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To the editors of the RHEINPFALZ Pirmasenser Rundschau
z.H.v. Mr. Clemens

With Gertrud Still, b. Levy, the last member of the family Julius Levy, from Dahn, Weißenburgerstraße 2, died on May 27, 2018 in New York / USA. The urn was buried in the grave of her husband Henry.

Gertrud Still, b. Levy, born on 19.02.1924 in Dahn, Weißenburgerstraße 2, attended the Dahner Volksschule until 1936. As anti-Semitic remarks and harassment of some students became more and more hurtful, Teacher Sch. She had the well-intentioned advice to stay at home, which she did. In everyday life, Gertrude was harassed by Nazi harassment, such as buying bread, when she had to wait until all the Aryans were served.

On November 10, 1938, in the afternoon at 5 pm, the Kristallnacht began in Dahn with the storming of the Levy house in Weißenburgerstrasse 2. Father Julius had already been arrested in Pirmasens at this time and brother Karl-Heinz, who was in Frankfurt / Main, where he attended a school, was brought from there to Dachau. Uncle Ludwig was beaten while Gertrud hid under her bed. Of the seven people who were in the house, Weißenburgerstraße 2, during Kristallnacht, only Gertrude survived the Holocaust. Father Julius, mother Elsa, brother Helmut, uncle Ludwig, aunt Blüta and aunt Helene Rosenstiel were deported and murdered. The brothers Julius and Ludwig Levy were German patriots, soldiers in the 1. World War both badly wounded and awarded the EK2. It did not help them.

Gertrud has also witnessed the terrible "Rohrwoog-Ereignis", the perfidious culprit has prepared family Levy in September 1939 between Dahn and Hinterweidenthal. They were taken to the Rohrwoog on a truck at night, ordered to dismount and threatened to drown them in the lake. Later they were taken to Pirmasens. Gertrud was the only survivor and testified these evil deeds verbally and in writing.

On September 1, 1939 family Levy had to leave Dahn and moved to Mannheim. From there she was deported in the so-called "Wagner-Bürckel action" on 22 October 1940 together with 6551 Badisch and Saar-Pfalz Jews to the internment camp Gurs / southern France. In 1941, Gertrud and her parents were taken to the Rivesaltes / Mediterranean camp, while her brother Helmut was sent to the Atlantic Wall as a forced laborer. Uncle Ludwig and the two aunts were taken to the Noe' detention center. All family members except Gertrud were deported to Auschwitz in 1942 via Drancy / Paris and murdered.

Gertrud, who had also received the CONVOCATION, the written request for deportation, on July 10, 1943 could be rescued. She was, like many other Jewish children, taken out of the camp and housed in the spring of 1942 in a Jewish Girl Scout Home for girls under a different name. From August 1942, they were taken to another hiding place every week to protect them from the French police, which were searching for escaped children. At the end of 1942, Gertrud was hired by a French peasant family as a maid.

By betrayal she has come back to Camp Gurs. A Jewish organization has once again taken Gertrud out of the camp and brought her to Chambery. Here she worked as a "Luxemburgerin" under a false name again as a maid until 1944.

After the liberation by the Americans in September 1944 Gertrud Levy came together with her friend Lore Katz from Dahn to Limoges. Here, the two remained until their emigration to the United States in January 1947. Gertrud married Henry Still, who was active in the resistance in France. They have two sons and four grandchildren. In 1991, Gertrud, sister Rosel and brother Karl-Heinz came home to Dahn. In 1997, Gertrud celebrated with her husband Henry Golden Wedding in Dahn. In 2009 she showed her son Jerry and two grandchildren her birthplace Dahn. They visited the Jewish cemetery in Busenberg, the synagogue in Dahn and were deeply moved by the stumbling blocks set for the six Holocaust victims of the Julius Levy family at the former residential building, Weißenburgerstraße 2, today a bus stop.

Gertrud, her sister Rosel and brother Karl-Heinz survived the Holocaust.

With the death of Gertrud Still, née Levy, an era has come to an end. She was the last eyewitness who learned and witnessed the horrors of the Nazi era.

What remains is stone evidence: graveyard, synagogue and the foundations of the demolished in November 2017 Mikwehaus in Busenberg (Ritual Bath), reminiscent of over 200 years of Jewish history in the Wasgau and its terrible end.

But there is also the memory of a great woman who, despite the crimes her family has experienced, sought reconciliation and came to Dahn in 1991, 1997 and 2009 with an outstretched hand.

For the text above, there are 8 possible photos to choose from.

Photo 1)

Family Julius Levy from Dahn, Weißenburgerstraße 2. The persons in the back row from left to right: Daughter Gertrud, daughter Rosel, son Karl-Heinz. Front row from left to right: Mother Elsa, son Helmut, father Julius. Recording around 1934.

Photo 2)

The House of the Julius Levy family in Weißenburgerstraße 2. Here began on November 10, 1938 at 17.00 clock in Dahn the Kristallnacht. Recording around 1930.

Photo 3)

The kitchen staff in the internment camp Gurs / South of France. Gertrud is missing in the photo because she was lying on the infirmary at that time. Note the ankle-deep mud. Recording 1941.

Photo 4)

Lore Katz (*) & Gertrud Levy (x) in the sewing room at Camp Rivesaltes. Recording 1942

Photo 5)

The CONVOCATIO, the invitation of 10 July 1943 to Gertrud for deportation. Text: The camp inmate LEVY Gertrude, Ilot L, Barrack 8, has to report to the directorate's office on July 10, 1943 at 9:00 am. Provided with all identity documents, Camp de Gurs, 10.7.43

Photo 6)

The siblings, from left to right, Rosel, Karl-Heinz and Gertrud at the castle Altdahn at the home meeting in the summer of 1991 in Dahn.

Photo 7)

Gertrud in August 2009 before the stumbling blocks that were set in 2006, her six murdered family members.

Photo 8)

Two school friends meet after 70 years by chance: Gertrud and Johanna Fischer, born Theobald, at the bus stop in the Weißenburgerstraße.