



Stolpersteine Malsch

Second placement on 23rd May 2023

Friedhofstraße 2

Letzenbergstraße 5 & 9

Raiffeisenplatz 4

Hauptstraße 86

HIER WOHNTE
WILHELM HESS

JG. 1877

DEPORTIERT 1940
GURS
INTERNIERT DRANCY
1942 AUSCHWITZ

ERMORDET

HIER WOHNTE
BETTY HESS

GEB. LÖB
JG. 1885

DEPORTIERT 1940
GURS
INTERNIERT DRANCY
1942 AUSCHWITZ
ERMORDET

HIER WOHNTE
HILDA HESS

JG. 1918

FLUCHT 1939
ENGLAND

HIER WOHNTE
HELMUT HESS

JG. 1915

FLUCHT 1939
BRASILIEN

HIER WOHNTE
KÄTHE HESS

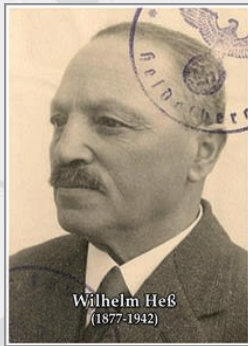
JG. 1913

FLUCHT 1938
U S A

HIER WOHNTE
SIMON EUGEN HESS

JG. 1912

FLUCHT 1939
BRASILIEN



Wilhelm Heß
(1877-1942)



Betty Heß
(1885-1942)



Simon Eugen Heß
(1912-?)



Käthe Heß
(1913-2005)



Helmut Heß
(1915-?)



Hilda Heß
(1918-1995)



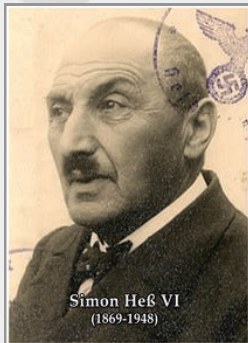
Ludwig Heß
(1877-1954)



Klara Heß
(1882-1960)



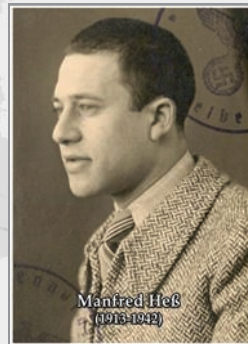
Therese Heß
(1848-1940)



Simon Heß VI
(1869-1948)



Frieda Heß
(1877-1964)



Manfred Heß
(1916-1942)



Benno Heß
(1914-1941)



Rosa Heß
(1875-1944)

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About this booklet

Dear readers,

When you hold this booklet in your hand, you demonstrate your interest in our Stolperstein Initiative and the second placement of Stolperstein memorial stones in Malsch.

Following on from the first placement of eight Stolpersteine in 2018, this year we are commemorating 14 people who were deported from Malsch, or who fled shortly beforehand. For many generations, they and their forefathers had lived closely with their Christian neighbours and traded in livestock, tobacco, hops, drapery or footwear.

This booklet contains the life stories of the 14 women and men, which we have reconstructed to the best of our ability through research in archives and interviews with contemporary witnesses.

We are particularly pleased that we were able to establish contact with Peter Katz from London, whose mother, Hilda Hess, emigrated to England. During the planning of the ceremony of placing the Stolpersteine, for which Peter is travelling to Malsch, we 'met' him a number of times via video call. In collaboration with him we were able to add to our existing knowledge, and can now facilitate his visit here so that he and his family can get to know the house where his forefathers on his mother's side lived.



The production of this booklet was only made possible thanks to the excellent and time-consuming cooperation between all the members of the Stolperstein Initiative and to the support of numerous generous donations.

May it play a part in keeping alive the memory of the injustice which these people suffered, and at the same time encourage us actively to oppose all forms of discrimination.

*On behalf of the Malsch Stolperstein Initiative
Tanja Becker-Fröhlich and Ludwig Fröhlich
Translated by Peter Silver*

Foreword from the Mayor

On 23rd May 2023, a further 14 Stolpersteine will be placed in our village by the artist, Gunter Demnig. They commemorate former Jewish citizens who suffered great injustice and harm during one of the darkest chapters of German history.

Remembrance of the victims of National Socialism in our community is not purely a retrospective ritual, rather it serves two functions: we commemorate the people who were torn from their lives by political barbarism and use the lessons learned to shape a more humane future.

The municipality of Malsch recognises this obligation, and in 2015, decided to invite the last two survivors from the deportation to Gurs to return to their former home to attend a commemorative event on 22.10.2015. The first Stolpersteine were then placed on 19th February 2018 and serve as a lasting reminder of the victims of National Socialism.



Tobias Greulich



The Artist Gunter Demnig

I am pleased that, thanks to the Malsch Stolperstein Initiative, this project has met with such support. I am particularly grateful to Dr Johannes Rott, Peter Silver, Hans-Georg Schmitz, and the rest of the team who have researched the life stories of victims and established contact with their descendants.

This booklet, which provides information about the families' life stories, is not only dedicated to the victims of the National Socialist dictatorship, but also to their descendants.

I am sure it will prove informative and interesting to all readers, especially those of the younger generation amongst us. Because hate, racism and antisemitism, which led to this crime against humanity, must be conquered, and this requires our constant commitment.

*Tobias Greulich, Mayor
Translated by Peter Silver*

Message from Peter Katz

Despite having done my own research, until recently I had discovered very little about my family history, which saddened me. My parents never talked to me about their past and this left a large void in my life, especially since I wanted my children to learn about their heritage.

I was completely unaware that my grandparents and their family, including my mother, of course, came from Malsch, so imagine my surprise when I heard that a group of people in Germany was trying to contact me.

I was initially sceptical, but it soon became clear that the members of the Malsch Stolperstein Initiative not only already knew a great deal about my family, but also wanted to share their knowledge with me. At the time, I didn't even know what 'Stolpersteine' or 'Stumbling Stones' were.

Soon after making contact in mid-2019, I received some initial information including photographs of my grandparents' house as it is today and as it was over 100 years ago. This marked the beginning of a journey for me, and over the last four years, despite the interruption of the pandemic, my knowledge of my family's heritage has increased dramatically.

After some soul-searching, I finally decided a few months ago that placing Stolpersteine for my ancestors here in Malsch was the right thing to do, so when the Mayor's kind invitation to attend arrived, I had no hesitation in accepting.

Since then I have been in almost daily contact with the members of this Stolperstein Initiative, who have supported me every step of the way. Neither I nor my wife, Sherry, speak German, so it has been especially helpful to have letters etc. translated into English for us. We only once visited Germany before, for a very short stay in Berlin, which is so different from Malsch.

I have been happily married to Sherry since 1976 and we have a son and daughter and four beautiful grandchildren. They can't come to Malsch on this occasion, but Sherry and I are looking forward to seeing the place where my mother came from, meeting the people of Malsch and placing Stolpersteine for my family. I strongly feel that this is an important step in the healing and reconciliation process, and vital to ensure that the terrible events of the past are never repeated.



Peter and Sherry Katz

Peter Katz

List of the new Stolpersteine

Friedhofstrasse 2



HIER WOHNTE
SIMON HESS VI
JG. 1869

FLUCHT 1939
SCHWEIZ

HIER WOHNTE
FRIEDA HESS
GEB. WOLF
JG. 1877

FLUCHT 1939
SCHWEIZ



I

Raiffeisenplatz 4



HIER WOHNTE
ROSA HESS
JG. 1875
DEPORTIERT 1940
GURS
INTERNIERT 1942 NOÉ
TOT 4.4.1944
ALTERSHEIM
ST. SAUVEUR

IV

Letzenbergstrasse 9



HIER WOHNTE
LUDWIG HESS
JG. 1877

DEPORTIERT 1940
GURS
INTERNIERT IN
MEHREREN LAGERN
BEFREIT / ÜBERLEBT
ZURÜCKGEKEHRT 1949

HIER WOHNTE
KLARA HESS
GEB. SIMON
JG. 1882

DEPORTIERT 1940
GURS
INTERNIERT IN
MEHREREN LAGERN
BEFREIT / ÜBERLEBT
ZURÜCKGEKEHRT 1949



HIER WOHNTE
MANFRED HESS
JG. 1913
SCHUTZHAFT 1938
KZ DACHAU
DEPORTIERT 1940
GURS
INTERNIERT DRANCY
1942 AUSCHWITZ
ERMORDET

HIER WOHNTE
BENNO HESS
JG. 1914
SCHUTZHAFT 1938
KZ DACHAU
FLUCHTVERSUCH 1939
NACH PALÄSTINA
ERSCHOSSEN OKT. 1941
ZASAVICA / SERBIEN



II

Hauptstrasse 86



HIER WOHNTE
WILHELM HESS
JG. 1877

DEPORTIERT 1940
GURS
INTERNIERT DRANCY
1942 AUSCHWITZ
ERMORDET

HIER WOHNTE
BETTY HESS
GEB. LÖB
JG. 1885

DEPORTIERT 1940
GURS
INTERNIERT DRANCY
1942 AUSCHWITZ
ERMORDET



HIER WOHNTE
SIMON EUGEN HESS
JG. 1912

FLUCHT 1939
BRASILIEN

HIER WOHNTE
KÄTHE HESS
JG. 1913

FLUCHT 1938
U S A



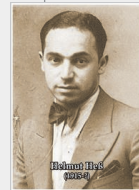
Letzenbergstrasse 5



HIER WOHNTE
THERESE HESS
GEB. KAUFMANN
JG. 1848

DEPORTIERT 1940
GURS
TOT 8.11.1940

III



HIER WOHNTE
HELMUT HESS
JG. 1915

FLUCHT 1939
BRASILIEN

HIER WOHNTE
HILDA HESS
JG. 1918

FLUCHT 1939
ENGLAND



V

From the History of the Jewish Community in Malsch

The Jewish community in Malsch came into existence not long after the Thirty-Years' War (1618-1648). The first record bearing the names of four Jewish households in Malsch dates from 1714. It is interesting to note that a feature of the Jewish community in Malsch was that they predominantly came from a priestly line; in 1815, they accounted for 6 of the 8 family heads of household.

