

Alfred Barth (1903 – 1942)

1



Alfred Barth was born on 23 January 1903 in Znaim (today Znojmo, Czech Republic). He attends school in Hollabrunn and moves to Vienna at the age of 18. Alfred Barth is Jewish and works as an educator for the "Jewish Community". On 24 May 1941, he and three other men are arrested by detectives as they leave the "Esterházybad" in Vienna-Mariahilf. Alfred Barth is homosexual, and as a Jew he would not have been allowed to enter the bath at all at that time. He is remanded in custody and admits to oral sex in the bathroom during the interrogations. The detectives are investigating other homosexual men in the vicinity of the four arrested men.

Alfred Barth pleads guilty at the trial on 23 September 1941 and is sentenced to one and a half years in prison for "fornication against nature". Another eight accused homosexual men also receive prison sentences, but Barth receives the longest prison sentence. He initially remains imprisoned in Vienna and fears his deportation. He writes in a letter to his nephew on 26.10.1941 "that transports to Poland are now being dispatched twice a week from all over the Reich." On 29 May 1942, he is transferred to the penitentiary in Krems-Stein. There he is considered a "war offender", and his term of imprisonment, which is set by the courts, is not to begin until the end of the war.

On 10 September 1942, SS-Hauptsturmführer Alois Brunner sends a letter to the judiciary. In it he demands the "release of the Jews imprisoned in the Stein penitentiary for evacuation". Immediately, 35 people are transferred to the "Sammellager Kleine Sperlgasse". From there, on 14 September 1942, they are deported to Maly Trostinec (today Belarus), where the transport arrives on 18 September 1942 and all deportees are immediately murdered.

There is no surviving photograph of Alfred Barth. He is said to have had dark brown hair and blue-grey eyes.

David Blatt (1871 – 1943)

2



Dr David Blatt is the kneeling man with a hat in the foreground. This is the only known photograph of him.

© Unknown photographer
(Martin Krist Collection)

The lawyer Dr. David Blatt lives in Stockerau, a small town near Vienna. He was born on 10 November 1871 in Janow. The place was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and is now in the Slovak Republic. In 1920, Dr. David Blatt leaves the Jewish religious community and is non-denominational from then on.

Nevertheless, according to the so-called “Nuremberg Race Laws” he is considered a Jew by the National Socialists. In Stockerau, he is known for giving the first legal information as free legal advice. However, his great fame in the city does not help him after the so-called “Anschluss” in March 1938. He is forced to remove Schuschnigg and Austria slogans from Sparkassaplatz (or also from Brodschildstraße) in Stockerau. Whether anyone from the bystanders still comes to his aid is not known, but rather unlikely. In July 1938 he is expelled to Vienna. His last address in the 3rd district is Obere Bahngasse 20/7. From there, he manages to escape to Belgium.

However, the Nazi wars of conquest caught up with him and he was imprisoned in the Malines (Mechelen) police and SS transit camp. From there, Dr. David Blatt was deported to the concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau with transport no. 18 on 15 January 1943.

If he survived the four-day transport in a cattle car at all – he is over 70 years old – he will almost certainly be selected for death in the gas chambers immediately after arrival on 18 January 1943. His exact date of death is not known.

Elfriede Frischmann (1933 – 1942)
Mosche (Moritz) Frischmann (1939 – 1942)
Charlotte Frischmann (1938 – 1942?)
Geza Frischmann (1897 – 1942)
Ella Frischmann (1904 – 1942)

3



There are almost no surviving photographs of the family. Here you can see Elfi with her father Geza.

© Injoest, memorbuch – Jews in St. Pölten

Elfriede Frischmann, called “Elfi” by her parents Geza and Ella Frischmann, was born in Vienna on 10 November 1933. Her father comes from Hungary, her stepmother from Loosdorf in Lower Austria. Her biological mother died in 1936, when Elfi was only two years old. The family moves to St. Pölten, where Geza Frischmann runs a textile shop with his brother Julius at Franziskanerstraße 6. Elfi’s two younger siblings, Charlotte and Mosche, are also born in St. Pölten. In Mosche’s birth entry, the family’s address, – Rathausplatz 13, has already become “Adolf Hitler Platz”. After the so-called “Anschluss”, the business of the two brothers is “Aryanised”, i.e. taken away from them. On 31 October 1939, the family is forced to move to Vienna, where they live in a Jewish collective flat in the 1st district at Dorotheergasse 6/13.

