23. Residential building of the David and Lion Goldschmidt families

Fuldaer Straße 10

At the beginning of the 1930ies the brothers David and Lion Goldschmidt lived in Fuldaer Straße 54 (nowadays Fuldaer Straße 10) with their families. Originally they came from nearby Sterbfritz.

David had 8 children with his wife Klara; the youngest, however, died shortly after birth. Lion and his wife Johanna had three children.

They ran an agricultural machine business, including repairs in the Fuldaer Straße.

David's eldest son Max studied mechanical engineering at the Mannheim Tech University. After his studies he established several companies, which mainly acted as supplier for the automotive industry. Max became one of the leading automotive engineers in Germany and applied for several patents over time. His most well-known construction was a coupling whose patent was acquired by Willy Sachs, an owner of the Fichtel & Sachs company, far below its value after the Nazis took power. During the war almost all tanks of the German military were equipped with the coupling having been developed by Max Goldschmidt.

In 1937 Max and his wife Ruth left for Leicester in England; from now on he called himself Mac Goldsmith. Still in the same year he founded a company named Metalistik, which produced metal- and rubber parts for automobiles. In 1958 the company became part of Dunlop Rubber Co Ltd., which in 1967 was awarded the Queens Industry Award.

Mac was in a management position in the firm until his retirement in 1970. He passed away in 1983.

Mac's son John David Goldsmith meanwhile is the president of the „Anne-Frank-Stiftung“ out of Basel, established by Otto Frank.



On May 10, 2022 Stolpersteine were placed for David and Ruth in the Leerbachstraße in Frankfurt/Main.



John David Goldsmith during the Stolperstein ceremony for Max and Ruth Goldschmidt on May 10, 2022 in Frankfurt

Besides Max the other six children as well as their mother Klara managed to escape the Holocaust, to England and the US. David himself died on July 2, 1931 in Schlüchtern.



Klara Goldschmidt surrounded by her children and grandchildren

David's brother Lion, who still in 1932 was vice chairman of the Schlüchtern Jewish community, and his wife Johanna tried to escape to the anonymity of a big city by moving to Frankfurt. They finally emigrated to Yugoslavia, from where they were deported to an unknown location. Until today they are considered missing.

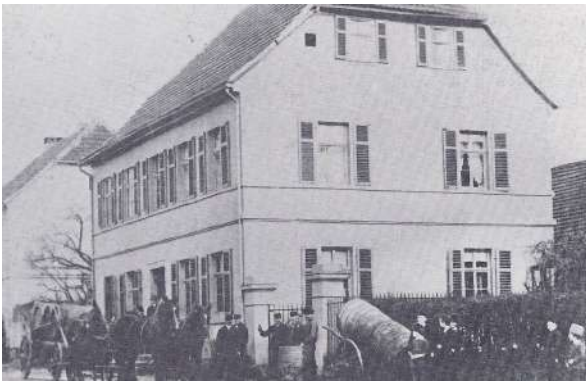
Their children Theo, Bruno and Ruth managed to survive the Holocaust. Theo escaped to London already in 1935. In the same year Ruth, by now married and named Ruth Königshöfer, moved to Dresden. From there she managed to escape to London and from there to the US.



Two years after his siblings Bruno left Schlüchtern as well. With his wife Irmgard Goldschmidt, born Oppenheimer, he emigrated to Klar-Saba in Palestine. He died on March 28, 1998, in Petach Tikva in Israel.

24. Distillery of the Stern family

Fuldaer Straße 14



In the building occupied today by the wine shop „Vinum“, the Stern family had their distillery in the 1930's.

Owner was Leo Stern, who was well known as „Schnapsleo“ all over Schlüchtern.

Leos family had lived in Schlüchtern for many generations. His grandfather on his mothers side was Loeb Mordechai, who later renamed himself Loeb Preuss. Loeb was known in the entire region as „Preissje von Schlüchtern“. In 1815 Ludwig Grimm, a brother of the well-known Grimm brothers, made a portrait of him. Leos wife Judith was born in Colombia. Her father was a Colombian consul in Frankfurt and so Judith came to Frankfurt at the age of 12. Judith spoke five languages and was a gifted musician. As was Leo, who conducted the synagogue choir in Schlüchtern. In their house in Schlüchtern they had a well-equipped music room with a piano and several musical instruments.



Leo and Judith Stern

Leo and Judith had three children. Lilly, Alma and Alfred.



In 1934 (at the age of 67) Leo was accused of supposedly having committed so called „Rassenschande“, meaning that he had a relationship with an, in Nazi-slang, „Arierin“ (non-Jewish woman).

Because of this he was hauled through the streets of Schlüchtern by a crowd of Nazis, under the leadership of „Ortsgruppenführer“ and painter Ludwig Kohlenbusch. He was mocked and beaten and forced to wear a sign with the words: *„Dieser Saujude hat in Fulda im Hessisches Hof ein christliches Mädchen geschändet“* (This sow-Jew violated a Christian girl in the hotel „Hessischer Hof“ in Fulda).

He was forced to stop in front of every Jewish house and turn, so that everybody could read the signs on his breast and back, while the teenagers roared with enthusiasm.

Finally Leo Stern was able to escape into a Jewish shop in Obertorstraße.

Shortly afterwards he and his wife fled to Aschaffenburg to live with their daughter Lilly.

Both Leo and Judith died in 1935.



Leo Stern seeks shelter in a Jewish business building in the Obertorstraße.

25. Home of Grete Windmüller

Fuldaer Straße 16



Next to the „Schnapsbrennerei Stern“ (distillery Stern) was the house, where the 29 year old Grete Windmüller lived in 1938.

Grete survived the Shoah and in 1961 she told about her experiences during Reichspogromnacht 1938.

