

Erna Hess, née Lemberger, and Richard Hess Deported to Riga in 1941.

Erna Hess was born in Rexingen on September 24th 1903. She was the fourth child and only daughter of the cattle-dealer Max Lemberger and his wife, Thusitta (Dorchen) Strassburger. The family lived in 43 Mitten im Dorf, today 43 Bergstrasse.



Bergstraße 43. In diesem Haus ist Erna Heß geboren und aufgewachsen.

On January 19th 1930 she married Walter Hess from Malsch near Heidelberg. Walter was born on November 28th 1901. The marriage took place in Rexingen. He was a cattle-dealer and joint owner with his father in the latter's cattle-dealing business. After



Wedding photo of Erna and Walter Hess.

Seated in front: Dorchen Lemberger mother of the bride, (second from left) and next to her, Erna's sister-in-law Hilde Lemberger with her husband Julius Lemberger. Standing behind from left to right: Max Lemberger father of the bride, Sally Lemberger (brother), an unknown person; in the centre, the bridal couple Erna and Walter Hess and next to them, Josef Lemberger brother of the bride.

their marriage the young couple moved to Malsch. Their only child Richard was born in Heidelberg on December 2nd 1930. Erna lived in Malsch from 1930 to the beginning of 1939. In 1938 Walter Hess emigrated to Argentina, leaving his wife and son Richard behind. Erna's parents-in-law, Simon Hess and his wife Frieda, née Wolf, left Malsch in 1939 and went to Langenau in Switzerland to start a new life there. Erna decided to leave Malsch with her son Richard to seek refuge in Rexingen, the town of her childhood and youth. She probably wanted to be near her sixty-

year-old widowed mother. In May 1939 her eight-year-old son Richard was admitted to Wilhelmspflge in Esslingen, a Jewish orphanage with an elementary school attached. Erna also lived in Esslingen, presumably up to the closure of the orphanage in August 1939. She and Richard returned to Rexingen and stayed there until their deportation. Since Erna's family home had been sold on May 15th 1939, she probably lived with Richard in 30 Bergstrasse, the so-called Heimann house which had belonged to a Jewish butcher named Heimann who had fled to Palestine. Several Jewish families were living here, probably under duress.

In 1941 Erna and her son Richard were deported to Riga together with Erna's sister-in-law Hilde Lemberger and Hilde's son Friederle. It is most likely that both mothers and sons were shot in a forest near Riga together with more than a thousand other women, children and men in March 1942.

Erna's seventy-two-year-old mother, Dorchen Lemberger, was deported to Theresienstadt on August 22nd 1942 and was murdered one month later in the extermination camp in Treblinka.