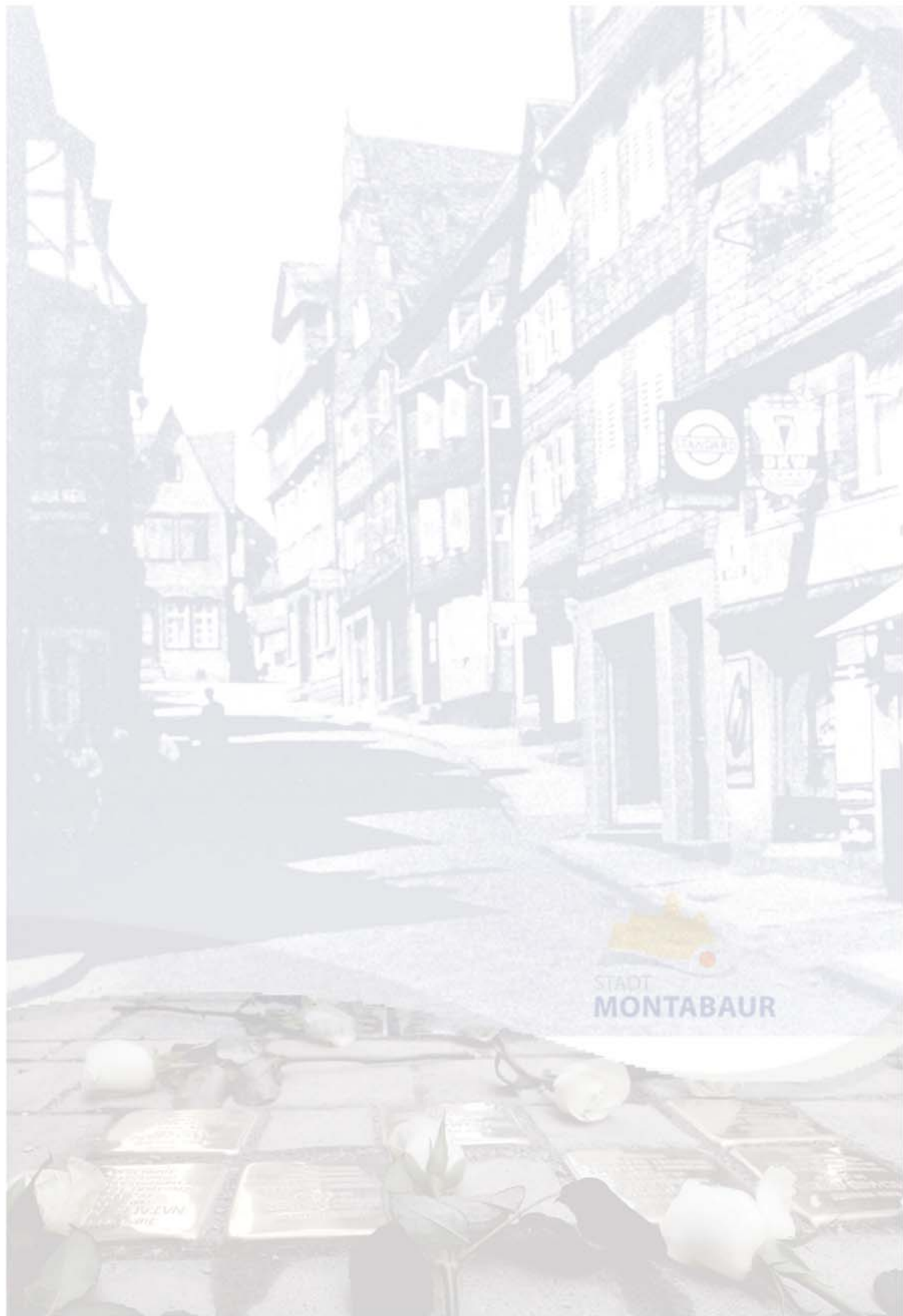


# Jewish Persecution



*„People are only truly forgotten when others no longer remember their names!“*



STADT  
MONTABAUER



# How many Jewish people lived in Montabaur in 1933?

How many of them left?

