

Simon and Martha Fröhlich, née Münz Deported to Riga in 1941.

Martha Fröhlich was born in Wiesenbronn, a small Franconian wine-growing village near Kitzingen, on September 28th 1895. Her parents were Sara Rosenthal and Simon Münz who was in the textile trade. Martha was the youngest of five siblings. Her mother died in 1921. Martha ran the business with her father. She also took care of the household. She was 30 years old when she married Simon Fröhlich in 1925. Simon was born in Rexingen on May 16th 1898, to Auguste Schwarz and Max Fröhlich. His older brother Julius became a self-employed cattle-dealer in Tuttlingen after World War I.

Simon Fröhlich attended first the Jewish elementary school in Rexingen, then a commercial college in Stuttgart leading up to his apprenticeship in commerce. In 1916, at the age of 18, he became a soldier in World War I. After the war he began work as a traveling textile-trader and presumably met Martha Münz in Wiesenbronn in the course of his travels. On July 15th 1926 their only son Heinz was born. In 1929 Simon Münz, now 79 years of age, handed over the textile business to Simon Fröhlich. Martha Fröhlich continued to run the shop with her father while her husband drove in his own car around Württemberg and Bavaria attending to his customers. The family was highly regarded. Simon Fröhlich was on the committee of the Wiesenbronn Gymnastics Association.

In 1938 there were only nine Jewish citizens living in Wiesenbronn. On the night of the pogrom, from November 9th to 10th, Simon Fröhlich and the last head of the district council, Sally Halpert, were arrested. The house of the Münz family had been sold

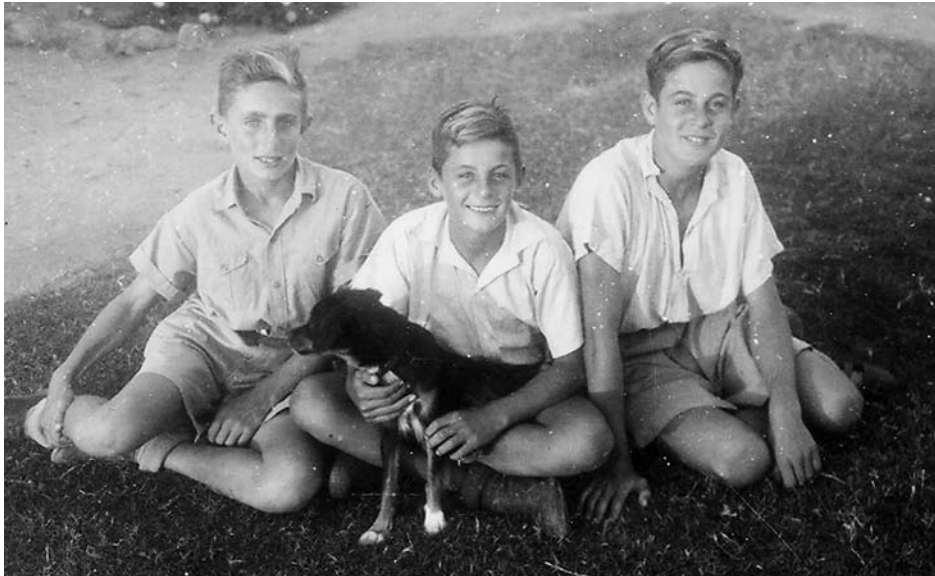


1927: The five daughters and one son of Simon Münz with their families in Wiesenbronn on their father's seventieth birthday. Simon Münz with baby Heinz on his lap, the son of Martha and Simon Fröhlich. Standing on the far right, Martha and Simon Fröhlich.

and the family was only allowed to rent it. At first the men were brought to the district gaol in Kitzingen and then

to the concentration camp in Dachau. Sally Halpert died there on December 12th as a result of ill-treatment. In January 1939, after his return from Dachau, Simon Fröhlich had to move into the totally dilapidated poorhouse in Wiesenbronn where his wife, his son and his father-in-law were also now living. The Fröhlichs had wanted to join the group emigrating from Rexingen to Palestine, one of the initiators of which was Julius Fröhlich from Tuttlingen. They had already paid more than 7,000 Reichsmark for the transfer. They managed just at the last moment to get their 13-year-old son, Heinz, on board the ship of refugees which left Trieste for

Haifa in December 1939. From Haifa he went to Shavei Zion where he grew up in his uncle's family. In Israel he changed his name from Heinz to Jacob.



Early 1940s: Cousins Jacob (son of Martha and Simon Fröhlich), Amos and Elkana Fröhlich in Shavei Zion.

In 1940 Simon Münz died in Wiesenbronn. On September 20th of that year Martha and Simon Fröhlich, after much effort, got permission to move to Simon's mother, Auguste Fröhlich, in Rexingen. She had been widowed two years previously and was living alone in her house. For one year they lived there in great distress and anxiety. Their hopes of escaping to Palestine were dashed. Simon and Martha were deported to Riga on November 28th 1941. Auguste remained alone in Rexingen. On August 22nd 1942 she was deported to Theresienstadt and was murdered in the extermination camp in Treblinka.