

Family Nathan Stern

Ringstrasse 12 (Jewish school), today newly built house

Nathan Stern, born 1902, was from the long-established Burghaun family Stern in Schlosstrasse. In 1933 he married Berta Blumenthal from Rhina, born 1907, the daughter of master baker Moses Blumenthal who also delivered matzo and other bakery products to Recha Stern's shop in Burghaun.

At first the couple lived in Burgstrasse 1 renting at Karl Hucke's house, where they were still registered in January 1936. Later they lived in the teacher's apartment at the Jewish school at Ringstrasse. Nathan was a salesman and dealt in fabric and woven goods. The couple had two children:

Markus, born 1936 in Fulda

Miriam, born 1941 in Frankfurt.

In the course of the Night of Broken Glass in 1938, the family had to experience the devastation of the school room and damage to their own apartment. Together with the other Jewish men, Nathan was arrested in the early morning of November 10th and taken to concentration camp Buchenwald. Berta might have fled to her mother to Rhina with little Markus. This would explain that the Sterns were robbed during the night after the pogrom.

Christian contemporary witness Christiane Doll reports in year 2000:

"My father sent me to the scene of fire with the remark: For later! At the school I only saw Bertel (Berta Stern). They lived there at the time. The school room, the blackboard, the violin, all that the Nazis had smashed to bits. I can still see the strings ripped from the violin. I also saw that they had demolished Bertel's kitchen, smashed the kitchen cupboard to pieces, a bunch of Nazi thugs. I could name them, but today it does not make any difference, they are all dead. Anyway, one of them was holding a stick in his hand. Bertel came outside crying: I still have all my washing in the copper back there, I'd like to get a few things. You are not getting in there, they said, and the one Nazi raised his stick and lifted some of the colored laundry that was already on the clothes line and dropped it. Then he kicked it into the dirt. I can still see it so clearly I could draw it, if I were able to draw. And the woman wept bitterly. They all had to leave then, after all, the school house was in pieces."

Soon after Nathan came back from the concentration camp, probably in January 1939, the family fled to Frankfurt Main where they lived at Thueringerstrasse 23 in February 1942. We can assume that from a postcard to their relative Herta Stern in the Netherlands: "Thanks God, we all are well and hope the same for you. Our little Miriam is a real joy, and Markus is already a strapping lad ..."

Until 1945, big and smaller deportation transports left from Frankfurt towards the east. Nathan and Berta Stern as well as Markus and little Miriam were transported east to Izbica, a ghetto near Lublin in Poland, either on 8th or 24th May 1942.

Most probably the final destinations of these transports were the death camps Sobibor and Majdanek. Supposably Nathan died in Majdanek and Berta in Sobibor. Presumably, the children were taken to Sobibor with their mother and murdered immediately after arrival.