Why did they leave Montabaur?

Who stayed?

With Hitler taking over power on January 30th, 1933, the darkest chapter of our history began, also in Montabaur. The Jewish community, which had been in Montabaur for centuries, and thought that they were well integrated here, was hit especially hard by this change of power over to the Nazi's. In 1933 there were 76 Jewish citizens, from 22 different families, living in Montabaur. It did not take long for the Jewish citizens to become victims of numerous terrible acts. Their businesses were boycotted. Their homes and stores were damaged over and over. In addition to that the Jewish citizens were abused and beaten when they were found out in public. Every day life for the Jewish people in Montabaur was unbearable. A wave of emigration began early on due to the treatment of the Jewish people by the Nazi's.

The members of the Schloss family were the first to leave Montabaur. Manfred Schloss left for Copenhagen, Denmark in early 1933. Werner Schloss went to Johannesburg, South Africa in October, 1933. In addition to them, Gustav Stern went to England in 1933. In 1935 Sally Stern took his wife Else along with their two children, Hans and Ilse, and moved to New York in the USA. Werner Kahn also left Germany in 1935. He first went to Haiti via Wiesbaden, and later moved to Florida in the USA.

The cause of the rising discrimination against the Jewish citizens was based on the newly enacted laws. There are too many to list, but here are two examples: The first being that in 1933 a statute was enacted stating that on April 1st of every year all Jewish owned stores, doctors and lawyers would be boycotted. The second that we will mention was passed in September, 1935. They were the "Race Laws" also known as the Nürenberg Laws. This meant the loss of equal rights for the Jewish people, which in turn systematically isolated them from the rest of the inhabitants. These laws meant that, by 1938, Jewish people were completely excluded from society. A major turning point in maltreatment of the Jewish citizens occurred during the so-called Kristallnacht on November 9th, 1938. Montabaur was also the scene of many violent events. The synagogue was burned. All of the Jewish citizens were gathered together in front of the town hall and were taken by bus to a collection camp in Kirchär. From that point all of the Jewish males between the ages of 18 and 60 who were able to work were taken to the Buchenwald concentration camp. Some of them were made to stay there and perform forced labor. They were gradually allowed to return to their destroyed homes in Montabaur.

But the laws enacted on April 1st, 1939, dealing with the Jewish people and their real estate, completely changed their

circumstances. They were forced to sell their houses to the Aryans for ridiculously low prices. There was also an official edict stating that all Jewish families must vacate the Montabaur area by April 1st, 1939. The goal was to have the Jewish people leave Montabaur and the surrounding communities as soon as possible.

Those persons who could afford it moved to a different country. Between late 1938 and early 1939 several individuals from the following families left the town of Montabaur: Falkenstein, Heimann, Isselbacher, Joseph, Kahn, Löb, Rosenthal, Schloss and Stern. There were also some entire families that left. The preferred places for immigration were the USA, Australia and New Zealand, as well as South Africa. Within Europe the preferred countries were England, Holland, and Denmark, with one person going to Switzerland. Some of them ended up later on in the USA. Relatively few emigrated to Israel. A total of 45 people successfully left Montabaur to settle in other countries. The majority of the Jewish citizens who were not able to flee Germany were older. Those people were registered and taken to the so-called "Jewish houses", which were found only in larger cities. The purpose of these houses was to allow the Nazi's to control groups of people. It was also easier for the Nazi's to transport the people to the concentration camps in the East. Between 1933 and 1939 six of the people died of old age.

The Jewish citizens who remained in Germany after 1939 did not survive the holocaust. It is to these 24 people that the memorial in Montabaur is dedicated. Their names are engraved into the bronze plaque that rests on the highest of the three steles. The following individuals are named:

Hugo and Regine Abraham;  
Moses Falkenstein and David Levy;  
Leopold and Jenny Heilberg;  
Heinrich and Rescha Heimann;  
Adolf and Betty Heimann and their daughter Ingeborg;  
Albert and Billa Kahn;  
Erwin Kahn;  
Leopold and Hilda Kahn and their son Erich;  
Alfred Löb;  
Hedwig Löb;  
Willy and Betty Stern;  
Julius and Frieda Stern and their son Ludwig.