The ancestor of all the Hess's in Malsch was **Kalman**, first mentioned in a list dated 1726. It is not clear whether he moved to Malsch to marry shortly before 1720 or whether he came from a family which was already resident here. His gravestone in the Obergrombach cemetery was, like the vast majority of them, broken up by the National Socialists and used for lining a gully. A surviving fragment bears the inscription: '*Kalonymos - cantor from Malsch, died 13th October 1761.*' We know of three sons of Kalmann / Kalonymos, who in turn had children. All the Hess's in Malsch descended from his youngest son, **Simon**, who also had three sons who married in Malsch and had children. Kalmann / Kalonymos' eldest son may have lived where the new town square is today and where the original prayer room was also situated in a private house. His second son, **Samuel Simon Hess** and his descendants lived mainly in the 1st Quarter, that is, north of the High Street, between Kapellenpfad and Letzenbergstrasse, or in the 2nd or 'Bangert' Quarter, extending from Alte Rathausgasse to Raiffeisenplatz and beyond to Rotenberger Strasse. The 14 Stolpersteine now being placed are all for descendants of this Samuel, who died in 1819 aged 49.

It is no coincidence that they all belonged to the Hess family. By 1936, except for the Hilb-Hamburger family, all the other Jewish families had long since moved away or died. The new Stolpersteine are

being placed for citizens who were deported from Malsch in October 1940 or who were forced to flee Malsch.

Many of those born after 1900 were able to leave Malsch before the National Socialist persecution began, but not all. Some felt that Hitler's movement would not last, others did not want to leave their parents alone, and some simply didn't have the means or contacts to enable them to emigrate. Only a few managed to make it to Switzerland or to the British mandated territory of Palestine. Some emigrated in time, mainly to North and South America or Great Britain.

Before the war started, a great many Jewish children were allowed to emigrate to Great Britain, where they were taken in by foster families. Amongst those who got away on a 'Kindertransport' was 16-year-old **Lotte Kramer** from Mainz.



Kindertransport memorial
Liverpool Street Station, London

In her latter years, she became a well-known English poet, and came to terms with the traumatic separation from her parents and homeland in her poem. 'Exodus'. It was first published in 2005 and later appeared in her volume "*More New and Collected Poems*" from Rockingham Press. In the poem, she compares her experience with the biblical tale of the infant Moses, whose mother placed him in a reed basket and set him adrift on the Nile to prevent him from being murdered by the Pharaoh.

We quote this poem at the beginning of our documentation because it also mirrors the experience of **Hilda HESS**. She and her siblings were no longer children when they left Germany, but the loss they suffered shaped them in a similar way. Sadly, she found no words to explain to her son, Peter, what horrors she had endured. He is the only direct descendant who can join us this year.

It was a long time before we located Hilda's son, about whom we initially knew only that he was called Peter. In June 2019, a member of our group contacted the Association of Jewish Refugees in London and had an appeal published in their Journal's 'Looking For...' section, in the hope of finding **Peter David KATZ**, the son of Hilda Hess from Malsch. Someone spotted the appeal and asked a relative of Peter's whether he was the person who was being sought. And so it transpired that Peter got in touch with us that year and was grateful for the opportunity to discover more about his heritage. Since then we have remained in regular contact.

Hans-Georg Schmitz
Translated by Peter Silver

Exodus

Lotte Kramer

For all mothers in anguish
Pushing out their babies
In a small basket

To let the river cradle them
And kind hands find
And nurture them

Providing safety
In a hostile world:
Our constant gratitude.

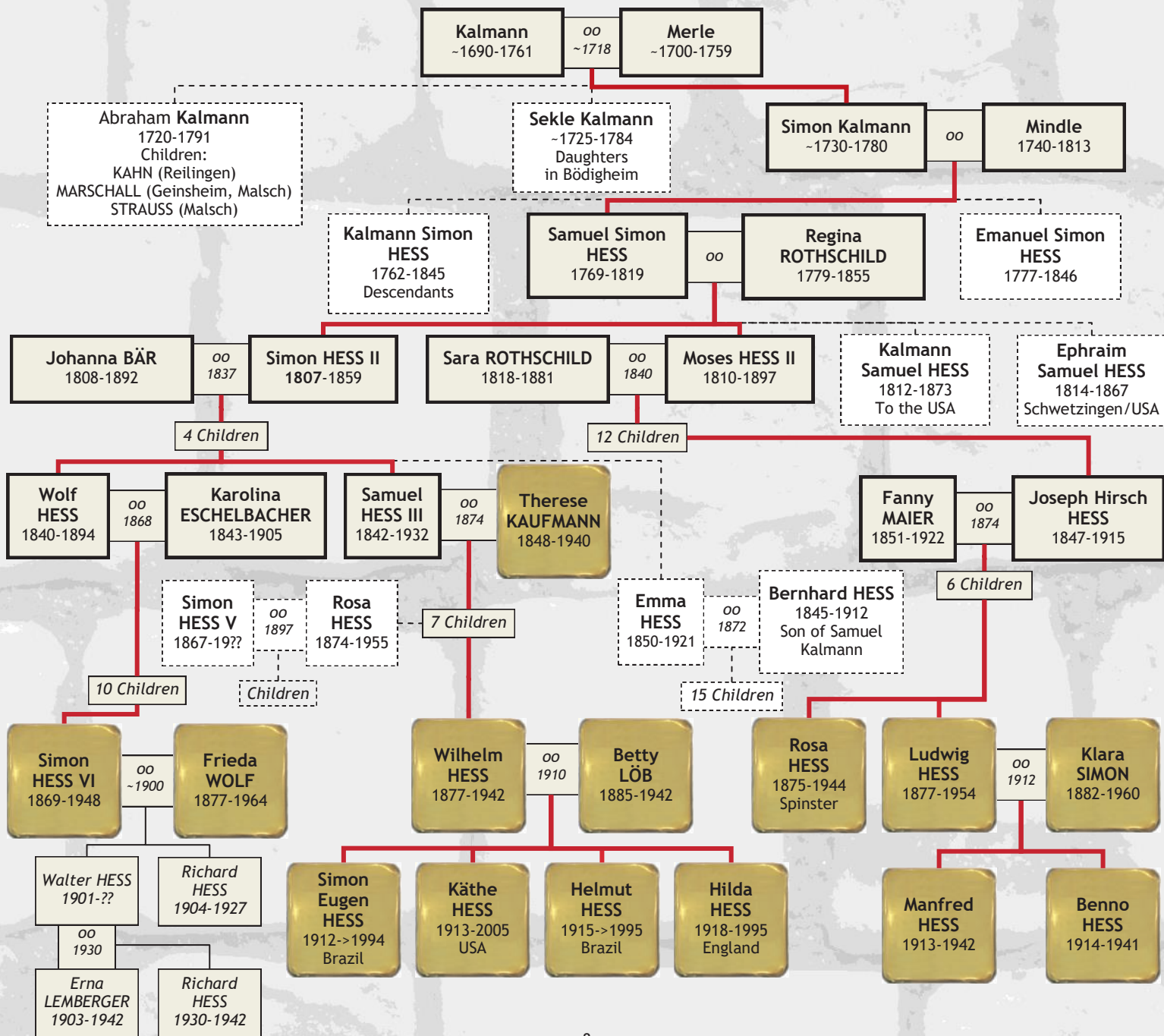
As in this last century
The crowded trains
Taking us away from home

Became our baby baskets
Rattling to foreign parts
Our exodus from death.

From "*More New and Collected Poems*" (Rockingham Press, 2015)
By kind permission of the publishers

Family Tree - The HESS Family in Malsch

Compiled by Hans-Georg Schmitz & Peter Silver



Locations of the new Stolpersteine



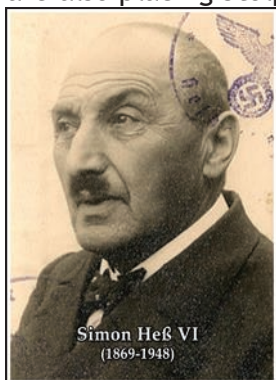
- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|---|
| I | Friedhofstrasse 2 | Simon VI & Frieda (<i>nee. Wolf</i>) Hess |
| II | Letzenbergstrasse 9 | Ludwig, Klara (<i>nee. Simon</i>), Manfred & Benno Hess |
| III | Letzenbergstrasse 5 | Therese Hess |
| IV | Raiffeisenplatz 4 | Rosa Hess |
| V | Hauptstrasse 86 | Wilhelm, Betty (<i>nee. Löb</i>), Simon Eugen, Käthe, Helmut & Hilda Hess |

- 1** Existing Stolpersteine for the Hilb / Hamburger family (Hauptstrasse 88) and the family of
2 Simon Hess VII (Mühlgasse 8), placed in February 2018

Simon Hess VI and Family - Friedhofstrasse 2

Samuel Simon HESS (1769-1819) had four sons. Most of this year's Stolpersteine are for descendants of his oldest son, **Simon HESS II** (1807-1859); he had four children: Mina, the oldest, emigrated to America in 1869; Emma, the youngest, married her cousin Bernhard from the first HESS line; six of their 15 children died very young. The older son, **Wolf HESS** (1840-1894), had 10 children; 7 of them had offspring, two died after just a few weeks.