The entire family is deported together with other Jews from St. Pölten on 26th January 1942 to the “Riga Ghetto” in Latvia. Pretty sure they will be murdered there either in the adjacent forests or concentration camps. Elfi will only be eight years old, her little brother Mosche only two. The exact dates of death of the family members are not known. Elfi’s uncle Julius and other relatives are also murdered in Riga. Only Charlotte’s fate is not backed up by sources. She appears neither in the house lists among the residents of the Vienna collective flat in Dorotheergasse nor on a deportation list. She probably died while still in St. Pölten or in Vienna, and her death was not recorded anywhere. However, there is also the very unlikely possibility that she was left to a non-Jewish family and thus escaped being murdered.

In St. Pölten, there is therefore also a “Stone of Remembrance” for them and other “stones” commemorating the entire murdered family. But her name is missing from the Shoah wall of names.

Agathe Kronberger (1922 – 1944) Olga Kronberger (1889 – 1940)

4



The photo shows Agathe Kronberger as a high school student in Linz.

© Verena Wagner, *Jewish Life in Linz 1849-1943*, vol. 2: Families. Linz 2008, quoted after: Christian Angerer, Maria Ecker, *National Socialism in Upper Austria. Victims – Perpetrators – Opponents*, Innsbruck 2014, pp. 300-301.

Agathe Kronberger was born on 1 June 1922 in Linz. She has very good grades at school. Her friend Elfriede remembers the family: “They were simple people. Agy was a very kind and hardworking student.” When the NSDAP takes power in March 1938, Agathe Kronberger’s life changes dramatically. Elfriede is the only classmate who stands by her even then. Everyone else stays out of her way. Agathe’s dream of becoming a paediatrician is shattered when she is expelled from the grammar school soon after the so-called “Anschluss”.

The family, her brother Hans and her parents Olga and Norbert Kronberger, are looking for emigration opportunities. But only Hans can escape to Great Britain. Agathe has to move with her parents to a Jewish collective flat in the old town of Linz, and at the end of 1938 to a collective flat in Vienna. There she works as a nurse for the “Jewish Community”. In 1940, another blow of fate hits the family: Olga Kronberger is admitted to the psychiatric hospital “Am Steinhof”. She does not stay there for long, because on 22 July 1940 the Nazi authorities transport her to the killing centre “Schloss Hartheim” and murder her.

Agathe stays with her father in the Vienna collective flat at Floßgasse 4 in the 2nd district until 1 October 1942. Then they are both deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp, where Agathe works as a nurse for babies and children. In her last letter to her friend, she is still confident that she will see the end of the war and liberation: “Anyway, I could write a book about my odyssey and how I’ve always managed to muddle through.” On 19 October 1944, Agathe Kronberger was deported to the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp and murdered there.

Her father Norbert Kronberger experienced liberation in Dachau concentration camp in May 1945. He died in Vienna in 1952. Memorial stones for Olga and Agathe Kronberger have been erected next to his grave at the Central Cemetery. Hans Kronberger makes a career as a nuclear physicist in England, but takes his own life in 1970.

Käthe Leichter (1895 – 1942)

5



Käthe Leichter with her husband Otto and their sons in the mid-1930s

© Documentation Centre of the Austrian Resistance, DÖW 1297

Käthe (Marianne Katharina) Leichter was born on 20 August 1895 in Vienna and grew up in middle-class circumstances. After graduating from high school, she fights her way into the University of Vienna to study political science, whose professors do not want to admit women. In order to be able to finance her studies, Käthe Leichter works as a governess in the “Krim” slum in Döblingen. As she was denied a degree in Vienna, she had to move to Heidelberg. Käthe Leichter received her doctorate there on 24 July 1918. She then becomes a research assistant to the Social Democratic party leader Otto Bauer. In 1921 she married Otto Leichter and became the mother of two sons. From 1925 to 1934 she headed the newly created “Department for Women’s Work” in the Chamber of Labour. Käthe Leichter wrote numerous newspaper articles and books on topics of women’s work and women’s emancipation and warned against the strengthening fascism.