The youngest victim was 16 year old Ingeborg Heimann.

Erich Kahn, a baker in Vallendar, also died as a young man. Not long after the Kristallnacht he was taken from his workplace and taken to Dachau. He died of jaundice on January 14th, 1939, at the age of 27. His funeral was the last to be held at the Jewish cemetery in Montabaur.



### **Hugo and Regine Abraham, Kleiner Markt 3:**

Hugo and Regine Abraham ran a clothing store specializing in women's and men's fashion. They were forced to leave Montabaur just a few months after the "Night of Broken Glass" and were placed in a Jewish settlement located on Rizzastraße in Koblenz. The living conditions there were, as with all Jewish settlements, terrible. Jewish families were crowded tightly into the available space and the people were left wanting for general living essentials. Most notably, the Jewish settlements were not provided with any source of heating, which was a catastrophe during the cold winter months of WWII.

Mr. R, a citizen of Montabaur relates this memory: The Abrahams were moved to Rizzastraße 22 in Koblenz early in 1939. They were both depressed and disappointed; they had lost everything. In either late 1939 or early 1940 my mother and I went there to visit them. They were living in a very small apartment. It was very sad, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham (both were already in their 60's) were still in disbelief. They could not understand how something like that could happen to them in Montabaur although they had never harmed anyone else and had always acted respectfully towards them. (M. Wild)

Hugo and Regine Abraham were moved on July 27th, 1942 from Koblenz-Lützel into the "old ghetto" concentration camp in Theresienstadt. Hugo Abraham died there on January 1st, 1943, his wife Regina on March 8th, 1944.

### **Moses Falkenstein and his son-in-law, David Levy, Alleestraße 5**

Moses Falkenstein ran a butcher's shop at Alleestraße 5. His son-in-law, David Levy, who was married to his daughter Alma, lived in his house with him.

David Levy made a decision to leave Germany for Amsterdam immediately after Adolf Hitler took power. Approximately one year later his wife Alma and his little daughter Ursula were able to join him, so that they would also be protected from the Nazis. During the war years David Levy worked as a teacher for electronics and metal working at the Jewish Council in Amsterdam.

The Levy family was sent to the Westerbork collection camp on June 20th, 1943. From there they were transferred to the Theresienstadt ghetto. David Levy was deported from there to the concentration camp in Auschwitz on September 29th, 1944. His wife Alma and daughter Ursula survived the conditions in Theresienstadt and returned to Holland after the war.

Moses Falkenstein left Montabaur early in 1939 to join his son Ludwig Falkenstein in Amsterdam. He was celebrating his 75th birthday in Amsterdam in March 18th, 1943 when he was picked up and sent to the camp in Westerbork. He was then transferred to the Sobibor extermination camp on March 23rd, 1943, and died shortly thereafter.

### **Leopold and Jenny Heilberg, Herzog-Adolf-Straße 4:**

Somewhat outside of the town was the livestock business owned by Leopold and Jenny Heilberg.

The Heilbergs moved to Augsburg sometime in 1937. They had connections to Augsburg through their son Siegbert. He had gone there in order to prepare for emigration to Haifa, Israel, with the help of a Jewish institute, and left Germany in 1935. It is unknown whether he wanted his parents to join him.

In March of 1941 Leopold and Jenny Heilberg were forced to move to a Jewish house on the Bahnhofstraße. On August 6th, 1942 they were transported to the Theresienstadt ghetto via Munich. On May 18th, 1944 they were transferred to the Auschwitz concentration camp, where they were murdered.

### **Adolf and Betty Heimann, and their daughter Ingeborg, Vorderer Rebstock 23:**

The Heimann family lived here and ran a store for manufactured goods. After the "Night of Broken Glass" they were forced to sell their house for a ridiculously low price but were able to remain in Montabaur for the time being. Adolf and Betty Heimann had a daughter named Ingeborg who suffered from a slight psychological disorder. Because she was not able to live alone, she was separated from her parents in 1940 and admitted to the Jacoby'sche Institute, a place for emotionally disturbed persons and those suffering from nervous diseases, in Bendorf-Sayn.