Samuel HESS III, the younger son of **Simon HESS II**, is the father of **Wilhelm HESS**, for whose family we are also placing Stolpersteine.



Simon HESS VI was Wolf HESS's first child. When he married **Frieda Wolf** from Tiengen on the Upper Rhine in about 1900, he built the house Friedhofstrasse 4 (now Friedhofstrasse 2). It had a barn and a cowshed and even today one can still see the name **S HESS** spelled out in dark letters on the roof tiles.



During the First World War, Simon was appointed by the district office in Wiesloch as livestock buyer, responsible for supplying meat, not only to the military, but also to all butchers. No farmers were permitted to slaughter their own livestock without permission. After the war, he was elected to the district council and for many years was a member of the board of the synagogue congregation in Malsch.

Walter, the older son of Simon Hess VI and Frieda Wolf, was born in November 1901. Alongside his commercial training, he learnt the trade in his father's business. In 1923, soon after the devastating inflation, he opened a tobacco factory in Malsch along with two Christian partners. His father, Simon, and his uncle, Samuel, along with other relatives, advanced him considerable sums of money. The factory soon employed about 100 people and provided a welcome source of income for many in Malsch. The two new factory owners lived a lavish lifestyle and within a year had run up significant debts. Walter hustled for money with promises of marriage and through cheque fraud. When this was discovered and the court stepped in, the owners declared bankruptcy. Before an arrest warrant could be enforced, they had both left for Argentina. While Walter was sought by police in Baden, he returned to Württemberg and in January 1930 married **Erna LEMBERGER** from Rexingen bei Horb. The surviving



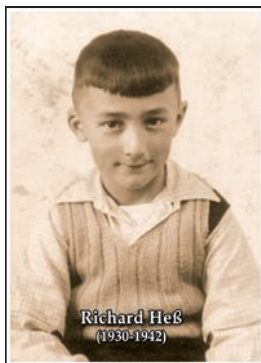
wedding photo shows that his parents and relatives were informed.

His father now managed to persuade Walter to give himself up to the judge, and paid bail for his release. His father also prevented him from having to serve a 6-month prison sentence by paying a suitable penalty; for Walter and Erna's son, Richard, was due to be born in December.

For their help with financing the factory, Walter's parents and relatives were left only with extensive debts. Nevertheless, Simon made his remaining son a partner in his livestock business and allowed the growing family to move in with him. Simon and Frieda's second son, Richard, had been killed in a motorcycle accident in December 1927 at the tender age of 23. The motorbike had been a present from them.

But Walter remained detached from reality and irresponsible, continuing to buy large numbers of livestock throughout southern Germany and regularly exceeding his credit limit. The bank only continued to underwrite him because it knew how capable his father was as a businessman; he sold all the animals quickly, probably mainly to slaughterhouses.

When the Jews were forbidden to trade at all, in April 1938 Walter fled once again to Argentina. He promised Erna that he would soon arrange for her and their son Richard to join him. But after waiting



Richard Heß
(1930-1942)



Erna Heß
(1903-1942)

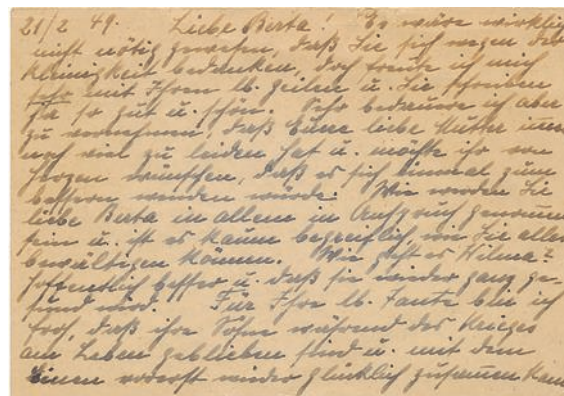
in vain, they returned to Erna's mother in Rexingen. In December 1941, along with many others, they were deported from there to the Jungfernhof concentration camp near Riga and shortly thereafter

murdered. We are not placing a Stolperstein for Walter; in 2011, two Stolpersteine were placed for Erna and Richard in Rexingen, at Bergstrasse No. 43.

In February 1939, not long after "Kristallnacht", during which their house was also wrecked, Simon and Frieda Hess left Malsch and moved into the Jewish old people's home in Lengnau, just a few kilometres from Tiengen, south of the Rhine. Frieda's brother in Zurich probably arranged and paid for the move to Switzerland. Even after the sale of all their remaining property, the bank in Malsch was left with unpaid debts. After the war, Simon and Frieda Hess still occasionally wrote to former neighbours who had remained on good terms with them to the end. They both died as stateless foreigners in Lengnau, he on 5th July 1948 and she on 28th April 1964. They are buried in the Jewish cemetery at Endingen-Lengnau.

Hans-Georg Schmitz

Translated by Peter Silver



Ludwig Hess and Family - Letzenbergstrasse 9 and Raiffeisenplatz 4

The brother of Simon II (*Wilhelm's grandfather*), was **Moses Hess** (1810-1897). He probably had a high level of religious education, for on his wife's tombstone he bears the respectful designation used for rabbis or scholars. He had 12 children with **Sara Rothschild** (1818-1881), almost all of whom died during their first weeks or years. Their son, **Joseph Hirsch HESS** (1847-1915), was the only one to start a family. His name appears on the memorial in the cemetery as a participant in the Franco-German war from 1870-71. Later, he was a founding member of the Malsch Veterans' Association. As a gift upon his marriage to **Fanny MAIER** from Malsch near Ettlingen in 1874, his parents gave him their house at No. 4 Raiffeisenplatz. They had six children together.



Rosa Heß
(1875-1944)

Rosa HESS was their first child, born on 13th March 1875. She had a limp and later needed a wheelchair. She never married and lived in her parents' house until the deportations on 22nd October, 1940. The entire contents of the home were sold at public auction in Wiesloch on 15.1.1941; the 395 Reichsmarks raised went

to the state. In January 1942, Rosa was transferred to the camp an Noé, where many of the sick were taken. She died on 4th April 1944 in a home in St. Sauveur, near Grenoble.

The next child was **Sophie** (1876-1932); she died the wife of printer and publisher Levi NACHTIGALL in Offenbach. We are not aware of any children. Her brother Emil only lived for a few weeks, whilst another brother, **David** (1881-1947), managed to emigrate to New York with his wife and daughter in 1939. Yet another brother, **Adolf** (1883-1942), was

deported with his wife from Karlsruhe; they were murdered in Auschwitz. Their sons Herbert and Hans were able to emigrate and died in the USA.



Ludwig Heß
(1877-1954)



Klara Heß
(1882-1960)

Ludwig HESS was the third child, born on 13th April 1877. He also suffered from a deformed bone structure - a hunchback. In Malsch he was known as '*He(r)sche Louis*' (*Hirsch's Louis - after his father*). His sister was also referred to as '*He(r)sche Rosa*'. He was commercially trained and traded in agricultural products. He was already 35 years old when he married **Klara SIMON** from Arheilgen near Darmstadt in 1912. There are two conflicting entries for her date of birth: 24th February 1877 or 22nd December 1882 (*as shown on her headstone*). They had two sons who were murdered by the National Socialists. Soon after they

married, with the help of Klara's dowry they bought the house at Letzenbergstrasse 9 from Samuel IV, the son of Wolf HESS. From 1926, during the November to January season, Ludwig bought tobacco on sale or return for companies in Bruchsal and Untergrombach, and between August and October he bought hops for another. On his own account he also bought small numbers of furs and hides, which he mainly sold to the Karl Menges company in Wiesloch. When the last teacher or Rabbi in Malsch retired in about 1930, as lay cantor, Ludwig took on the role of prayer leader, for which he received a small fee. But

around that time both his energy and consequently his income dwindled. The two sons now helped with monthly contributions; they paid rent because they both still lived at home.

Hersche Louis seems to have been a sociable and much-liked man, full of 'joie de vivre'. A poem called 'Judenball' (*Jews' Ball*) written by Joseph Knopf, who had been the mayor in the 1920's reads:

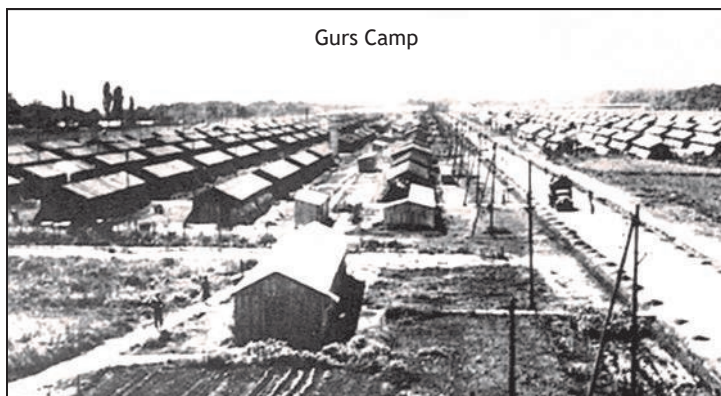
*In the grand hall of 'The Rose'
A Jews' Ball took place again.
The party started noisily
To the music of a Polonaise.
Hesche Lui with his hunchback
Quickly took dusky Marie's arm.
The sheriff was there too,
Why? - because they had all voted for him;
He sat merrily until 5am
With the children of Israel.*

In 1985, the then mayor produced a list of Jewish tradesmen there had been in Malsch in the year 1933; in it he also lists 'Ludwig Hess, Bean Trader'. Perhaps Hersche Louis once described himself as such in his later years - but probably only tongue-in-cheek. On the one hand, his small business could probably have been described as just 'peanuts' (as we say today) compared to others. On the other hand, the statement illustrates how irritating and unnecessary he found the question after he had to provide evidence on numerous occasions about his economic circumstances during the reparation action.