After the failed uprising of the “Republican Protection League” against the authoritarian Dollfuß government in February 1934, the family fled to Switzerland. In September 1934, however, she returned to Vienna. Käthe Leichter now writes banned pamphlets against the Austrofascist government. After the so-called “Anschluss”, the National Socialists persecute the Leichter family because of their political views and their Jewish origins. Otto Leichter manages to escape to Switzerland. The two sons are also able to escape to a foreign country.

Käthe Leichter remains in Vienna and prepares her escape in May 1938, but a Gestapo informer betrays her. She is arrested on 30 May 1938. The Gestapo deported Käthe Leichter to the Ravensbrück women’s concentration camp in January 1940. On 17 March 1942, Käthe Leichter is murdered by gas together with about 1,500 Jewish women in a railway carriage near Magdeburg.

Ruth Lindenbaum (1938 – 1944)

Rachel Lindenbaum (1909 – 1944)

Walter Lindenbaum (1907 – 1945)

6



No photo of Ruth and Rachel Lindenbaum is known.

The picture shows Walter Lindenbaum in 1935. This is the only known photo.

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Ruth Lindenbaum was born a few months after the so-called “Anschluss” on 20 August 1938 and lived to be only six years old. Her mother, Rachel Liebling, comes from Tarnopol (today Tarnopil in the Ukraine), her father, Walter Lindenbaum, is born in Vienna. In 1933, her parents marry in the synagogue of Vienna’s 20th district in Kluckygasse. This synagogue is also destroyed during the November pogrom. The family lives in Leopoldstadt, in the 2nd district, at Scholzgasse 8. Walter Lindenbaum works as a journalist and writer and writes mainly for social democratic newspapers. After these newspapers were banned by the Austrofascist dictatorship, the family’s financial situation deteriorated. Rachel and Walter Lindenbaum have to move into a smaller flat at Novaragasse 32/24, also in the 2nd district. The so-called “Anschluss” deprives Walter Lindenbaum, as a Jew, of any opportunity to earn money in his profession.

But there is private happiness: Rachel is pregnant. Therefore, the two decide to stay in Vienna for the time being and not to think about fleeing or emigrating. Walter Lindenbaum gets a job at the “Jewish Community”, which is forced by the National Socialists to help organise the measures to exclude and persecute the Jewish population. Walter Lindenbaum could spontaneously write verses. That’s why he is supposed to bring people some distraction as a “lightning poet” at birthday parties and as a mediator of gift shipments to concentration camps. On 20 August 1938, their daughter Ruth was born.

On 1 April 1943, the three are taken from their flat in Novaragasse by the Gestapo and deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp. On 28 September 1944, Walter Lindenbaum is deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, followed by Ruth and Rachel on 6 October 1944. Ruth and her mother Rachel are murdered immediately upon arrival in one of the large gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Walter Lindenbaum is transferred to a subcamp of Buchenwald concentration camp, to Ohrdruf, in early 1945, where he dies a few weeks before liberation on 20 February 1945.

Eva Linker (1938 – 1941)

Hedy Linker (1917 – 1941)

Leon Linker (1907 – 1941)

7



Wedding photo of Hedy and Leon Linker, 1937

© Private archive, Nadja Danglmaier, Moosburg

Hedy Linker was born in Spittal an der Drau in 1917 as the daughter of the Jewish merchant family Czuczka. At the age of 20 she marries Leon Linker, a Jew from Klagenfurt. His parents run a scrap metal shop on “Kardinalsplatz”, where Leon also works. In 1937, the newlyweds move into their own flat at Bäcker-gasse 10 in Klagenfurt. Their daughter Eva is born in 1938.

After the so-called “Anschluss”, Hedy and Leon Linker try to find a way of escape for themselves and their baby. In 1939, they finally get three places on a boat trip to Palestine. The escape route of the total of 1,200 Jewish refugees leads downstream across the Danube. But the journey ends quite suddenly in Kladovo, Yugoslavia, because the onward journey from Romania is not allowed. The refugees have to spend the winter on three ships under catastrophic conditions.