Her parents, Adolf and Betty Heimann, were forced to move to a former mining settlement located in Friedrichsseggen/Lahn in 1941; in order to perform forced labor. The men sorted scrap iron and other discarded material at Friedrichssegener Eisenhandel, a firm which was forcefully transferred from Jewish into German "Aryan" ownership. The women were forced to produce bricks for a company called Clay and Roofing Tile Friedrichsseggen. The work was very physically demanding and performed under the worst conditions imaginable. The accommodations were deplorable and the living conditions were worse than primitive. On the 10th of July, 1942, Adolf and Betty Heimann were transported via Frankfurt am Main to the Sobibor extermination camp, where they were subsequently murdered. Ingeborg Heimann could also not escape the National Socialist regime. During the period between April 30th and May 3rd, 1942, she was being transported from Koblenz-Lützel to a destination in the East. The group that she was in consisted of about 100 patients from the sanitarium in Bendorf-Sayn. Among the others was the expressionist poet Jakob van Hoddis. Their destination was the town of Krasniczyn, not far from the district capital Krasnystaw, east of Lublin. This is where, at the age of 18, she was ultimately put to death.



### **Heinrich and Rescha Heimann, Steinweg 19:**

Heinrich and Rescha Heimann ran a linen business. Their lives also dramatically changed after the „Night of Broken Glass“. They were forced to sell their house, but were allowed for a time to remain in Montabaur.

They were also taken to Friedrichsseggen on the Lahn on August 20th, 1941 in order to perform forced labor.

Heinrich and Rescha Heimann were sent, via Frankfurt, to the Sobibor extermination camp on June 10th, 1942.

### **Albert and Billa Kahn, Vorderer Rebstock 24:**

Albert and Billa Kahn worked as livestock traders. They were also transported with a group to the labor camp in Friedrichsseggen on the Lahn on August 20th, 1941. Their next forced move was to the Theresienstadt ghetto on September 1st, 1942. On September 29th, 1942 they were deported to the extermination camp in Treblinka.

### **Erwin Kahn, Vorderer Rebstock 29:**

Erwin Kahn left Montabaur after the “Night of Broken Glass”, when he was 24 years old. He fled towards France where he was taken prisoner, possibly as a soldier and taken to the Drancy camp. He was transported along with other Jewish prisoners to the Auschwitz concentration camp on August 10th, 1942.

### **Leopold and Hilda Kahn and their son Erich, Vorderer Rebstock 38:**

Leopold and Hilda Kahn worked as livestock traders in Montabaur. Their son Erich was the first National Socialist victim that the Montabaur Jewish community would mourn. Although the 27 year old Erich was still living at home with his parents at Rebstock 38, he worked at a Jewish bakery in Vallendar. It was at the bakery, early in the morning on the day following the “Night of Broken Glass”, that he was taken away and, along with other Jewish citizens, sent to the Dachau concentration camp. He spent several months there performing forced labor. Terrible hygienic conditions dominated the camp, which led to Erich's death on January 14th, 1939 of liver disease. His parents were informed of his death by the authorities and asked the then mayor, Mr. Hinterwälder, to be allowed to bury their son at the Jewish cemetery in Montabaur.

Although their request was granted, it did not come without restrictions. “Authorization to hold eight days of prayer in your house, as well as the burial of the urn in the Jewish cemetery is granted with the following restrictions: The start of the prayer period will be registered with this office, and the burial will be

held as inconspicuously as possible at the cemetery. (letter from January 24th, 1939) Erich Kahn's was the last burial in the Jewish cemetery in Montabaur.

Erich's parents, Leopold and Hilda Kahn would also not survive the holocaust. They were forced to move to the former mining settlement in Friedrichsseggen/Lahn on August 20th, 1942.

