

Ludwigsburg Stolpersteine laying

... Stumbling blocks/stones laid in 2013 ...

Six new stumbling blocks/stones and one corrected one, the memory of murdered neighbors continues to grow.

Stories of people who have been victims of the inhuman Nazi system because of their origin or health.

On **Saturday, April 27**, the stones were laid.

• Meta Stiefel - Marstallstraße 4 •



The report by **Christian Rehmenklau** from the **Stolperstein Initiative Ludwigsburg** about his research on the history of Meta Stiefel, music by violinist Katharina Collmer and accordionist Lilli Bender (teacher and student at the Oscar Paret School in Freiberg a.N.) and the lecture of a Hilde Domin poem by Silvine Goldfinger were part of the Stolperstein relocation in Marstallstraße 4, next to the Stolperstein in memory of Max Elsas the second stone in front of this house.



Stolpersteine in Ludwigsburg

Source: <https://stolpersteine-ludwigsburg.de/meta-stiefel/>

Meta Stiefel

The unwritten story of a neighbor on Marstallstraße 4



We know little about Meta Stiefel. Our first sources are the documentation of the fates of people of Jewish origin from Württemberg in the Main State Archives in Stuttgart and the Memorial Book Baden-Württemberg - both collections of information collected as carefully as possible, created decades after the end of the Nazi regime.

For Meta Stiefel we find: "Born on the 26th. April 1887 in Menzingen, lived around 1933 in Ludwigsburg, was born on the 1st Deported to Riga in December 1941 and died there." This information can also be found in Joachim Hahn's excellent book "Jüdisches Leben in Ludwigsburg" - Hahn also relied on the above-mentioned sources in his volume, published in 1998.

The review of the address directories of Ludwigsburg does not give any reference to Meta Stiefel. We know from other research that this suggests that Meta Stiefel worked as a domestic worker and was therefore not registered as "self-employed".

Then a file in the Ludwigsburg State Archives results in further findings - there the documents are kept, in which survivors themselves or relatives of Nazi victims tried to get at least financial compensation for the injustice suffered after the end of the reign of terror: In our case, it is about a dispute about a typewriter that Meta Stiefel obviously owned and which she had given to a Berta Traub in custody in 1941. After the war, the relatives of Meta Stiefel demanded this typewriter back; in the end, the device was then returned.

However, it is much more important that this file is the only concrete source of information about Meta Stiefel so far. Now we know: She lived as a domestic worker with the manufacturers' family Alsace in Marstallstraße 4 until 1941. When the police searched the house of their also Jewish employer, it was in 1941, the "exact day is not rememberable", Meta Stiefel asked the witness Berta Traub to take the new typewriter into custody "until she comes back and gives it out to anyone but to her personally."

Meta Stiefel could no longer reclaim the travel typewriter brand "Hermes Baby", it was picked up itself, transported to Riga and murdered there. A date of her death is not known. You can trace the path of the typewriter quite precisely on the basis of the conciliation file, but we will not find out anything more about its owner.

We can only speculate about the purpose for which Meta Stiefel bought this quite expensive machine (similar to the one shown here), what kind of life could have suited for this purpose. But in concrete terms, we only have the knowledge of a Ludwigsburg woman who was forced at the age of 54 to be transported almost two thousand kilometers to the east by one of the infamous trains from Stuttgart Nordbahnhof, and who was murdered there - and who had owned a typewriter.

Christian Rehmenklau

There are still many stories to tell - unfortunately...

The Ludwigsburg Stolperstein Initiative is far from finished even after eight years of continuous work. There are still many stories to be researched and reported by people from the city who have become victims of Nazi crimes. People who were murdered because of their origin, political opponents of the Nazis, people with illnesses or disabilities - dozens of Ludwigsburgers became victims of Nazi terror - and the support he had in significant parts of the population.



And about that typewriter...

According to Christian Rehmenklau of the Ludwigsburg Stolpersteine Initiative, the below information was from where he started his research, "Jüdisches Leben in Ludwigsburg," by Joachim Hahn, 1998. It is kind of a "Bible," where almost everything about Jewish life in Ludwigsburg can be found, sourced from all the relevant files.

The entry on Meta Stiefel states she was born on the 26th of April, 1887 in Menzingen. She lived in Ludwigsburg around 1933 and was employed by Max Elsas, who owned a small factory. She was later deported on December 1st, 1941 to Riga-Jungfernhof concentration camp where she died. Max was killed by the Nazis as well.

Other information came from a so-called mediation file: Klara Eger, née Stiefel, demanded the typewriter back of from Berta Traub. This file included a long story about how Berta handed the typewriter to her son, afraid the police might find out about 'Jewish property' she was hiding etc. The result was, that after a clear admonition and warning from Klara's lawyer, the typewriter all of a sudden reappeared and Berta even had to pay for a repair, 25 DM (Deutschmarks), quite a lot of money at that time.