Hedy Linker reports to her friend Anna Katt-nig: “I could write a novel about what we went through on the ship. You wouldn’t believe it, man can take a lot.” In September 1940, the ships leave the harbour, but to the horror of the refugees, the boats head upriver to the small Serbian town of Sabač near Belgrade. The people are then stuck there, only 200 receive visas for Palestine. The Linker family is not among them.

In April 1941, the German Wehrmacht invades Yugoslavia, but soon encounters strong resistance from partisans. Therefore, for every German soldier wounded, 50 are shot, and for every German soldier killed, 100 civilians are shot. Leon Linker is among those killed. But women and children are not spared either. Hedy and Eva Linker are sent to the Sajmište concentration camp near Belgrade. Trucks leave this concentration camp twice a day. They are equipped with a special design that allows gas to flow onto the sealed loading areas. Hedy and Eva Linker are thus murdered and buried in a mass grave.

Thekla Merwin (1887 – 1944)

Magda Merwin (1911 – 1944)

8



The class photo shows Magda Merwin sitting next to the teacher in the middle in the school year 1925/26. This is the only known photograph of her. No photo of Thekla Merwin has been preserved.

© Theodor Kramer Society

Thekla Merwin was born on 25 April 1887 in Riga (now Latvia). In 1908, she married Emil Merwin, a lawyer from Lemberg/Lwiw (today Ukraine), who later became a lawyer in Vienna. The wedding takes place in the “Polish Shul” (synagogue) in Vienna’s 2nd district. This synagogue is also destroyed during the November pogrom of 1938. Their daughter Magda is born on 7 April 1911. At this time, the family lives in the 9th district, at Glasergasse 5. Thekla Merwin’s first articles appeared in the same year, and others were subsequently published in many newspapers. For example, in the “Neue Freie Presse”, the “Neue Wiener Tagblatt” or the “Arbeiter-Zeitung”. Her poems and short stories are often dedicated to people who are very poor and live on the margins of society.

The wealthy family soon moves to a larger flat at Reithlegasse 5 in the 19th district. The daughter, Magda Merwin, attends the grammar school in the 19th district, where she graduates in 1929. In the same year, she begins to study law, which she completes her education with a doctorate.

In 1933, Thekla Merwin became a member of the “Association of Socialist Writers”. The following year, her husband Emil Merwin dies. At the age of 28, Thekla Merwin has been diagnosed with diabetes. She therefore has to keep raising money to pay for necessary treatments. This is not easy for her.

In December 1936, Thekla and Magda Merwin move into a flat in the 1st district at Ebendorferstraße 3. Their last residential address is a collective flat in the 1st district at Marc Aurelstraße 5/9. They live here for another four weeks and are deported to Theresienstadt on 24 September 1942 with the 11th transport from Vienna’s Aspang railway station. They survive there for two years, but on 19 October 1944 they are taken to Auschwitz-Birkenau with 1498 “fellow prisoners”. Immediately after their arrival on 20 October, 1158 of these people are murdered in the huge gas chamber of “Crematorium III”. Thekla and Magda Merwin are among these victims.

Frieda (Friederike) Nossig (1874 – 1942)

9



The photo shows Frieda Nossig on a Viennese park bench in 1935.

© Brigitta Proft private archive

Frieda Nossig was born Friederike Bondy in Prague on 23 August 1874. In 1904, she married the painter Moses Nossig in Vienna, and four years later their only daughter Herta was born. The family lives at Schopenhauerstraße 72 in Vienna-Währing. Little is known about the life of the family. In 1936, her husband dies at the age of 65 in the General Hospital in Vienna. Five years later, Frieda Nossig, now 66, lives in a completely overcrowded nursing home at Alxingergasse 97-103 in Vienna-Favoriten. Here, from October 1941, a nursing home of the "Jewish Community" is located in the rooms of a former homeless shelter of the City of Vienna.

On 28 July 1942, Frieda Nossig is deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp, located near Prague, along with 114 other residents of the home.