Leopold and Hilda Kahn were transported via Frankfurt am Main to the Theresienstadt ghetto on September 1st, 1942. They spent only three weeks at this transit camp before being deported to the Treblinka extermination camp on September 9th, 1942.

### **Alfred Löb, Großer Markt 15**

Emma Löb, along with her son, Alfred, operated a textiles and toy store located at Großer Markt 15. Alfred Löb was apprehended during the “Night of Broken Glass” and, as was the usual with Jewish males between the ages of 18 and 60, deported to the Buchenwald concentration camp. Emma Löb found it extremely difficult to continue running the business without her son due to her being 75 years old and suffering from problems with her feet.

She therefore went to Mayor Hinterwälder on January 2nd, 1939 with a petition asking him to see to it that her son be released as soon as possible to return to Montabaur. She made sure to mention in the petition that, as a younger man, Alfred Löb served at the front in Russia and France during World War I and was decorated with the German “Iron Cross” medal. The final lines of the letter asked: „Is that not terrible, Mr. Mayor? (...) How many others returned home, and my son is terribly needed here but doesn't come back. Mr. Mayor this is my final plea to you. Take pity on an old woman and please see to it that my son returns. (...) I await his arrival every night to no end. (From: Markus Wild. *The history of the Jews in the Montabaur municipalities*)

### **Hedwig Löb, Vorderer Rebstock 14**

Hedwig Adele Löb, neé Zunz, was born on August 15th, 1874 in Frankfurt am Main. She was married to Moritz Löb, who ran an iron and stove business located at Rebstock 14. He died in the 1930's. After the Night of Broken Glass, Hedwig Löb was forced by the authorities to leave the Montabaur area. She moved to Frankfurt am Main no later than the early part of 1940, and lived at first at 19 Karlstraße, and later at 19 Sternstraße. On September 1st, 1942 she was deported to the Theresienstadt camp by the Frankfurt gestapo. She arrived at the extermination camp in Treblinka on September 29th, 1942, where she was murdered. Therefore the 29th of September, 1942 is regarded as Hedwig Löb's date of death.



### **Julius and Frieda Stern and their son Ludwig, Alleestraße 8a**

Julius and Frieda Stern ran a livestock business at Alleestraße 8a. They were part of a group that was officially told that they must leave by April 1st, 1939. They initially found a place to stay in the east end of Frankfurt. Due to its proximity to the east harbor and the large market hall, the east end served as the working class neighborhood and the prosperity of the populace was accordingly lower. In the years prior to the Second World War the east end was characterized by its Jewish citizens. The synagogue, which was defiled in 1938, was erected on the Friedberger site.

Julius and Frieda Stern lived here under restrictive conditions controlled by the Gestapo until they were deported in 1942 to an unknown destination in the East. The investigation into the actual deportation destination is incomplete due to the deportation lists from Frankfurt containing significant gaps. It is however certain that Julius and Frieda Stern did not survive the war and are counted as being among the victims of the National Socialist regime. Because of their actual deportation location being unknown, their "Stolperstein" will also be engraved with the words "fate unknown".

Their son, Ludwig Stern, belonged to the few young Jewish people from Montabaur, who were not able to escape from the Nazis even though he emigrated to France shortly after Adolf Hitler took power in Germany in 1933. He presumably fought as a soldier against the Germans. As a prisoner of war he was transported from Camp de Septfonds to the Drancy camp, and then to the Auschwitz concentration camp on September 9th, 1942.

