

Elias and Thekla Schwarz née Schwarz, and Trude Schwarz Deported to Riga in 1941.

Elias Schwarz was born in Rexingen on October 30th 1882. His parents were Ernestine Löwengart and Hermann Schwarz. He had an older sister Auguste, born in 1877, and two younger brothers, Ludwig, born in 1888 and Rudolf, born in 1894. Their father died in 1910. The three brothers ran a cattle-dealing business together.

In 1912 Elias married Thekla Leiter from Böpfigen. They had two daughters, Zitty, born in 1913 and Bella, born in 1915. The mother Thekla died in 1918 at the age of 30. The children were five and three years old respectively.

After one year of mourning, Elias married Thekla Schwarz from Mühringen, born on March 1st 1893 to Betty Steinharter and Jakob Schwarz. Once again two daughters were born, Meta in 1920 and Trude, on July 28th 1922.

The family lived in 159 Brühlstrasse, today 29 Freudenstädter Strasse. In 1938 the Schwarz

brothers were forced to cease cattle-dealing. In 1939, Ludwig emigrated to the USA with his

family. The daughter, Bella, emigrated to Palestine via France. Zitty and Meta managed to flee to the USA.

In 1939 Elias Schwarz was forced to work in the telephone exchange in Bildechingen.

At this time Trude Schwarz, aged 17, lived in Bad Dürkheim probably as a trainee in Friedrich-Luisen-Hospice, a convalescent home for Jewish children. The home was forced

to close in the autumn of 1939 and Trude returned to her parents in Rexingen. In May 1940 she went to Frankfurt for five months and in March 1941 to Stuttgart for two months. Presuma-

bly she was looking for work in the few Jewish establishments still in existence and at the same time seeking an opportunity for her parents and herself to flee. All three were deported to Riga in 1941.

In 2011 three 'stumbling blocks' were laid in Rexingen in memory of Elias, Thekla and Trude Schwarz.



Trude Schwarz, the girl wearing glasses on the left of the teacher Mr. Kahn, on a school trip in the Neckar valley around 1935.