Frieda Nossig is not sent to a home she was promised in Theresienstadt, but to Block L 408 at Hauptstraße 8. In such blocks of houses, elderly people are housed in attics without care. There are no toilets, no washrooms and no beds. Vermin and infectious diseases spread rapidly among the elderly. Hence, the mortality rate is high. The division of food rations for "non-workers", "workers" and "heavy workers" aggravates the situation for the elderly, whose food rations are the lowest.

In addition, older people suffer particularly badly from the catastrophic conditions. Frieda Nossig also falls victim to these conditions. She dies not quite four months after her arrival on 21 November 1942 at the age of 68. The only relative of Frieda Nossig to survive the Holocaust is her daughter Herta Proft. Her husband is a so-called "Aryan", and therefore Herta Proft is spared the worst measures of the National Socialists.

Hans Wolfgang Pollak (1922 – 1944)

Valerie Pollak (1889 – 1942)

Moritz Leopold Pollak (1887 – 1944)

10



Hans Wolfgang Pollak was born in Vienna on 10 October 1922 and experienced a happy childhood. His parents' beautiful flat is located at Nußwaldgasse 7/2 in the posh part of the Döbling district. Hans Wolfgang Pollak's grades at school are consistently good. In the school year 1937/38 he attended the 6th class of a boys' grammar school in Döbling.

With the so-called "Anschluss", the life of the family changes fundamentally. Possibilities to leave or escape are feverishly sought. A little more than a month after the invasion of Austria by German troops, Hans Wolfgang Pollak is ordered into the gym of his school with 102 other Jewish pupils at the end of April 1938. There, the headmaster informs them of their expulsion from school. This means that one third of the students have to leave school.

On 26 July 1938, the family managed to emigrate to Durrazzo/Durres in Albania. Hans Wolfgang Pollak's father is able to find work there as a civil engineer in railway construction. However, towards the end of 1938, the family moved on to Rome, and later to Lyon and St. Etienne in France.

Hans Wolfgang Pollak becomes a member of the Résistance in France, the French resistance movement against the Nazi occupation of the country. In August 1942, the Gestapo succeeds in arresting him, and on 7 September 1942, he is deported from the "Drancy collection camp" to Auschwitz together with his mother and father on transport number 29. His mother, Valerie Pollak, is believed to have been murdered immediately upon arrival at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp.

Together with his father, Hans Wolfgang Pollak was sent to the Trzebinia subcamp in August 1944. There, about 600 – 800 "concentration camp prisoners" have to do forced labour in an oil refinery. He falls seriously ill and is returned to Auschwitz and murdered.

According to the testimony of witnesses, his father, Moritz Leopold Pollak, probably died in the Trzebinia subcamp as a result of forced labour and malnutrition. The exact dates of death of the family members are not known.

There is no known photograph showing members of the Pollak family.

Lea Rennert (1896 – 1942) Pinkas Rennert (1894 – 1942)

11



Lea and Pinkas Rennert
in the early 1920s

© Rennert family private archive

Lea and Pinkas Rennert are born in the eastern-most crown land of “Bukovina”. Today, the birthplaces Radautz (today Rădăuți) and Putna are in Romania. After their wedding they move to Vienna. Lea works for an insurance company, Pinkas starts studying law. In the 1920s, two children – Silvia and Erwin – are born. That is why Pinkas Rennert gives up his studies and starts working as a representative for metal goods manufacturers. The family lives in the 4th district at Heumühlgasse 16. In 1936, Pinkas continued his studies in law, but with the so-called “Anschluss” he was expelled from the university as a Jew. The two children also have to leave their grammar school at the end of April 1938 and are sent to a Jewish collective school. Lea and Pinkas Rennert try desperately to find a way out, at least for the two children.

Eventually, they manage to obtain US visas for them. However, Lea and Pinkas Rennert do not receive any, as the USA regulates entry according to place of birth and the quota for Romania has already been exhausted.

Silvia is now 16 years old, Erwin 13. Both are able to flee via Trieste to North America on 31 October 1939, where a cousin of their mother lives.

The father writes to him: “Even if the pain of separation is unthinkable and we cannot wish any enemies to be in the position of having to give children away from the parental home at this age, we are still very happy, (...) because we ourselves do not know what the next day will bring us.”