After the 1936 Berlin Olympics, by 1937 only very little income was achievable and by the end of the year all Jews were forbidden from working and had to live from their savings. When the synagogue was destroyed in November 1938 and soon thereafter demolished, Ludwig lost his last job - he seems to have acted as caretaker there. In 1939 they were so short of money that they even had to sell their house.

When all the Jews were deported on 22nd October 1940, they had to surrender all cash, their remaining

savings book, valuables, and the house complete with contents. Apart from one small suitcase, they were only permitted to take 10 Reichsmarks each with them. As they gathered ready to be collected in front of the then town hall in the high street, it is said that someone called out to Ludwig "*Do the Hess Hop*", and that he obligingly skipped. Clearly, he was known for his japes. This call to him could have been a form of grim mockery or a helpless attempt at encouragement. Contemporary witnesses unanimously report that he waved from the back of the truck and shouted, "*I'll be back!*" Such courage in the face of adversity left a deep impression.



In Gurs camp, nothing had been prepared for accommodating people. There were only roughly-boarded wooden huts through which the wind whistled, and completely inadequate food. In addition, Ludwig and Klara suffered from being separated from each other. Men and women were kept in separate sections, and during the first year they were only permitted to see each other for 10 minutes every fortnight. It was also extremely stressful not knowing the fate of their son, Benno. Ludwig and Klara regularly wrote letters from the camp to relatives, probably in America. From this correspondence they learnt in August 1914 that Benno had become a father. The name of his wife, their child and the place of the birth remained unknown.

In the end, Ludwig was emaciated, weighed just 8 stone, and was infested with lice. In March 1942, he

and Klara were moved from Gurs to a camp for the elderly and sick at Récébédou, where half the residents had died from hunger and the cold. We don't know why they escaped being transported to Auschwitz - perhaps they were just too ill or frail to travel.



After the Archbishop of Toulouse's public protest, the remaining residents were taken over time to various other establishments. In October 1943, via various other places en route, Ludwig and Klara arrived in the catholic old people's home in Saint-Rambert on the upper Loire. Then, in April 1946 they moved to the Jewish home at Lacaune, Tarn. Here, too, Ludwig occasionally served as lay cantor, as he had done in Gurs. This is where they probably learnt of the murder of their two sons. They also probably heard that in Germany one could now demand the return of the property they had lost and apply for reparation for the injustice suffered. So, they headed back to their beloved home full of hope that they would be well looked after for the rest of their lives.

On 6th May 1949 they arrived back in Malsch in the newly formed Federal Republic of Germany. Three days later they applied for reparation. Due to expiry of the time limit, they could no longer demand the return of their house in Letzenbergstrasse, but the new owners were ordered to pay them 1,000 DM compensation which, shortly after the currency reform, was a large amount.

They could also not return to their parents' house, because two families were living there. To begin with they spent two months living in the Beichel guesthouse, where they paid more for food

and lodging every day than they received in subsidy. Ludwig's demand for the return of his parents' house in Raiffeisenplatz was fundamentally recognised, however, on 12th July they were allocated the use of just one room with a kitchen. But no furniture or linen etc. was included and they had to buy everything new. The shops and craftsmen delivered everything on the understanding that they were entitled to state assistance for returnees. At the end of August, the Kilian store had an unpaid invoice in the amount of 1,300 DM for linen, curtains, crockery, cooking pots and pans etc. On top of that came expenses for a table, two chairs and beds as well as electrical and kitchen equipment. In November, after several interventions by the Jewish community and the senior counsellor in Heidelberg, they were allocated funds of 1,600 DM. They were refused further payments because they had apparently already received the highest rate possible. It was said that they should apply for additional compensation for imprisonment and pay their debts from that.

After some time, someone in the department realised that Ludwig and Klara had been confused with other individuals. In March 1950 the monthly aid grant was discontinued - the time limit had expired. Ludwig was told that if he thought he could produce the evidence needed for a pension under the new Compensation Act, he should submit a documented application for reparation via the public lawyer. Here we see the same withholding and delaying tactics that the German authorities used with Wilhelm Hess and in most of the restitution actions.

In August, they were at last promised significant compensation for three years of imprisonment in the camps. But by December, the money had still not been paid out. Klara complained about the dismal situation. After the loss of their children and the resultant heartbreak and stress, now even their creditors in the village were no longer satisfied with the promise of compensation - they wanted action; *"one can barely allow oneself to be seen on the*

street anymore.”

In the Autumn of 1951, Ludwig twice travelled to Heidelberg to remind the authorities about the promised payments in compensation for loss of earnings. Until then, they had no medical insurance and had already had to pay a fortune to doctors and pharmacies. In October 1952, Ludwig was finally awarded ‘*compensation for losses in occupational advancement.*’

Until the end of 1952, Klara received 75DM per month from her sister, Rosa Lorsch, in Dieburg, who gave up part of her own compensation for her. Without this hand-out, the first years would have been even more difficult. From then on, Ludwig and Klara received a very small pension.

In March 1953, the court decided that the house in Raiffeisenplatz had to be returned to them. The then owners had purchased it in 1940 from the German state, which was not the lawful owner.

After the traumatic experiences of the deportation, of life in camps and the splitting up of the family, Klara suffered serious problems with her nerves and heart, and loss of hearing. After a bout of pleurisy, Ludwig became weaker and weaker, struggling for breath during exertion. His memory and powers of concentration deteriorated significantly, and he also had terrible pain in his left foot. He was therefore admitted to the teaching hospital in July 1953 for a thorough examination. As his scoliosis (*hunchback*) was the result of childhood rickets, it was decided that no treatment would be effective in improving his condition.

Ludwig Hess died of a stroke in his home on 4th January 1954. His demise was registered by Heinrich Herrmann, who was present at his death. As he had lived in Ludwig’s house at Raiffeisenplatz No. 4 a few years earlier, perhaps he now rented rooms there.

Klara was immediately admitted to the Jewish old peoples’ home in Heidelberg, but her pension fell far short of covering the cost. It appears that she soon moved back to Malsch. In 1955 she received a grant from the reparation authority for Ludwig’s

funeral costs and in 1956 there was a further grant of compensation for the imprisonment of their sons.

On 29th March 1960, Klara Hess (*née Simon*) died in her home in Malsch. Her death was registered the following day by neighbour, Konrad Bender, known locally as ‘*Electro-Kon*’ because he ran an electrical goods store.

Klara was buried next to her husband in the Jewish section of the Bergfriedhof in Heidelberg; the inscriptions are now barely legible.

The Sons

Manfred Hess was born on 29th May 1913 in Malsch. He had commercial training and earned a good wage working for the Ebner & Kramer tobacco factory in Wiesloch. In the 1930’s, when their father’s income fell, Manfred and Benno supported their parents with monthly payments for rent. Both continued to live at home in Letzenbergstrasse. When the tobacco factory had to close in 1937 because it was Jewish-owned, he lost his job.

After ‘*Kristallnacht*’, on 10th November 1938, both brothers were arrested and held in so-called ‘protective custody’ in Dachau concentration camp. Manfred’s prisoner number was 20650. He was released on 16th December. Whether he was then still able to contribute financially to the family from



his poorly paid unskilled jobs is not known. In July 1939, he followed his brother to Darmstadt, but appears to have returned soon after.

On 22nd October 1940, Manfred was deported to Gurs along with his parents and all the remaining Jews in Malsch. In August 1942, he was transferred to the holding camp at Drancy near Paris and then on the 31st sent to Auschwitz. Of the thousand people on that Transport No.26, only 12 men and 27 women were not led directly to the gas chambers. We can therefore say that, in all likelihood, Manfred Hess was murdered on arrival at Auschwitz on 2nd September 1942.

Entry No.299 in the Malsch police report book 1932-1940 reads: '*Manfred Hess, moved away 21.10.40*'. This is how the National Socialist authorities, in this instance Mayor Fleckenstein whom they had installed, tried to cover up the deportation. He also had no qualms about forging documents, recording Manfred's departure from Malsch one day earlier, to make it look as though he had left of his own accord.

Benno (or Berthold) HESS was born on 19th September 1914 in Malsch. We don't know anything about his vocational training. He worked for Louis Kiewe in the wholesale foot-wear business. Co-owner of this Heidelberg-based company was the son of the teacher or Rabbi in Malsch, Abraham Rosenbusch. Between 1936-7 the company was liquidated, and Benno was out of work.



During '*Kristallnacht*' on 10th November 1938, Benno was also arrested and taken to Dachau; he was not released until 28th December.

On 23rd June 1939, Benno gave notice of departure to Eschelbronner Stasse, Darmstadt. We presume that he wanted to prepare for emigration to Palestine.

According to the Federal Memorial Book, he was sent to Paderborn to retrain as a farmer and was then ordered to go to Berlin to be deported to Palestine. The National Socialists liked to send Jews who were fit for work and all '*unnecessary*' individuals to work camps for forced labour. Zionist organisations encouraged training in farming as good preparation for life on a kibbutz. This could lead to cooperation with the National Socialist authorities, who at first just wanted to be rid of the Jews.