„We lived on the first and second floor of the house Fuldaer Straße 16. In the night from November 9 to November 10, a big crowd of rowdy people armed with truncheons gathered in front of our house. They tried to come inside to take my husband. Fortunately he was in Frankfurt that night. In panic and by candlelight I packed up the most necessary things and the next morning I went together with my 5 year old son and my housemaid to Frankfurt to warn my husband not to come back. We took the earliest train. On November 10, when nobody was at home, somebody broke into our apartment and stole a lot of things.“

26. Residential building of the Adler family

Fuldaer Strasse 18

In the Fuldaer Straße 18 Bernhard und Sophie Adler lived with their three children Siegfried, Ilse und Ernst. Bernhard Adler, together with his brother Abraham, ran a cattle and horse trade business there, which was boycotted as of 1933 and finally was dissolved in 1935 and deleted from the trade register. In May 1938 the family sold their property in Schlüchtern and Bernhard and Sophie moved to Frankfurt on September 24, 1939. Both were deported on November 11, 1941 to Minsk and murdered there. Their three children survived the Holocaust. Siegfried moved to Frankfurt in 1928, Ilse emigrated on September 24, 1939 to England. Their youngest son Ernst in 1936 moved to the Geringshof near Neuhoef. There at this time a Hachschara was located, a training camp for young Zionists who were prepared for their life in a Palestinian kibbutz. Ernst Adler died on October 9, 1946 in Israel.



Young Hachschara members at Geringshof in the 1930s.



Ernst Adler died at October 09, 1948 in Israel.

On October 15, 2004 Stolpersteine were placed in Hebelstraße 13 in Frankfurt for Bernhard and Sophie Adler.



27. The old Jewish cemetery

Breitenbacher Straße (next to senior residence GAMA)



According to old documents, the Jewish cemetery already existed more than 800 years ago. At that time the cemetery was outside the city walls.

In 1234, 34 Jewish people who had been killed during the pogroms in Fulda were buried here.

The cemetery was used until the new cemetery in Fuldaer Straße was opened in 1926. After the takeover by the Nazis in 1933 the cemetery was defiled several times.

Moritz Hubert, whose wife died in the beginning of the year 1938, tells:

„My beloved wife's grave was hit by nazis several times. They ripped out the gravestone so I had to lie it on the floor and fix it with iron.“

During Reichspogromnacht 1938 unknown offenders destroyed the fences and hedges and knocked over several gravestones.

The graves and gravestones remained undamaged.

In 1941 the cemetery was sold to Eugen Heinlein, who also bought the Meier Wolf soap factory next to the cemetery, after Fritz and Hugo Wolf had to sell it because of the expropriations.

In 1943 and 1944 Eugen Heinlein removed all the gravestones in order to enlarge his factory and used them to build a washhouse. The gravestones were broken out of the earth with crowbars. The stones that were too heavy to transport were smashed in place.

About 25 stones that were unsuitable as building material because they were made of marble or granite, were sold by Heinlein to the stonemason Degenhard.

When the Americans came to Schlüchtern in 1945 they identified the stones in the walls of the washhouse as Jewish gravestones.

An investigator reports:

„The owners of the factory tried remove the inscriptions. However, the stones are perfectly identifiable as grave monuments. Mainly at the left side of the foundation we could clearly recognize Hebrew letters. Also on the floor of the drying chamber, where the chasing wasn't finished. Above this we could find signs of chasing at the basement stairs in a depository.“

Heinlein was sentenced to a fine.

The gravestones which Heinlein sold to stonemason Degenhard were found there by American investigators. On the orders of the Americans, Degenhard had to bring the stones back to the remaining area of the Jewish cemetery.

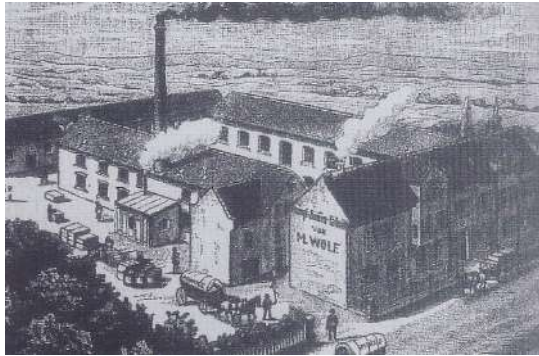
These are the gravestones you can find now at the cemetery in Breitenbacher Straße.

In 1949 a monument was erected in the Jewish cemetery for the 122 known to date Shoah victims. When the Protestant Church choir was asked to sing at the inauguration of the memorial stone, the choir members refused, stating the reason was that they didn't want to sing for Jews.



On some tombstones are still clearly visible fractures which were caused by the crowbars in 1943/1944

28. Soap factory „Meier Wolf“ (later „Heinlein“)
An den Lindengärten 7 (now senior residence GAMA)



Between 1898 and 1938 the soap factory Meier Wolf, that was in later years directed by Meier Wolf's sons Fritz and Hugo, could be found here.

In 1938 Fritz and Hugo had to sell the factory at a very low price to Eugen Heinlein because they planned to escape from Germany and didn't want their factory to be expropriated by the Nazis.

Heinlein enlarged his factory by making the adjacent Jewish cemetery a part of his business area.

To do this, he employed many Russian forced workers that were housed in barracks on the firm area and in the basement of Hugo Wolf's former home in Weinbergstraße 6 (today Poststraße).

The Heinlein company existed until 1986. In 1989 the area was sold to the city of Schlüchtern.

Today the name of the café belonging to the GAMA senior residence is a reminder of Eugen Heinlein and his factory.



If you find any mistakes or have more information, please contact me:
inga.hess@web.de or in Facebook or Instagram