

Gertrud Schwarz, née Ottenheimer Deported to Riga in 1941.

Gertrud was born in Ludwigsburg on April 21st, 1884. Her parents were Johanna „Hannchen“ Lina Löwenstein and Jakob Ottenheimer. The family lived in Ludwigsburg. Gertrud had two brothers, Wilhelm and Josef. She married the cattle-dealer Leopold Schwarz from Rexingen. They had two sons, Siegfried, born on April 28th 1911 and Walter, born on August 21st 1913. The family lived in 186 Brühlstrasse, today 31 Freudenstädter Strasse. Leopold Schwarz was a soldier in World War I and was decorated. He died in June 1938. Siegfried Schwarz joined the



*The home of the
Schwarz family in
Freudenstädter Strasse.*

group emigrating to Palestine in March 1938 and was one of the founders of Shavei Zion. Walter Schwarz fled to the USA via Sweden in 1939.

Lina Ottenheimer, Gertrud’s mother, moved from Ludwigsburg to Stuttgart to be near her son Josef, after the death of her husband in 1937. When Josef no longer had the money to take care of his impoverished mother, she went to live with her daughter Gertrud in Rexingen in 1939. Josef Ottenheimer tried in vain to emigrate to Palestine with his wife Mina. Their two sons, Erich and Franz, and their nephew Leopold were already living there.

In Rexingen Lina Ottenheimer had to witness the departure of her daughter Gertrud to Killesberg in Stuttgart prior to deportation. Josef and Mina Ottenheimer, who had not managed to flee, were also on Killesberg. Nine months later Gertrud’s mother, Lina Ottenheimer, was deported to Theresienstadt at the age of 80 and in September 1942 was murdered in Treblinka. Her grandsons, Erich and Franz, died as soldiers in Israel in 1945 and 1948 respectively.

In April 2010 two ‘stumbling blocks’ were laid in Stuttgart in memory of Josef and Mina Ottenheimer