The children will never see their parents again. On 5 October 1942, Lea and Pinkas Rennert are deported to Maly Trostinec (today Belarus). The train arrives there on 9 October. A total of nine deportation trains, each carrying about 1000 people, travel from Vienna’s Aspang railway station to Maly Trostinec between May and October 1942. Most people are shot immediately after arrival or suffocated by carbon monoxide in converted trucks. Of the 8700 Austrians deported, only 17 survive. Lea and Pinkas Rennert are not among them.

Jura Soyfer (1912 – 1939)

12



Jura Soyfer 1936
in the Vienna City Park
© Documentation Centre of the
Austrian Resistance, DÖW 00813-04

Jura Soyfer was born on 8 December 1912 in Kharkov/Charkiv (Russia, today Ukraine) as the son of the Jewish industrialist Vladimir Soyfer and his wife Lyubov Soyfer. In 1920, the family fled to Austria because of the Russian Revolution and lived in Vienna from 1921. Jura Soyfer attends the grammar school in Hagenmüllergasse in the 3rd district and joins the social democratic youth movement. From 1927, he was active in a group of the "Association of Socialist Secondary School Students". In 1929, he becomes a member of the political cabaret of the Social Democrats. There, he gains his first experience in writing short scenes. From 1931 onwards, political satires by Soyfer appeared weekly in the "Arbeiter-Zeitung" and in the social democratic weekly "Der Kuckuck".

After the failure of the February uprising of the "Republican Protection League" in 1934 to defend democracy against the Austrofascist government under Chancellor Dollfuß, Soyfer, like many other disappointed comrades, joined the KPÖ. He writes pamphlets and works on his novel "Thus Died a Party".

Several socially critical plays followed, such as "Der Lechner Edi schaut ins Paradies" or "Der Weltuntergang oder Die Welt steht auf kein' Fall mehr lang". He was arrested in mid-November 1937 and released on 17 February 1938.

Immediately after the so-called Anschluss, Jura Soyfer tried to escape to Switzerland on skis with his friend Hugo Ebner on 13 March 1938. Because of his Jewish origins and his political work as a communist, he is a double target for the National Socialists. Both are arrested by an Austrian gendarmerie patrol. Jura Soyfer is initially sent to the Dachau concentration camp. He was later deported to Buchenwald concentration camp, where he died of typhoid on 16 February 1939. By this time, his parents, who had emigrated to the USA, had already organised an entry permit and his concentration camp release papers had been signed.

Hans Steiner (1927 – 1941 oder 1942)

Katharina Steiner (1890 – 1941 oder 1942)

Erwin Steiner (1886 – 1941 oder 1942)

13



The class photo from February 1938 shows Hans Steiner smiling into the camera in the 1st row as fourth from the right. This is the only known photograph of him.

© Rolf Eichler (Martin Krist Collection)

Little is known about Hans Steiner's short life. He was born on 5 June 1927 in Vienna and lived with his parents, Katharina and Erwin Steiner, in the 19th district at Gymnasiumstraße 68. In the school year 1937/38 he attends the 1st class of the grammar school opposite and is a very good pupil who is also accepted into the school orchestra. We don't know what instrument he plays. His parents only have to pay low school fees because his father is an early retiree and they apparently live in poor circumstances. Hans Steiner, like all Jewish grammar school pupils in Vienna, is excluded from school a few weeks after the so-called "Anschluss". He attends a Jewish collective school for a few months, then his school education ends.

The family has to leave their flat and move into a Jewish collective flat at Dornbacherstraße 57/3, and in November 1941 into another one at Rembrandtstraße 5/11 in the 2nd district. Houses with Jewish collective flats are specially marked at the front gate so that the Gestapo can quickly access the residents. And so it happens to the Steiner family: They are deported to the "Izbica Ghetto" near Lublin in Nazi-occupied Poland on 9 April 1942. Conditions in this ghetto are devastating, the food is inadequate, the sanitary conditions unimaginable. Diseases and hunger often lead to rapid death. If Hans Steiner and his parents survive until the summer of 1942, they are killed in the gas chambers of the "Belzec extermination camp" in "Aktion Reinhardt". The total number of Jewish murdered at this killing site is estimated at 600,000 people.

