

Alexander Goldschmidt – Ilse Goldschmidt – Erwin Goldschmidt Kleine Bach 1–3

Alexander Goldschmidt



Fig 1: Alexander Goldschmidt

Alexander Goldschmidt came from Niedertiefenbach. He was born there on 15th Feb 1878, the son of David Goldschmidt and his wife Bette née Strauß. He married Bertha Meyerhof (b. 2nd June 1882) in February 1909.

Bertha, daughter of Hannchen and Emanuel Meyerhof, grew up with her younger sister Dina in their parents' house at Kleine Bach 1. The house next-door to the Meyerhofs was the home of the Heppenheim Synagogue until 1900. Following the construction of the new Hirsch Synagogue in Starkenburgweg, E. Meyerhof bought the building and converted it into a shop.

Alexander and Bertha had two children. Daughter Ilse was born in 1912 and son Erwin in 1921.

After marriage, Alexander Goldschmidt joined his father-in-law's business. In 1925, together with his brother-in-law Abraham Baruch, Meyerhof's business and thereafter they continued the the company under the name Goldschmidt & Baruch. Customers could buy fabrics by the metre, underwear, shirts, socks, trousers, etc. In an advertisement from December 1926 the company targeted non-local customers. It read: for cash sales over RM 30 we will reimburse the bus fare from Fürth to Heppenheim.

But in Juli 1928 there were settlement proceedings between the partners. Abraham Baruch left the company and Alexander became the sole owner. The financial situation remained tense. The world economic crisis and continued antisemitism compounded his deteriorating position. In addition, his wife fell ill. Bertha died in August 1932 at the age of 50.

In October 1932, the firm Alexander Goldschmidt was deleted from the trades register. Then – in 1933 – Hitler's takeover: repression and exclusion of Jews now determined public life.

Alexander G. had no way to extricate himself from his precarious situation. The house in Kleine Bach was subjected to compulsory auction in November 1934. The new owner was the local Sparkasse.



Fig. 2

Alexander Goldschmidt, now without work or income, resorted to accepting social welfare support. He continued to live in the Kleine Bach house. In about 1937 he moved into a house at Ludwigstrasse 8 that had been vacated in February of that year by Henry Stern, who had to flee Heppenheim.

In the Pogrom night in November 1939, Alexander, like all other Jewish men, was taken into custody. The following day the men were transported to the concentration camp at Buchenwald. Alexander was maltreated there and returned to Heppenheim after his imprisonment sick and in poor physical shape.

In May 1939 he applied for a passport in order to follow his children Ilse and Erwin to Palestine. The application was approved, but he was no longer able to leave Germany. Alexander Goldschmidt died on 4th October 1940 in the Jewish Hospital in Frankfurt. He was buried in the New Jewish cemetery in Eckenheimer Landstrasse in Frankfurt.

Ilse Goldschmidt

Ilse Goldschmidt was born on 23rd May 1912. From 1918 to 1921 she attended the junior school, then the upper school for girls until 1926, and finally the High School in Heppenheim, achieving the Abitur there in 1931. She had wanted to become a schoolteacher. In 1931/2 she took part in a preparatory course for Jewish teachers in Frankfurt/Main, then moved on to the pedagogical academy.

But this opportunity was taken from her when Hitler came to power. Ilse decided to emigrate to Palestine. There was a Jewish education workshop (Hachscharah) in Quinkenstrasse in Frankfurt which trained and prepared young people for emigration.

Ilse attended the Hachscharah from April 1935 and was appointed to the home economics department. She worked mostly in the kitchen. On 7th July there was a tragic incident. Ilse was preparing food. When the coal oven was ignited there was an explosion. Her eye was injured so badly that she had to spend six weeks in the Jewish Hospital. She nearly lost the sight of her eye. It is widely assumed that Nazi youths had hidden explosives in the coal.

From February 1937 until May, Ilse lived temporarily with her father at Kleine Bach. According to the register, Ilse left Heppenheim on 10th May 1937. She sailed on the ship "Galiläa" from Triest to Haifa/Palestine. Life there was difficult. Ilse eventually found a position working as a servant. The heavy physical work and the unaccustomed climate took a toll on her and her health suffered greatly.

In 1940 Ilse married Manfred Tannenwald from Schmalnau/Rhön. They had two children and lived in Tel Aviv. Ilse Tannenwald née Goldschmidt died on 30th March 1983.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4: Ilse Goldschmidt

Erwin Goldschmidt

Erwin Goldschmidt was born on 30th May 1921 in Heppenheim. In 1927 he started junior school and in 1930 the High School. However, his mother fell ill at this time. His father was working in the shop, leaving Erwin with no-one to help him. So he returned to the junior school. He was only eleven years old when his mother died, and only nine months later also grandmother Meyerhof, who had been living in the same house.

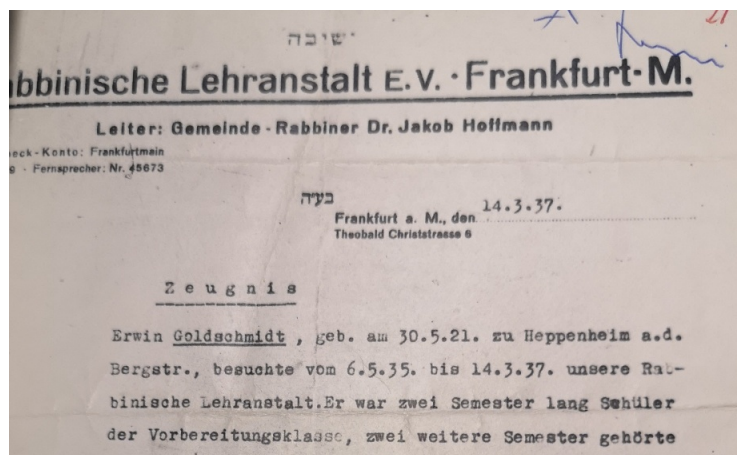


Fig. 5

In April 1935 Erwin's school time ended and, like his sister Ilse, he went to Frankfurt and there attended the Rabbinische Lehranstalt e.V. (Rabbinical school) until March 1937.

The decision to emigrate to Palestine was presumably made at this time. In preparation for it he was instructed at the Hachscharah in Steckelsdorf in the Havelland, mainly in agriculture and horticulture.

From April to October 1938 he lived temporarily with his father in Heppenheim, who had meanwhile moved to Ludwigstrasse 8. Then they had to say their goodbyes. Erwin never saw his father again. In Triest he boarded the ship to Palestine.

Erwin found a new home in the Kibbutz Saad. As an agricultural employee he helped build the Kibbutz. In May 1943 he married Hanna Morell from Warsaw. Their two daughters Bruria and Shoshana were born in 1945 and 1947 respectively.

Erwin Goldschmidt died on 30th May 2008.

Sources

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Figs. 1, 4, 6: Bruria Michman via Förderverein Kulturdenkmal Alte
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Figs. 3, 5: HHStAW 518, 53519

Fig. 2: Verordnungs- und Anzeigenblatt für den Kreis Heppenheim
1926



Fig. 6: Erwin Goldschmidt