Klara Stiefel survived, because she was married to an "Arier", i.e. a non-Jewish person, and at that time she was not fit for transportation (or deportation).



A side note by Christian Rehmenklau...

Klara and her German husband Otto had a son, Kurt, born on the April 2, 1922 and died in 2009 in Lauffen/Neckar. Kurt demanded compensation, according to the laws about financial compensation for Jewish victims. A witness, Lotte Lorch from Stuttgart, testified that he was with her in the Theresienstadt concentration camp for the last 4 months of Nazi rule in Germany. Unfortunately, I did not take a note how much he was actually recompensed, but he definitely was. I already gave you the names and addresses of Kurt's children.

I already mentioned to you about my vain attempt to contact Beate Eger, daughter of Kurt, in 2013.

Kurt married in 1955, so his children are probably still alive. Maybe you will be more successful.

I checked the the links you gave me, the one of trip advisor is amazing, the others go back to activities of our group, you can even see me (red anorak) and my wife on one of them. She is the one reciting the poetry when we installed the Stolperstein!

My reply to the above...

The book that you mentioned where you started your research for the biography of Meta Stiefel—"Jüdisches Leben in Ludwigsburg", 1998 by Joachim Hahn—was that the source that you cited found in the Main State Archives in Stuttgart and/or the Baden-Württemberg Memorial Book? I am glad that this information had been compiled by individuals who cared enough to document the lives and ultimate fates of the people who lived there. My husband and I have a memorial book that belonged to my father-in-law. It is all in Hebrew (or maybe Yiddish), that was from the community of Rodomsk, Poland where he was born and lived. This memorial-remembrance book is also referred to as a Yizkor volume, of which there were many that were compiled and published in the years after WW II, just like those you mentioned.

So it was Klara Eger (née Stiefel), wife of Otto Eger who requested the return of the typewriter, and it even involved the services of a lawyer to make sure that happened! My father had a close relationship with his Uncle Otto and Aunt Klara, who lived not far from Gustav and Johanna. I wonder if the Hermes typewriter that my father had was subsequently given to him by Otto and Klara. Also, in Meta's biography you alluded to a picture of a typewriter similar to the one she owned, but there is no accompanying image of one. If during your research you had seen a picture of that one, is it similar to the one above?

Among my father's documents, I found many letters they had written to him in the years after the war, from about 1946 to the early 1950s. He had already been living in the U.S. since 1939 or 1940. I was able to get all the letters translated through a genealogical translation Facebook group of which I'm a member. Just from what Otto wrote (he was the main writer), it didn't sound like he and Klara had been in any concentration camps—only about how post-war life was difficult with many shortages of everyday items, like food and clothing. My father ended up helping them out somewhat, both financially and with certain other commodities that they weren't able to obtain at the time. In any case, the fact that Klara had married a non-Jewish man certainly explains the conditions under which she was spared from deportation. Without knowing for sure, I guessed it was either the aforementioned circumstance, or that she had converted from Judaism to Christianity. I had no idea that Kurt was in the Theresienstadt concentration camp, until you mentioned it. I would have thought he would have been spared from deportation like Klara was. Kurt often hand-wrote a little message of greeting and thanks to my father at the end of Otto's typewritten letters and he always sounded friendly and in a happy mood.

My parents and, I believe, my other uncles and aunts had visited with Kurt and his wife Maria, Beate and Harmut when they made a trip to Stuttgart in 1989 (see photo below referring to the circumstances under which they were there). While there, they took the opportunity to visit Otto's gravesite at the cemetery where he's buried, and of which they took a photo. Perhaps I might get a response from Beate and/or Harmut when I try to contact them, especially because of the personal family connection with my father and uncles. Thank you again for providing addresses for them.

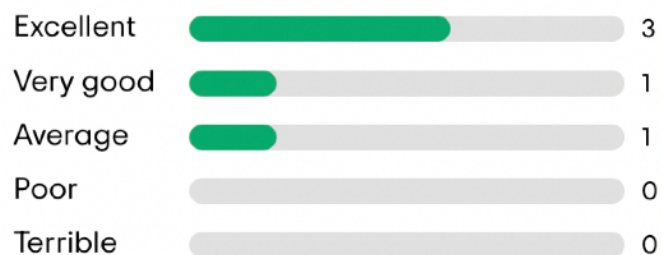
So Max Elsas, whose Stolpersteine is now located next Meta's, was her employer who lived at Marstallstraße 4. He was certainly a prominent, accomplished and honorable man, thus the lengthy and detailed biography of him. I assume that Meta lived with the family and was treated well. After such a full life, it was a very sad ending for him, just as it was for Meta and the millions of others who met the same or similar fate during those dark times.

Stolpersteine in Ludwigsburg

●●●●● 5 reviews • #21 of 50 things to do in Ludwigsburg • Monuments & Statues



4.5 ●●●●● 5 reviews



NotAFoodSnobFromNY

Saint Cloud, MN • 505 contributions



Look.

