

# Family Levi Stern

Ringstrasse 11

Salesman Levi Stern, born 1894 was from the long-established Burghaun Stern family from Schlosstrasse. In 1932 he married Ida Wetterhahn, born 1906 from Rhina. The couple had three daughters who were born in Fulda hospital:

Marianne, born 1933

Irene, born 1934

Alice, born 1935

Contemporary witnesses remember the children as very pretty blond girls. The Sterns rented Moses Braunschweiger's house after he and his family had emigrated to New York in November 1933.

As the other Jewish men, Levi Stern was arrested during the Night of Broken Glass and taken to concentration camp Buchenwald for several weeks. Despite this, the family could not even think of emigrating since they lacked the necessary means. Thus Levi Stern and his family had to stay in Burghaun with their daughters and endure all the humiliating and discriminatory measures that Jews were increasingly subjected to. Eventually, they received the order to be ready for deportation on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1941. Together with other Jews from Burghaun, Huenfeld and Fulda, they were transported to Kassel. From there they had to travel in unheated rail cars to Ghetto Riga for three days. There they were subjected to forced labor and suffered from hunger, cold and arbitrary violence.

According to information from memorial Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Levi, Ida and the youngest daughter Alice were deported to Auschwitz on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1943. Most probably the two other daughters Irene and Marianne, only nine and ten years old, were together with them.

There is even an eye-witness of what happened that day: Joseph Strauss from Huenfeld. He was there that day, the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1943, when the ghetto was liquidated before the advancing Red Army would reach it. He saw the Stern family and other acquaintances from Burghaun and the Huenfeld area being forced into the livestock wagons. "It was announced that the elderly and children under the age of 10 were relocated to old-age homes and orphanages. Levi Stern and his wife had these three pretty girls. The youngest had to get on the transport, but her parents and sisters did not have the heart to separate from her. They all went to their death together."

Documents at Auschwitz memorial prove that Levi Stern arrived in Auschwitz from Riga on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1943. He had the prisoner number 160812. From 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1943 to 7<sup>th</sup> January 1944 he was registered at Buna prison hospital at Auschwitz 3 Monowitz. From 25<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February 1944 he was again registered there. According to the Auschwitz 3 death records, he died on 29<sup>th</sup> January

1944. In reality that means that he died of the brutal working conditions at the Buna factory there that produced synthetic rubber and other chemicals for the "German Reich" in accordance with the Nazi program "extermination through labor".

Also Ida Stern and the three daughters were murdered at Auschwitz. It is very possible that the children and mother were selected immediately after arrival at the ramp and sent to the gas chambers. In this case, the Nazis did not even bother to write down their death dates.