The following two years of Benno's life can only be illustrated by means of circumstantial evidence, but there are valid reasons for this:

After pressure from Adolf Eichmann, towards the end of 1939 a Zionist youth organisation in Austria assembled a group of over 800 youngsters in Vienna who were to be taken to Palestine, although the British mandate government at the time did not permit any more Jewish immigration. They were supposed to go by boat down the Danube and then by ship from the Black Sea coast to their destination. In Bratislava, 130 refugees from Berlin and others joined the adventure. Benno must have been amongst them, because according to Yad Vashem, he stayed for a while in Vienna.

The journey progressed very slowly with several changes of vessel and a long stopover until May 1940 in Kladovo (*Serbia*), because the Danube was frozen over. It was during this period that Benno appears to have got married. He had apparently met his wife, Selma Heumann, in Paderborn. According to the Federal Memorial Book, she was born on 14th March 1919 in Eschweiler, and she had also been sent to Paderborn for retraining and attempted to emigrate via Yugoslavia in November 1939.

Because no ship was available on the Black Sea anymore, in the Autumn of 1940 the emigrants were taken to Šabac (*Serbia*), which lay 300km upstream on the river Save, where they were looked after by the Jewish community there. Families in the town took the married couples in. In 1941, his parents were in Gurs and learnt via letters from relatives than

Benno had had a son, but they didn't know the name of either his wife or child. At the time, the young family was still in Šabac. Progress on their journey became impossible after the German armed forces marched into Yugoslavia in April.

Soon, the Jews were forced to wear yellow armbands to identify themselves, then they were assembled in concentration camps. In October, the men were taken on a second forced march to the village of Zasavica, 25 miles away, where the occupying forces had had a huge pit dug. Over the course of two days, the prisoners were led in groups to the edge of the pit until they had all been shot.

On the list of those who were murdered are Benno and Selma Hess (*see the JewishGen Database*), and also an Otto Sami Hess, born on 22nd February 1923. Otto must have been their son, because the memorial book doesn't contain that name.

The shootings had been ordered as an act of revenge for partisan attacks and it is possible that an incorrect birth date was recorded for Sami, and that Selma was also included in order to reach the required quota. Six months later, the remaining women and children were murdered - gassed in a

lorry.

The mass grave in Zasavica was opened in 1945 and the human remains were re-buried in the Jewish cemetery in Šabac. In 1959 they were finally moved to another grave in the Sephardic cemetery in Belgrade, where a separate memorial was erected.

The adventurous story of this group of refugees became known as the '*Kladovo Transport*' (*see for instance Wikipedia.org*) and was later well researched by many. The story was also told in a film which was shown on German television some years ago.

Benno's birth certificate in the Malsch register had the following comment added:

“Died October 1941 in Zasavica near Šabac, Yugoslavia - according to the Arlosen (near Kassel) register No. 407/1956”

By then, the list of those shot on 12th & 13th October was available from the International Red Cross in Arlosen.

*Hans-Georg Schmitz
Translated by Peter Silver*



People on the way to their execution in Šabac (Yugoslavia), 1941
(Photo: Yad Vashem, 2572/30)

Wilhelm Hess and Family - Hauptstrasse 86 and Letzenbergstrasse 5

Wilhelm HESS is also a descendant of Samuel Simon HESS and grandson of Simon II (1807-1859) and Johanna BÄR from Stebbach, near Eppingen (1808-1892). After their older son, Wolf, had bought the house at No. 9 Letzenbergstrasse in 1868, in 1873 Johanna gave to Samuel III (1842-1932 - according to Jewish tradition he was named after his grandfather), the parental home on the right at the end of Raiffeisenplatz, under the condition that she could continue to live in the attic rooms and use the kitchen, and be cared for until the end of her days. Instead, shortly before his wedding, Samuel purchased the house at No.5 Letzenbergstrasse, including a garden and some agricultural land, and had his mother move in with him there.



In April 1874, Samuel Simon married **Therese KAUFMANN**, born on 24th November 1848 as the second child of the master baker Isaak Hirsch, alias Heinrich KAUFMANN in Feudenheim, and Friederike FREUND from Odenheim. Just a few days after the wedding, along with his brother Wolf, Samuel established the '*Hess Brothers*' partnership. Both

brothers had a good understanding of what the rural families in the region needed, what they could offer and who needed their agricultural products; they therefore became successful businessmen. In 1883, they each established their own businesses, in which their respective wives were partners.

Samuel III was known in the village as '*Sorfel*'. The couple had 7 children; we know nothing about their son Simon, Julius died just 3 weeks after he was born. Emil was killed in WWI and is commemorated on the gravestone of his unmarried

sister, Emma (*Mingolsheim IX 17*). The youngest daughter, Johanna, married in Emmendingen; she was deported from there to Gurs along with her husband and then murdered in Auschwitz.

Rosa HESS (1874-1955) was their oldest child; she married her cousin Simon V from the first HESS line, moved to Walldorf in 1899 and built up a tobacco business with him. In 1928, along with her daughters, she established her own company (*there is no further mention of her husband*) and became very successful and admired in this otherwise male-dominated domain.

In July 1938, she was forced to sell the business; during '*Kristallnacht*' her house was ransacked. She managed to emigrate with her daughters to Montevideo in Uruguay; the German state had robbed them of all their property. Her son, Siegfried, in Zurich, regularly sent some money, but unable to speak the language she remained isolated and died penniless.

From the applications for reparation, we learn of the expensive and luxurious furnishings which the parents had given as a wedding gift. We therefore know that Samuel and Therese HESS enjoyed an affluent lifestyle.

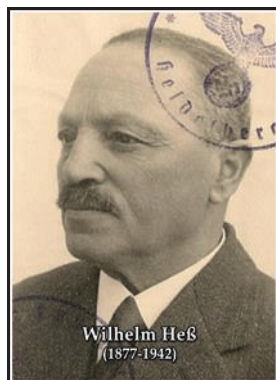
Samuel III died in Malsch on 4th May 1932. The left-hand side of his gravestone in Mingolsheim (*IX 17*) remains blank for the inscription for his wife, which was never added.

In January 1939, Theresa was compelled to sell her house, because neither she nor her children had income anymore. On 22nd October 1940, she was deported to Gurs along with her son, daughter-in-law and all the remaining Jews in Malsch. She didn't have the strength to climb onto the lorry which was to take them to the railway station; bystanders say that the elderly woman was shoved aboard by the Stormtroopers. She died just two weeks after

arriving in the camp in southern France and was buried there. There were no gravestones; it was not until decades later that, thanks to initiatives from Karlsruhe and elsewhere, stone No. 84 was erected for her.



Wilhelm HESS, her fourth child, was born on 19th December 1877. In the list of businesses drawn up after a tour of Malsch in 1894, an assistant to the merchant Samuel HESS III is mentioned; this could have been Wilhelm, who probably helped his father out after school in his livestock business and so learned the job from the ground up. In 1900, they established the ‘*Samuel Hess and Son Partnership*’, which was listed on the commercial register in Wiesloch. The reason why Wilhelm was known in the village as ‘*Fresser*’ can, as is the case with most nicknames, no longer be determined.



In November 1910, Wilhelm HESS got married in Philippsburg to **Betty LÖB**, who had been born there on 7th April 1885 as the first child of the master

baker Karl LÖB and Bertha STERNWEILER from Walldorf. Betty’s great-grandfather came from near Hagenau in Alsace; he had settled in Philippsburg shortly after 1800 and became the ancestor of all the LÖBs (*formerly LOEB*) there.

Wilhelm probably bought the house at No. 86 Hauptstrasse in Malsch shortly before getting married. It is a two-storey building with solid outer walls on the ground floor and half-timbered on the upper floor. The house included a barn with an area for livestock, which would soon be filled with about 15 cattle and horses. In addition, the family owned several fields and meadows where the animals could graze, or where he could cultivate feed for them.



By December, he had registered as a citizen of Malsch (No. 504). The 1920 Reich’s list of livestock traders in Malsch included Samuel Hess III and ‘*Wilh. Hess, Tel. 43*’. In 1921, at the age of 79, his father, Samuel, retired and handed the business over to his son entirely.

The flourishing business had not yet been too badly affected by the 1933 Nazi boycott actions. But in 1934, some customers in Walldorf, Rot, Mühlhausen, Rettigheim and other places began simply not paying for livestock which they had received. They relied on Hitler’s speeches, in which he said that Germans needn’t pay anything to Jews. By now,

Jews were no longer able to appeal before a court.

After the 1936 Olympics, trade ceased almost completely, and by 1st January 1937, their trading licences had been withdrawn. Then the family had to survive on what they could grow in the garden and fields and from the milk from their one remaining cow; they had to draw on their savings.

Wilhelm and Betty probably facilitated their daughters' emigration. During '*Kristallnacht*', their house was attacked by local Party members, and most of the furnishings were destroyed. Like his mother, Wilhelm and his wife were deported to Gurs on 22nd October 1940 along with all the Jews from Baden and the Saar-Palatinate; in Germany this was euphemistically referred to as '*evacuated*'.

For 25 years, the couple had employed a non-Jewish housemaid by the name of Anna Fässler (*or Fessler*), who had looked after their children from when they were small. Wilhelm was very grateful to Anna for her loyal service, staying with them for so many years despite all the smear campaigns and defamation; now he wanted to leave her the house. However, a minor official who lived nearby lodged false accusations against Anna. He wanted her to say that she had had an affair with Wilhelm Hess, who could then be accused of '*race defilement*'. Anna was taken to Heidelberg prison, but released a week later because she stuck to the truth and there was no evidence against her. Not long after, she turned her back on Malsch. In 1962, it was known by the then mayor that Anna had since passed away.

