

# Family Abraham Strauss I

Ringstrasse 15 (today number 15a)

Cattle-dealer Abraham Strauss, born 1884 in Rothenkirchen, came to Burghaun with his parents Meier and Malchen Strauss in 1905. In Burghaun, he married Fanny Stern, born 1884. They had two children:

Feiber, born 1914

Herta, born 1921

In 1924, Fanny died of cardiac insufficiency. Widower Abraham then married Adelheid Stern, born 1896 from Schlossstrasse in Burghaun. To Feiber and Herta she became a loving second mother. Abraham and Adelheid had two children together:

Marga, born 1928

Manfred, born 1931

Marga and Manfred could enjoy their childhood in Burghaun only for a short time. Since the Jewish school had to close in 1933 because there were not enough students, sister and brother attended school together with the Christian children, Marga starting Easter 1934 and Manfred Easter 1937. With increasing propaganda against Jews it happened more and more often that Jewish children were bullied or even followed and beaten up by their Christian classmates.

On 11<sup>th</sup> July 1935 the Fulda cattle market was attacked by Nazi thugs and then closed by the police. This was very hard on Abraham Strauss. He had been there himself and had lived through the ensuing chaos. Now he lost his trade license, too, endangering his family's livelihood.

After Feiber fled to Palestine in 1936 and Herta emigrated to New York in 1937, the living conditions for the rest of the family went from bad to worse. At least going to school was now easier for Marga and Manfred since the nazis did not tolerate any Jewish children at Christian schools anymore. That's why they installed a Jewish district school in the building of the old Jewish school house in Burghaun, very close to their home. A truly horrible event, especially for the two children, was the Night of Broken Glass in November 1938. Marga and Manfred must have been frightened out of their wits when Nazi thugs gone wild demolished all the furniture in the Jewish school next door, and they had to witness their beautiful synagogue go up in flames.

From July 1939 it was not possible for the Jewish children of Burghaun to attend school anymore. That is why her parents sent Marga to relatives in Frankfurt. There she attended Raphael-Hirsch-Realschule together with her friend Friedel Nussbaum from Burghaun. It is not known if Manfred also went to school in Frankfurt. However, a letter suggests that he had also stayed with his Aunt Lina Stern there. When the Jewish families in Burghaun received the notice of their impending evacuation east in early December 1941, the children returned to their families.

Then, on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1941, the Strauss family had to witness the deportation of almost all the remaining Jews from Burghaun. Since they were not on the deportation list, the family might have started to hope for escape again.

It is not known where in Burghaun the Strauss family lived after the sale of their house in June 1939. It is said that they continued to live in their home renting for about half a year and then found shelter in the house of a neighboring Jewish family. Fact is that the Strauss family stayed in Burghaun until it was finally their turn. On 5<sup>th</sup> September 1942, they were taken by the police together with the Stern family and deported to Theresienstadt via Kassel. There, in the huge ghetto, "death's own waiting room", they lived for about half a year until they were transported in a stock car of the German Reichsbahn to their final destination Auschwitz on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1943. There they were murdered.