

Family David Nussbaum

Ringstrasse 5, today number 4

Salesman David Nussbaum, born 1890, came from an old local family. He was married to Jenny née Katz, born 1894, from Rhina. The couple had three children:

Samuel, born 1923,

Inge, born 1925

Friedel, born 1928

Samuel, nicknamed Semmi, attended the Jewish school in Burghaun and after that a religious institution in the close-by Fulda. Since he was a good student, he was requested by his teachers who had emigrated to England in the meantime. This is how he came to Great Britain. As a German he was interned there during the war and later sent to Canada by the Brits where he lived near Toronto and died in November 2010.

The other members of the Nussbaum family stayed in Burghaun. In the course of the Night of Broken Glass, David Nussbaum was arrested and interned at concentration camp Buchenwald for several weeks. Soon after his release, he was forced to sell his house at Ringstrasse. When the family was thrown out of their home, they moved into the empty house Victor at Ringstrasse 20.

On 8th December 1941 the Nussbaum couple together with their two daughters Inge and Friedel were transported from Burghaun to the Reichsjuden Ghetto in Riga (Latvia). Soon after, during a selection, David was ordered away to the labour camp Salaspils near Riga which was in reality a death camp. There he died due to the brutal living conditions in May 1942.

Jenny Nussbaum was brought to the concentration camp Kaiserwald near Riga with her daughters even before the forced evacuation of the Riga ghetto. When the Red Army came closer and closer in the summer of 1944, they were taken to the infamous concentration camp Stutthof near Danzig. There mother Jenny died in December 1944.

When the two girls were transported to the adjacent camp Burggraben in a stock car, the 16-year-old Friedel died from exhaustion and emaciation during the journey under the eyes of her sister.

Only Inge survived the murderous journey from one concentration camp to another. When the Russians were very close to Danzig, Inge was sent on a death march west together with the remaining inmates of the camp. On their way the SS guards fled and the exhausted concentration camp prisoners were left to their own devices.

“At the end I was sitting in a barn, all alone. Only somebody from Fulda was there, but dead, killed by bombs. I was sitting there and saw the sky above me, and nothing happened to me. Finally the Russians found me. I was so sick that I could not walk. I only weighed 60 pounds. Then they took Danzig with their tanks. And the Russians opened a hospital there immediately. They were very good to me. I got blood

transfusions and the works. We were freed in the beginning of April, and I was at the hospital with the Russians until July / August.

In the case of their survival, mother Jenny had advised her daughters to go to the Ross family in Burghaun who had a bakery. That's why Inge headed out from Danzig via Berlin to Burghaun. In July 1946 she emigrated to the United States.

Inge Heiser née Nussbaum relates: "From Berlin to Burghaun, that took days. The trains, the railway tracks, everything was kaputt. It was still dark that morning. I arrived, alone and totally ragged. I went to baker Ross back in the bakehouse, Mr Ross was already working. When he saw me there, he cried, "Eva, Eva, we have a visitor!" Then I stayed for a whole year, and I was like a daughter in their house."