The last letter which Wilhelm and Betty wrote from the camp at Gurs, dated 22nd July 1942, still exists. It was meant for all their children and addressed to their daughter, Käthe, and her husband in the USA. The parents complain that they don't get any mail. Only one letter written by Hilda in June had arrived, but without the parcels she mentioned. They ask to have money to sent to them via the Quakers, because they don't have enough to eat.

When the British started to repel the German North Africa Campaign, at the beginning of August 1942, the emptying of Gurs camp began. On August

6th, Wilhelm and Betty were among the first to be transferred to the holding camp at Drancy (*near Paris*); on August 10th they were sent to Auschwitz on Transport No. 17 and immediately upon arrival on August 12th, led to the gas chambers. Of the 1,006 individuals in the cattle wagons, only 240 were selected for the '*death by work*' detail.

The Sons

Simon Eugen HESS was the first of Wilhelm Hess and Betty Löb's four children and was born on 28th February 1912. We know very little about him. On the school photograph taken in 1926, he can be seen looking wide awake and alert amongst his school friends.

It is unclear whether he took over the commercial dealings in his father's business, or whether he (*also*) worked elsewhere. When the family's trading licence was withdrawn in 1937, their only means of getting by was from the small pieces of farmland which his grandfather, Simon III, had previously acquired. That's probably why Simon Eugen's 1939 identity card notes his occupation as '*farmer*'.

After the attack on his parents' house during '*Kristallnacht*', he was taken to Dachau concentration camp for several weeks. On 1st July, 1939, he gave notice of departure at the town hall, stating his profession as '*businessman*', in order to emigrate to Bolivia. The additional information we found about Simon Eugen and Helmut comes from the files from their claim for reparation. Unfortunately, these don't contain any letters from Simon. According to these files, in November 1939, both he and his brother were granted permission by the consulate in La Paz to settle in Brazil.

Eugen lived in Ribeirão Pires, a town in the in the similarly-named county in the metropole region of São Paulo. Here, he went by the name of just



'Eugen', and his siblings also called him this.

In 1944 he married Odetta de OLIVEIRA, who had been born locally in 1921. We don't know whether they had any children. By then, Eugen had probably been naturalised; he may also have owned a factory at some point. In 1944 he was unwell, as was his wife, who had fallen a number of times and now had problems walking. This news from one of Helmut's letters is the last heard of him.

Helmut HESS was born in Malsch in March 1915. He probably also attended business school and regularly helped in his parents' business. It was he who purchased almost all the livestock; to help with this, he used his father's Opel car. Every fortnight he was in Koblenz and every month in Vilshofen, Lower Bavaria. In addition, he bought from town to town in Hessen, Thuringia, and the Upper Palatinate, and further afield in the towns of Donauwörth, Nördlingen etc., where there were large livestock markets. Whenever a railway car with up to twenty cows or calves arrived for them at Rot-Malsch station, they had helpers in the village who would drive the cattle from the station to the family's cowshed for their temporary stay until they were sold. Simon Eugen and his father, Wilhelm, probably took on the job of selling the animals, no doubt mostly to slaughterhouses.

In 1936, whilst Helmut was driving through Göttingen in the new Opel, a truck ran into him. It was the truck driver's fault, "*but the police said that if I didn't go away, they would lock me up - just for being a Jew. The repairs cost us 1,000 Marks.*"

After their trading licence was withdrawn in 1937, Eugen looked for work to cover his living costs. He found a job as a cowhand, until his employer, Wertheimer, also had to give up his business. After



that, he worked in the Netter & Eisig synthetic leather factory, about which he wrote: "*I wasn't sent to Dachau, because I carried out the dirtiest work in the factory. I'd rather not think about all these things anymore.*" Most of what we know about him and his brother is only thanks to copies of two of his letters to his sister Hilda in London, which are contained in the restitution files.

On July 1st, 1939, Helmut also gave notice of departure from Malsch to emigrate to Bolivia. He was naturalised in Brazil in 1952. From his letter dated February 1957, we learn that he lived in Sabaúna, a district of the city of Mogi das Cruzes, 25 miles east of São Paulo. He was married and, like Francis, his wife, had recently undergone surgery, but was feeling restored. We don't know whether they had any children. He owned some land and raised cattle and from time to time, pigs.

Hilda's estate included letters from Helmut. In 1978, he wrote that he suffered repeatedly from kidney stones which caused him a lot of pain. Due to a hernia, he could not longer do any heavy work and wanted to retire. When he learnt of Hilda's serious illness in 1994, he wrote to her with great empathy and personally: he was very grateful for life, held no grudges and had no fear of death. He had learnt a lot from his wife when she was dying. Now he lived in São Francisco, which was good for his health, and looked after himself. Another woman lived with him, returning to her house every week to check on things. He still had the house in Mogi and also regularly checked that everything was in order. In 1995, Helmut wrote one more time to Hilda's husband after he had become a widower.

We were unable to find any further information about Simon Eugen and Helmut Hess and therefore could not establish contact with any of their potential descendants in Brazil.

In 1962 and again in 1978, Helmut mentioned 'Kurt' in São Paulo; perhaps this was the son of their aunt Johanna (*married name GÜNZBERGER*).

Meine Lieben

Sabina 2/2/57.

23

Deinen Brief habe ich mit Dank erhalten. Ich verlese auch
 das in der Zwischenzeit die Vorkommnisse dort anerkennen.
 Dass, ob. Hilde nicht bei mir sein was wir sinnesich ver-
 dienen. Ich kann dir nur sagen, dass wir viel Geld
 verloren, in Hallstadt, Ost, Mühlhausen u. d. v. die
 Kunden zahlten die Kiste nicht mehr dem Hilde
 versprochen man brachte den Juden nicht zahlen.
 Wir verkauften 2 verarbeiteten pro Kiste ungefähr
 15 bis 20 Euro. Das Durchschnitt gab es 50 Mark
 Kredit. Natürlich je nach dem Kauf.
 Wir haben noch alles verloren, na, sehr zu was du
 rathen kannst.

Für den Kiste habe ich sehr sehr lange nicht ge-
 hört, eben falls nur Anna.

Wie geht es euch gesunde. Die 2 hier ist die
 Hauptstadt. Eugen's Frau wurde letztes operiert,
 ist wieder hergestellt. Fanni war vor 2 Monaten
 auch schwer krank, ist Gott. d. wieder gut.

Wir waren 14 Tage am Meer um nun zu erholen.
 Ich selbst wurde mich wahrscheinlich ein bisschen
 operieren lassen. Was heute beim Tag. - Hausarbeiten.

Ofters habe ich alles zu verkaufen, denn man
 regt sich zu sehr auf und immer sich von anderen.
 Wenn man nicht hinten und vorne dabei ist
 geht es ein fast nicht.

Hoffe nun euch baldmöglichst zu hören.

Hergl. Grüsse & Liebe für Peter

N.B. Ich glaube es war im 1937
 dass ^{ich} die Handels-erlaubnis
 entzogen wurde. Hel

Letter from Helmut 1957

Letter from Helmut 1978

28-7-78

Meine Lieben,

Sehr lange wollte schreiben, jedoch es aber immer von
 Tag zu Tag, weil es aber nicht mehr länger aufschreiben kann.
 Dein Geburtstag ist ja schon nahe da, und mich die
 H. Hilde alles Gute wünschen, hauptsächlich Gesundheit.
 Ich muss ja nicht wie du prob. befinden. Ich selbst habe
 immer mit etwas anderem zu leiden. Immer habe
 Nerven, Fieber und bis die Haare gelien hat man sehr
 große Schmerzen. Habe ich so viele Nagelmittel ge-
 benommen und trotzdem immer die selbe Stelle.

Was du wegen dieser Fassung oder etwas unternehmen
 mich 2 Ich selbst habe viel seelisch gemacht habe ja auch
 ungefähr 15 Monate lang mit Schizophrenie gearbeitet.
 Heute hat mich unterkommen. Ich habe auf dem L. für
 seine Frau arbeitet in Müri das Lager - 17 km von hier
 entfernt. Namentlich jeden Freitag nach Hause und geht
 "Mutter", zurück.

Wie folgendes: Als Kiste mich mit Hilfe der Hermann
 stark habe sie eingeladen. Nach einiger Zeit wird Herrschaften
 Kiste sie mich mit dass sie kommen möchte. Dies wurde
 mir am 19 April. Bei 18 April - mir ein Tag vorher -
 bekam einen Brief und schrieb sie dass sie mich in
 L. bei Michael am 19. um 9¹⁰ früh im Tag. Reist an-
 kommen. Habe sie dort abgeholt. Sie blieben
 einen Monat hier am 20 Mai sind sie wieder zurück
 gefahren. In der Zwischenzeit hat sie sehr verschiedene
 Briefe geschrieben. Es hat sich sehr gut getan und schrieb
 sie, dass dies ihre besten Feinde ihres Lebens waren.

Nach H. Hilde, du sagst mir nicht dass du beleidigt zu
 sein. Ja man muss alle Menschen lassen wie sie sind
 oder überlegt bei nicht alle Menschen lassen wie sie sind
 jeder lebt sein Leben - im selben Land sind andere
 L. Hier, wegen mir kann jeder malen was er will,
 ich bin anders und nicht dass man was andere tun
 oder tun lassen, habe genug mit mir zu tun.
 Nicht auch nicht wissen ob ich ein bisschen oder
 wenig bekommen. Habe bis heute nur sehr gearbeitet,
 und um Hilfe sehr öfter alles an den Nagel hängen.
 Hoffe bis Ende des Jahres werde es mich leicht machen,
 schwer arbeiten kann nicht mehr. Wende ich im Jahre
 operiert wegen Bruch und leider jetzt wieder dazukommen.
 Augen sagt immer es müht gar nicht wenn man Geld hat
 aber keine Gesundheit. Ja er hat Recht.