### **Betty and Willy Stern, Bahnhofstraße 24**

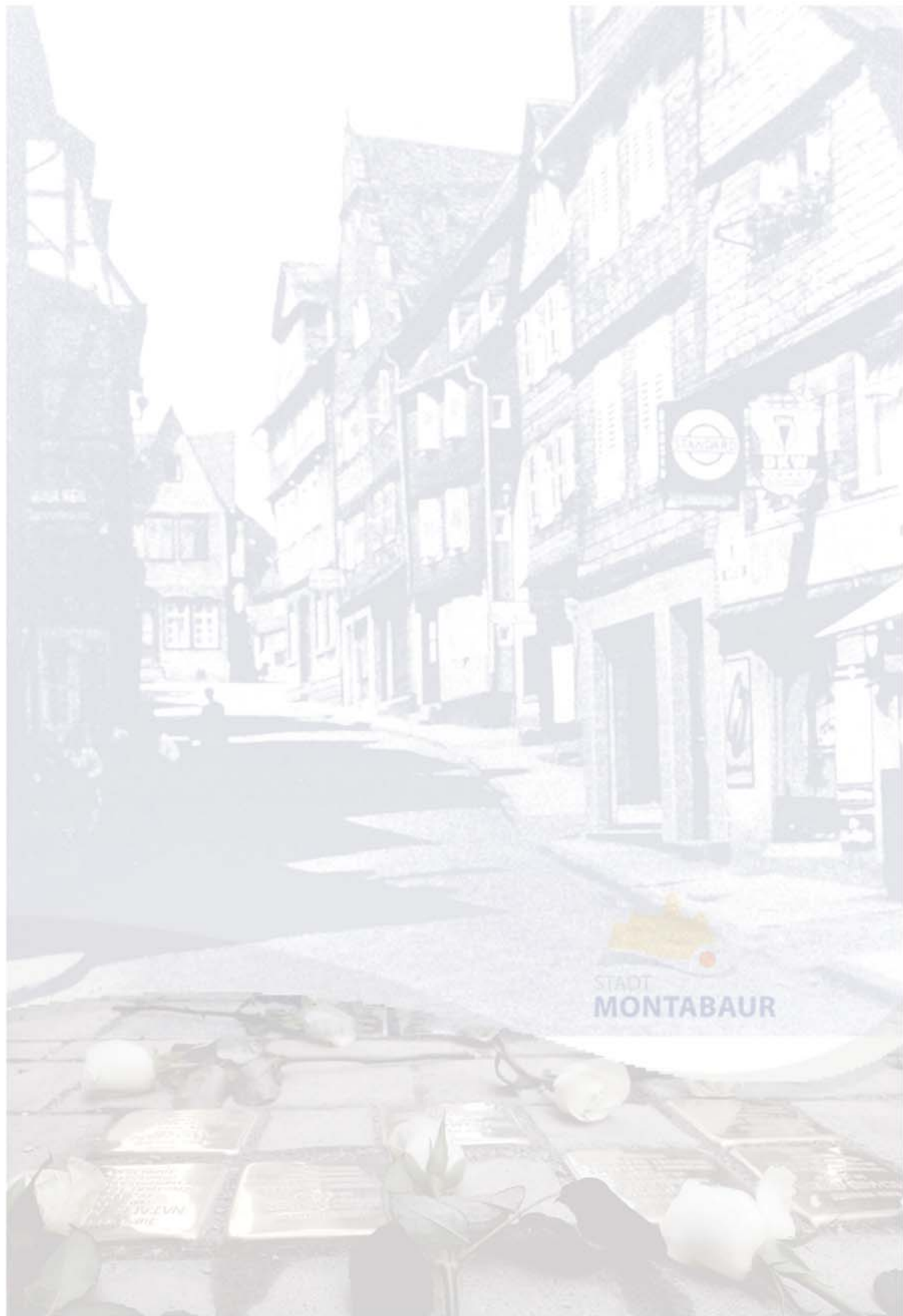
Willy and Betty Stern owned a leather shop at Bahnhofstraße 24, where they also resided. The shop was founded in 1876.

Mr. B remembers Willy Stern. He describes the time shortly before the Night of Broken Glass: „Mr. Willy Stern and I were together quite often. He owned a leather shop and supplied a number of shoe makers in the Westerwald. As the situation for the Jewish people in Germany became more precarious, I sometimes accompanied Mr. Stern to collect the money, which many shoemakers were still able to pay for the leather. Mr. Stern had already told about the difficulties that he had had due to his religion. I was present when one of the shoemakers told Mr. Stern that he would not pay him because he was a "dirty Jew". That was not the only time that such an event occurred (Mr. Stern of course needed the money to be able to feed his family, because all types of business with Jewish people was officially forbidden as of mid 1938.)