Edith Margit Winkler (1930 – 1942) Mirjam Mania Winkler (1890 – 1942) Philipp Winkler (1887 – 1940)

14



The photo shows Edith Winkler at the end of the 1930s

© Jehudith Hübner Family Archive

Edith Margit Winkler is born on 18th January 1930 in Vienna. She lives with her big sister Jessy and her parents in the 4th district at Rittergasse 6. She has a particularly good relationship with her sister Jessy, who is several years older. After the so-called "Anschluss", life changes abruptly for the Winkler family. Edith is no longer allowed to go to her school because she is Jewish. The shop where Edith's parents work is "Aryanised", as is the family's flat. The latter must move into a "collective flat". There is neither electricity nor gas. The Winklers are thinking of emigrating to Venezuela or Shanghai. But they don't have enough money for the trip, so they at least want to save the children. In September 1939, Edith's father is arrested and deported to Buchenwald concentration camp.

Edith's sister gets a place at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a visa for Palestine (now Israel). In November, Jessy leaves her family and Edith is very sad about it. Jessy is the only one of the family who manages to escape. In January 1940, shortly after the arrest, Edith's father dies in the concentration camp. In 1941, Edith and her mother have to leave Vienna. In October, they are transported with 1000 other people by train to the "Litzmannstadt Ghetto". Litzmannstadt (Łódź) is a city in occupied Poland where Jews are imprisoned in a district. The situation is appalling: The ghetto is overcrowded, there is not enough water, food or work. If you don't have a job, you don't get anything to eat, which is why many people starve.

From 1942 onwards, the National Socialists murdered people from the ghetto in the "Kulmhof extermination camp". At the beginning, mainly Sintiza/Sinti and Romnja/Roma as well as Jews from Poland. On 4 May 1942, a rainy and chilly day, Edith and her mother have to come to the station with their suitcases. They are taken to Kulmhof and murdered on the same day.

Alfred Barth

There is no surviving photograph of Alfred Barth.
He is said to have had dark brown hair and blue-grey eyes.

David Blatt



Dr David Blatt is the kneeling man with a hat in the foreground. This is the only known photograph of him.

© Unknown photographer (Martin Krist Collection)

Elfriede, Mosche (Moritz), Charlotte, Geza und Ella Frischmann



There are almost no surviving photographs of the family. Here you can see Elfi with her father Geza.

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Agathe und Olga Kronberger



The photo shows Agathe Kronberger as a high school student in Linz.

© Verena Wagner, Jewish Life in Linz 1849-1943, vol. 2: Families. Linz 2008, quoted after: Christian Angerer, Maria Ecker, National Socialism in Upper Austria. Victims – Perpetrators – Opponents, Innsbruck 2014, pp. 300-301.

Käthe Leichter



Käthe Leichter with her husband Otto and their sons
in the mid-1930s

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Ruth, Rachel und Walter Lindenbaum



No photo of Ruth and Rachel Lindenbaum is known.
The picture shows Walter Lindenbaum in 1935.
This is the only known photo.

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Eva, Hedy und Leon Linker



Wedding photo of Hedy and Leon Linker, 1937

© Private archive, Nadja Danglmaier, Moosburg

Thekla und Magda Merwin



The class photo shows Magda Merwin sitting next to the teacher in the middle in the school year 1925/26. This is the only known photograph of her. No photo of Thekla Merwin has been preserved. © Theodor Kramer Society

Frieda (Friederike) Nossig



The photo shows Frieda Nossig on a Viennese park bench in 1935.

© Brigitta Proft private archive

Hans Wolfgang, Valerie und Moritz Pollak

There is no known photograph showing members of the Pollak family.

Lea und Pinkas Rennert



Lea and Pinkas Rennert in the early 1920s

© Rennert family private archive

Jura Soyfer



Jura Soyfer 1936 in the Vienna City Park

© Documentation Centre of the Austrian Resistance, DÖW 00813-04

Hans, Katharina und Erwin Steiner



The class photo from February 1938 shows Hans Steiner smiling into the camera in the 1st row as fourth from the right. This is the only known photograph of him.

© Rolf Eichler (Martin Krist Collection)

Edith, Mirjam und Philipp Winkler



The photo shows Edith Winkler at the end of the 1930s.

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