Hoffe bald von dir zu hören.
 Ich heute die alle Herzl. d. Fanni
 viele Glückwünsche zum Geburtstag Helmut

The Daughters

Käthe / Käte HESS was Wilhelm and Betty's second child, born on 1st March 1913 in Malsch. A book containing the inscription 'This book belongs to Käte Hess, Malsch 7.XI.27, Hilde Hess, Malsch, 8.XI.27.' has survived. Inside the back cover, they drew a sketch of themselves playing together. Ruth Hamburger, who lived in the house next door, still remembers that the Hess family had a large collection of children's books, and that she was allowed to borrow one sometimes. After their children had moved away, Wilhelm and Betty often let Ruth's mother come over to read.

A photograph taken in about 1934 shows Käthe and Sofie, the daughter of Salomon Hess, relaxing together on a flower-covered meadow.

After completing her basic education in Malsch, Käthe attended a business school. The fact that she also learnt some English there would prove to be of advantage to her later. According to the Police report book, on 31.10.1936 she moved to Bockhorst (now a part of *Versmold in North Rhine-Westphalia*). Then, after a few weeks back home with her parents, she went to Gotha in 1937. But by the end of the year, she returned. One can assume that both she and her sister, Hilda, were employed in Jewish households, because due to the propaganda, others no longer dared to employ Jews. Then their employers either left their homeland or had themselves lost their businesses or jobs and could no longer afford to



employ staff.

Käthe emigrated to New York in April 1938. Shortly after her arrival she started to suffer from depression and was unable to work for months. This insidious illness also affected her later, and made dealing with her difficult for many people.

In the 1940 New York Census, she is described as a 27-year-old domestic help, working for the Elio family in nearby Mamaroneck, earning \$600 for a 72-hour week.

In April 1941, whilst in the camp at Gurs, her parents learned from others that Käthe had become engaged. The same year, she married the surgeon, Dr. Hermann Hornik, from Berlin. Hermann had arrived in New York in June 1937 aboard the steamer 'Gerolstein', was 32 years old and (still) married. On 20th September 1944, their son, Michael Hornik, was born. In 1972, Michael was awarded a Doctorate in Anthropology and History for his paper on Nationalism in Puerto Rico between 1898-1922. On 15th December 1949 their daughter, Betty, was born.

Käthe's husband passed away in 1977 and not long after, her brother Helmut invited her to come to Brazil. In 1978 she visited him together with her son Michael for a month, afterwards writing that it had been the best holiday she had ever had. Later, Käthe also visited Malsch and came into contact with Willy Messmer in Mingolsheim, who began to write a book about the Jewish communities. She provided him with information about her own and other families and also asked about the possibility of her son, Michael, finding employment in Germany.

In 1976, Michael married Barbara J. Fulton, who was a little older than him. In about the year 2000, he was working for a company which was building housing and holiday estates in Lake City, Florida. Käthe Hess Hornik passed away there on 28th August 2005. Michael probably moved to Tallahassee in Florida. After completing her education, his younger



sister, Betty, worked in the hospital where her father was employed. She later married and had children; her husband may be called Gary or Gregory Goddard and they still live somewhere in Florida. All efforts to establish contact with Michael and Betty or other family members have unfortunately been unsuccessful.

Hilda HESS was Wilhelm and Betty's youngest child and was born on 13th August 1918. From Easter 1925, she attended the primary school in Malsch, then the continuation school there for two years until Easter 1935.

On 1st November 1935, she went to Bruchsal as a domestic worker. A year later, she went to Frankfurt, returning in September 1938. According to the Police report book, Hilda left Malsch on 27th April 1939 to emigrate to London. Her passport was issued on 13th April in Heidelberg.

Initially, she got a domestic job which had probably been pre-arranged by an aid agency in Germany. Thanks to daily practice, Hilda's English skills improved rapidly and she soon got along well. Like almost all Germans, when the war started, she was interned in a hotel on the Isle of Man. She was able to return to London in June 1941 and worked as a tailor's assistant in a large firm.

We don't know whether she got to know her husband whilst on the Isle of Man or beforehand. Emanuel Katz was born in 1911 in Pressburg, (*Bratislava*), where his father was a wine merchant. The family originally came from Deutschkreutz / Zelem, the largest Jewish community in the Burgenland with a famous orthodox Synagogue.

In March 1938, when Austria became a part of '*Greater Germany*', Emanuel was living in Vienna. On 31st May that year he was taken by the Nazis to Dachau concentration camp, from where he was later sent to Buchenwald until 3rd February 1939. A few weeks later, he asked to be accepted into Great Britain and, like



Hilda, was assisted by the Aid Organisation for German Jews in England. He worked in a dairy and was then allocated for training as a butcher.

He was also interned in 1940, and in September that year, sent to a camp in Canada. He was able to return in July 1941 and sought employment as an engine-builder.

Hilda and Emanuel married on 19th June 1943 in Bristol, where Emanuel was a butcher in the Pioneer Corps. The religious ceremony took place in London that August. Emanuel was naturalised in May 1947 and Hilda in October.

That same year she received the death certificates for her murdered parents. Apparently she blocked out this knowledge for many years, for in 1980 she wrote to Willy Messmer in Mingolsheim, telling him that she had just learnt from others the details of her parents' deaths, information which Käthe had given him previously.

Emanuel, (*referred to as 'Nachi' within the family*), worked hard to earn a living. At night he had a job with the Post Office and during the day he ran a small shop.

In 1994, Hilda was suffering from a serious form of Cancer, and in November, moved into a hospice. She wrote eloquently and in grateful praise about the good friends who looked always after her. She passed away on 29th June 1995. During the time while Hilda was ill, Emanuel had also had to go into hospital on several occasions. He passed away on 8th August 1998.

The family lived in the borough of Hendon in North-West London. Their only child, Peter Katz, was born after the war. To our great pleasure, he and his wife, Sherry, are coming to Malsch to attend the placing of the Stolpersteine.

* * * * *

Sequel

Wilhelm and Betty's four children applied for reparation for the persecution they suffered. They all agreed to engage a lawyer in London to represent them in the case, and transferred all power of attorney to him and sister Käthe. All the information which each sibling was able to provide was sent to Hilda.

She coordinated the reparation action on behalf of her siblings, probably because she was located closest to Germany. Also, her brothers were apparently less willing to come to terms with the events of the past, whereas Hilda strove for a long time to achieve justice for the suffering which had been caused to them (*which was also in line with the prevailing mood in England*). Furthermore, there was a lawyer in London, Dr Richard Weyl, who specialised in such cases and who was also accredited by the district and provincial court in Frankfurt, probably because he himself came from Germany. To have someone with such experience and tenacity was also important, because the German authorities tormented applicants with demands for evidence which they knew could simply not be provided and which, according to the Law, should have been their own duty to provide.

The application for reparation for the injustice suffered by Wilhelm and Betty was made jointly by Hilda and Käthe in December 1956. In January, Simon Eugen and Helmut also joined in and gave the lawyer power of attorney. One of Hilda's accounts was nominated to accept the funds awarded to all four siblings.

In June 1958, the regional reparation office in Karlsruhe demanded a certificate of inheritance from them, even though their lawyer had already advised the office in 1957 that it was its own responsibility to provide this as part of their investigation, and he even had received a reassurance that this would be done. In addition, the office demanded that all the heirs sign a single agreement that their entitlements should be deposited into a joint account.

The lawyer was outraged at this repeated delaying tactic and threatened to sue if the matter was not settled immediately. As no settlement was forthcoming, he advised the office at the end of October that he was going to sue in the Karlsruhe provincial court without further delay. At the same time, he demanded that the office immediately retrieve the files from Stuttgart, so that they could be produced in court promptly. He reminded them about another case where files had been withheld by moving them from one office to another, and he called such actions 'scheming'.

"Nominating a (joint) account is not a prerequisite for reaching a decision, whereas the murder of my clients' parents and their previous martyrdom most definitely are." Filled with outrage, he added; *"Do you think you can win favour through your permanent chicanery towards those who have been persecuted, resulting in their exasperation, of which the Federal President has demonstrated his awareness and which must also be abundantly clear to you? ... Start at last to treat your victims of yesterday with at least a minimum of humanity."*

The lawyer reacted in his very first sentence in court to the statement from the reparation office in response to the lawsuit: *"The defendant is attempting to justify the unjustifiable."* He went on to write: *"The assertion that there has been 'resistance on the claimants' side' is rejected as insolence"* and demanded instead that they at last immediately issue a ruling and pay the awarded sum.

Although the court ruled in February 1959 that the reparation office had to pay without continuing to insist on official joint heirs, by May, still nothing had happened. The lawyer enquired *"whether and to what extent an administrative body can defy a court decision."* It was not until June that the compensation for Wilhelm Hess's imprisonment was agreed.

In November 1961, financial compensation for losses in 'vocational advancement' was also approved. But even with this decision the office

employed its usual tricks: it based the amount on far too low an income. In July 1963, the lawyer pointed out the facts that forced them to reassess using a much higher income earned before the time of the National Socialists. The case continued into the 1970's!

That's how carefully the German officials treated their state's assets, not to mention its international reputation. The administrators and judges were the same ones who had compliantly helped to carry out the injustices of the National Socialists, and they still felt the need to cleanse themselves of their own deeds.