*(From: Markus Wild. The history of the Jews in the Montabaur municipalities)*

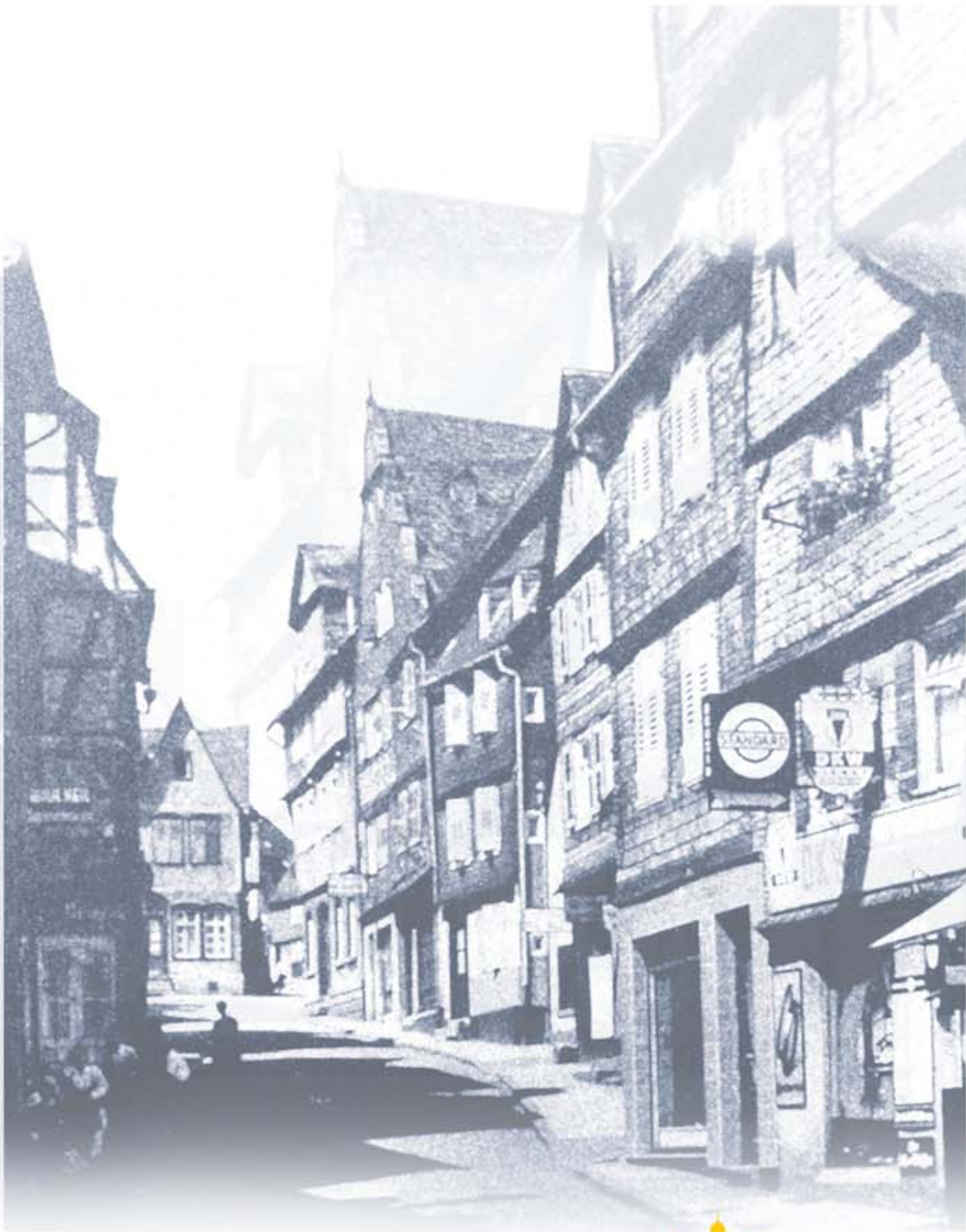


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