

Rudolf and Berta Schwarz, née Zürndorfer Deported to Riga in 1941.

Berta Schwarz was born in Rexingen on November 15th 1903. Her parents were Hermine Hopfer and the cattle-dealer Rubin Zürndorfer. Her younger sister Toni, born in 1905, married in Frankfurt and later emigrated to the USA, as did her brother Manfred who was born in 1907.

Berta's father was a member of the reserve brigade in World War I. In 1917 he died in the military hospital in Tübingen at the age of 44.

In 1923 Berta married the cattle-dealer Rudolf Schwarz from Rexingen. Rudolf was born on February 23rd 1894. His parents were Ernestine Löwengart and Hermann Schwarz. He had a sister Auguste, born in 1877, and two brothers, Elias, born in 1882, and Ludwig, born in 1888. Ludwig emigrated to the USA with his family in 1939. Elias was deported to Riga with his wife and daughter in 1941. Auguste was deported to Izbica in Poland in 1942.

Berta and Rudolf Schwarz lived with Berta's widowed mother, Hermine Zürndorfer, in 202 Brühlstrasse, today 36 Freudenstädter Strasse. Rudolf was a member of the men's choir Concord. The couple had two sons: Helmut, born in 1925, and Richard, born in 1928, who both emigrated to the USA in 1941. Their grandmother, Hermine Zürndorfer, also managed to flee to New York on September 2nd 1941. She was the last person from Rexingen to escape.

Berta and Rudolf Schwarz were both sent to the concentration camp in Jungfernhof near Riga. Then they were separated. Rudolf was sent to the camp in Kaiserwald. Berta was in various camps:

Mitau in Latvia, Stutthof near Danzig, Sophienwalde and Godensdorf in Pomerania. After liberation by the Soviet Army, she came to Stuttgart and was in the camp for displaced persons in Stuttgart-Degerloch together with Sally Lemberger from Rexingen, Harry Kahn from Baisingen and other survivors. She often paid short visits to Rexingen before emigrating to the USA in 1946 to join her sons, her mother and her sister.



Rexingen, 1945. Berta Schwarz (on the extreme right) and Sally Lemberger visiting the Vögele family. Beside Sally Lemberger Ruth Vögele (on the left) and Margarethe Vögele (on the right). In the background, Maria Vögele.