*Hans-Georg Schmitz
Translated by Peter Silver*

In 1980 I had an exchange of correspondence with Mrs Hilda Katz. I was therefore able to inform her about the ultimate fate of her parents and grandmother. Mrs Katz also asked me whether it might be possible to sue an office of the German government over the deportation and murder of her parents and grandmother or to make a claim for material compensation.

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"In the years between 1955 - 60 we received some money for our house and a few fields, but it was a very small amount. But the matter is closed and I don't want to think about it any more..."

Then she mentioned a family by the name of Rösch, who "were all very nice to us and always gave us food from their shop."

She also spoke positively about my classmate from secondary school in Bruchsal, who later became deputy headmaster at the primary school in Malsch: "Headmaster Emmerich was always very correct with me when I went to school. He never made me feel that I was Jewish."

One of her neighbours - whom she named - was, however, not remembered so fondly. At first he was "a good friend" of the Hess family, but later he became "a dreadful Nazi" and had "sent our maid, Anna Fessler, who was about 55 years old, to prison for a week. But there's no hate in me..."

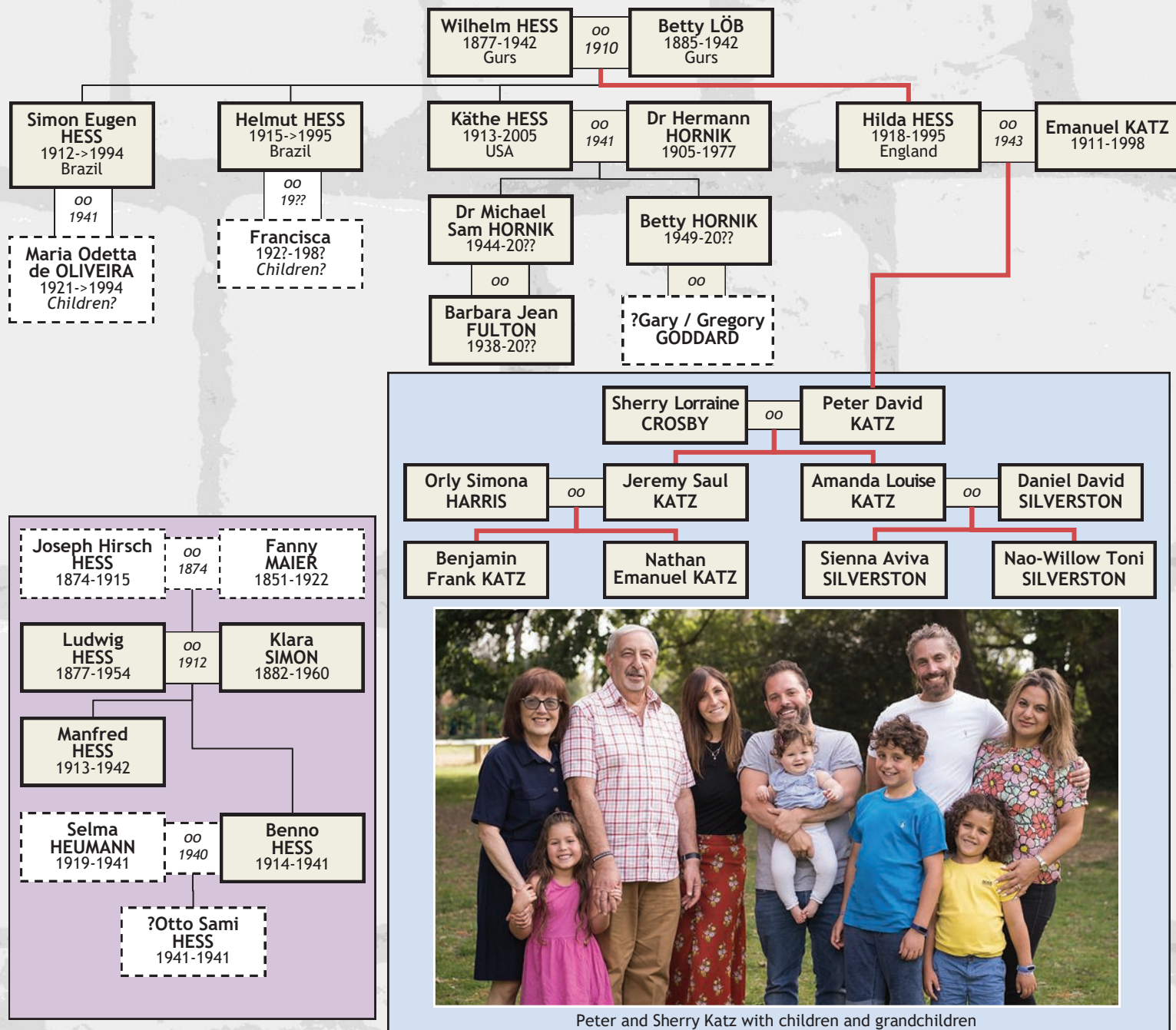
Extract from "*Juden unserer Heimat*" by Willy Messmer (Pages 163-4)



Wedding Photograph Hilda and Emanuel 1943

Descendants of the HESS Families from Malsch

Compiled by Hans-Georg Schmitz & Peter Silver



The Malsch Stolperstein Initiative

The Malsch Stolperstein Initiative was created from the research group ‘*Jewish Life in Malsch*’ with the specific task of planning and implementing the placing of Stolpersteine.



The Stolperstein Initiative currently has eleven active members. These are (from left to right): Peter Silver, Dr Johannes Rott, Gaby Silver, Tanja Becker-Fröhlich, Lesley Heron, Ludwig Fröhlich, Andrea Schöffner and Hans-Georg Schmitz. (Missing from the photograph are Arved Östringer, Dr Bettina Lieske, Christian Lieske)

Stolpersteine commemorative plaques, placed throughout Germany and Europe to commemorate victims of the National Socialist regime, are financed by donations.

The members of the Stolperstein Initiative would like to thank everyone who helped, through words or deeds, to make the placing of Stolpersteine possible. We thank the municipality of Malsch for its support during the memorial evening and for its help with preparing the placement sites. We thank our Mayor, Tobias Greulich, for supporting our work and taking on the patronage of the Initiative and its activities. And we thank the home-owners for agreeing to the placing of Stolpersteine in front of their properties.

Not least, we thank everyone who contributed to the financing of the Stolpersteine by donating. It is *your* Stolpersteine which will bear witness for years to come of where the persecuted former Jewish citizens once lived.

We would also like to express particular thanks to the descendants of those former citizens, some of whom have visited Malsch on more than one occasion in recent years. Thank you for extending your hand to the town of your roots, and for allowing us to grasp it in our common desire for remembrance and reconciliation.

Illustrations

Page	Image	Source
00	House - Hauptstrasse 86	Private - StIM - Edited by P. Silver
00	Rose	http://www.publicdomainpictures.net/view-image.php?image=176572&picture=pink-rose-isolated (CC0) - Edited by P. Silver
00	Brass Plaque (blank)	http://www.stolpersteine.eu/ - Edited by P. Silver (<i>this appears several times in the booklet</i>)
00	Stolperstein Models	Private- StIM - Edited by P. Silver (<i>these images appear several times in the booklet</i>)
0	Photographs - Identity Cards	Municipality of Malsch - Edited by P. Silver (<i>these images appear several times in the booklet</i>)
0	Cobblestones	https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Laaser_Marmor_als_Stra%C3%9Fenfplaster.jpg - Wikimedia Creative Commons - GNU Free Documentation License
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8	Hess Family Tree	Private - StIM. Compiled by Hans-Georg Schmitz - Edited by P. Silver
9	Streetmap of Malsch	© OpenStreetMap contributors - www.openstreetmap.org/copyright Open Data Commons Open Database License - Edited by P. Silver
10	Barn Roof	Private - StIM - Ludwig Fröhlich - Edited by P. Silver
10	Wedding Photo Hess / Lemberger	Stolpersteinverlegung for Erna and Richard Hess on 26th November 2011 in Horb-Rexingen
11	Photo - Richard Heß	Stolpersteinverlegung for Erna and Richard Hess on 26th November 2011 in Horb-Rexingen
11	Photo - Identity Card - Erna Heß	Municipality of Malsch - Edited by P. Silver
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15	Deportation	Bruchsal - deportation to Gurs
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24	Sophie & Käthe Hess	Private - Estate of Therese "Resl" Hess - Edited by P. Silver
24	Book Cover - Juden unserer Heimat	Willy Messmer, Juden unserer Heimat, 1986
27	Text excerpt	Text from "Juden unserer Heimat" (p. 263+) by Willy Messmer
28	Wedding Emanuel & Hilda Katz	Private - StIM - Peter Katz - Edited by P. Silver
29	Family Tree - Hess Descendants	Private - StIM. Compiled by Hans-Georg Schmitz & P. Silver
29	Peter & Sherry Katz and Family	Private - StIM - Peter Katz - Edited by P. Silver
30	Members of the Stolperstein Initiative	Private - StIM - Edited by P. Silver

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Source	Details
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Archives of the Municipality of Malsch	-
Willy Messmer	Juden unserer Heimat - Die Geschichte der Juden aus den Orten Mingolsheim, Langenbrücken und Malsch, 1986
1200 Years Malsch. 783-1983	Menschen, Schicksal, Ereignisse - die Geschichte einer Gemeinde
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Registers of the municipality of Malsch and others	-
The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names	http://yvng.yadvashem.org/nameDetails.html?itemId=9696415&language=en#%21prettyPhoto
Interviews with contemporary witnesses from Malsch	Jewish Life in Malsch Research Group (Dr. Johannes Rott)

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