Mar 2019 • Friends

These are all over Germany and it is a sobering reminder of what occurred not so long ago. Make sure to take a moment to remember the victims of the atrocities that occurred during WWII in Nazi Germany.



aakbba

Ann Arbor, MI • 82 contributions



Get the App for the city Stolpersteine

May 2018 • Couples

Very interesting project. It was begun by artist Gunter Demnig in 1992. It is dedicated to all the victims of the "Nationalsozialismus". The story is much larger. Here in Ludwigsburg a small, but very dedicated group has researched the information on Jewish families and individuals. This year, 2018, they will dedicate 6 new Stolpersteine to the victims who were murdered because they were sick, handicapped, had mental health issues, etc. This was called Aktion T4, which was an order that came from Berlin, to murder these individuals. In Grafeneck alone over 11,000 were murdered in gas chambers.

With the App, you can read the story of the person whose Stolpersteine you are looking at.

Max Elsas



Stolpersteine in Ludwigsburg

A man of honor is expelled - Marstallstraße 4



The biography of Max Elsas is an example of the fact that in the 20th century was possible to bring a person of the highest prestige through the National Socialist policy of annihilation to physical destruction.

Max Elsas was born on the 10th March 1858 as the third son of Benedict and the Rebekka Elsa in Ludwigsburg. He grew up with his brothers Oskar, Adolf, Louis and sister Sidonie in the house Marstallstraße 4. After elementary school, Max attended the Realgymnasium in Ludwigsburg and left this school with the so-called "one-year-old", which corresponded to the secondary school leaving certificate. The father subsequently made it possible for the son to train as a textile specialist at the technical center for the textile industry in Reutlingen. A commercial training followed everything, and Max Elsas managed the Bunttuchweberei Elsas & Söhne GmbH for many years, until the "Aryanization" of the company in 1938.

The petite man with his black, later silver-gray beard had an inspiring confidence. Everyone in the city knew that Max Elsas was honest and wouldn't take advantage of anyone. Max Elsas practiced the ethos of an emancipated Jew who wants to live noble and impeccable.

The committed local politician and entrepreneur has stood up for the community of the city of Ludwigsburg. In 1882 he joined the fire brigade. From 1905 to 1908 he was a member of the Citizens' Committee, was taken over by the City Council as a member of the Democratic Party and a few years later appointed deputy mayor.

He was a commercial school councilor, i.e. a member of the executive committee of this institution, also a committee member of the Association of Württemberg Industrialists and treasurer of the Industrial Association Ludwigsburg. He was elected to the Chamber of Commerce and was a committee member of the Württemberg Industry and Commerce Day. He was elected to the committee of the Versicherungsanstalt Württemberg and the Allgemeine Ortskrankenkasse Ludwigsburg and was a

member of the board of the insurance office in Ludwigsburg. He also held the office of treasurer of the association "Neckar-Donau-Kanal", the so-called "Kanal-Verein". For many years he worked in the tax committees of the tax office.

For the sake of their services within the framework of the Bürgerverein Untere Stadt, the brothers Oskar, Adolf, Max and Louis Elsas were appointed honorary members of this association in 1929. To the 70th Birthday in 1928, Max Elsas was honorably mentioned in the newspaper. On the other hand, you will find on the 10th. March 1933, the 75th Birthday, 40 days after the so-called "seizure of power" of the National Socialists, not a word more about Max Elsas in the press.

On the 3rd April of the same year, however, could be read in the Ludwigsburger Zeitung: Resignation of the manufacturer Max Elsas from all public offices. Like all Jewish citizens, he was systematically isolated. The former Social Democratic member of the state parliament Wilhelm Keil reported: "I was an eyewitness to how the old man bent down and entered a grocery store with a polite greeting. They did not take no note of him, did not return his greeting and did not serve him. He sneaked away."

On the 10th November 1938, when the synagogue had also been burned down in Ludwigsburg, 80-year-old Max Elsas was arrested in his apartment and taken to the prison "Blockhaus" on Schorndorfer Straße. When the son Dr. Ludwig Elsas learned about the process, he stood up for the father, who was then released. But the son remained in custody and was taken to the Welzheim concentration camp.

The company was "arized" until the end of 1938. The Elsas family had no income from now on and knew when they would face nothing. The situation placed a particularly heavy burden on his son Bernhard Elsas, who was from now on under medical treatment. When Bernhard Elsas, his wife and their children managed to emigrate to America at the last second in 1941, Max Elsas looked out behind the curtains, looking for the taxi departing from Marstallstraße. Since his wife Ida Elsas, born Fellheimer, on the 7th April 1939, Max Elsas from now on had an end of a live in complete isolation.

When the National Socialists decided to make the cities and villages "Jew-free", Max Elsas was also on the 2nd. December 1941 to the forced old people's home for Jews in Eschenau, near Heilbronn, and from there on the 22nd. August 1942 deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp. There is Max Elsas on the 30th. September 1942 died of de-steme and illness.

