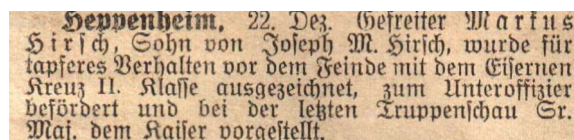


Markus Hirsch – Lina Hirsch – Helene Hirsch

Hambacher Tal 10 (today no. 12)

Markus Hirsch was born in Heppenheim on 23 August 1895, the son of the merchant Joseph Mayer Hirsch and Helene Hirsch, née Scheuer. He came from a Jewish family that was mentioned in Heppenheim as early as 1751 and to which the founders of the new synagogue (the Hirsch Synagogue) on Starkenburgweg also belonged. Markus Hirsch's parents lived at Mühlgasse 7 and he attended primary school in Heppenheim, then the Oberrealschule in Heppenheim. He finished his schooling there with a secondary school leaving certificate. He joined the Lvinger & Feibel corset factory in Frankfurt as an apprentice and remained there after completing his apprenticeship.

Markus Hirsch was seriously wounded in World War I when a volunteer soldier at the beginning of 1915, but remained a soldier until January 1919, when he was awarded the Iron Cross.



After his military service, he returned to the corset factory and worked there as an authorised signatory. In 1923, he ran a wholesale business for corsets and founded his own corset factory on 1 February 1923.

On 25 May 1932, he moved the corset factory to Heppenheim in the Hambach Valley in order to expand the company's capacity. His factory generally employed 12 seamstresses and employees.



The factory developed very well until the boycott against all Jewish businesses began on 1 April 1934. Despite the increasing severity of the boycott, the workforce was retained almost without redundancies until the end of 1938, but the net profit continued to decline. A letter of thanks from the Wissner company in Göttingen to Markus Hirsch dated 11 October 1938 demonstrates his high reputation as a specialist, manufacturer and personality.

Markus Hirsch married Lina Nathan on 29 April 1937 in Göppingen. The couple lived in a detached house at Hambacher Tal 10 in 'six stately furnished rooms'. Markus's mother had also lived there since her husband's death.

Markus Hirsch was a member of the Jewish community council during the difficult period from 1933 to 1937.

His life changed radically with the pogrom night on 9 November 1938. Markus Hirsch wrote about this in 1953 in an affidavit:

On 9 November 1938, I was arrested by SA men in my flat in Heppenheim and led to the burning synagogue along with other Jewish residents. There were SA and SS men there. They forced us to tear down the synagogue. We had to do this work under their guard from about 11 o'clock in the morning until about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Then we were taken to the police prison.

Markus Hirsch also wrote in 1950 with an affidavit from his wife:

On the evening of 9 November 1938, between 6 and 7 o'clock, three people in Nazi uniforms named Rodenheber, Wurth and Götz appeared in our flat when I the undersigned husband had already been taken away. They smashed up everything in the kitchen, the hallway and the master bedroom so that everything was a heap of rubble. They destroyed furniture, at least four genuine porcelain crocker sets, as well as crystals, bowls, glasses, pictures and mirrors.

In addition, in 1957, criminal proceedings against the perpetrators were instituted:

The bedspread was also cut up. Mrs Hirsch was hit on the head with an oil painting so that the frame hung around her neck.

* * *

After the pogrom night, Jewish men from Heppenheim and neighbouring towns were transported by bus to Buchenwald concentration camp near Weimar.

Markus Hirsch wrote about this in 1950 with an affidavit:

On arrival at Buchenwald, the arrivals were greeted by SS men with the command: 'Hats off, glasses off'. Then they started beating us with sticks, slats, whips and iron rods.

I myself received several blows to the head, so that I bled all night without medical help.

When we were released, several weeks later, we had to sign that we had been treated well, under the threat that if we told anyone else we would be taken back to the concentration camp, so I could only receive treatment in secret after my return. I had to suffer from the consequences of the wound for many years and was severely handicapped in my ability to work. The large scar on my head is still visible today.

When we were released from the concentration camp, we were ordered to emigrate as quickly as possible.

I returned to Heppenheim on 6 December with my bloodstained clothes. I then lay in bed for several days. Finally I consulted Dr Ferrari Snr. in Heppenheim, to whom I complained about my headache without saying anything about the severe wound on my head, which he could see, as I was afraid to say anything about it.

Markus Hirsch had to sell his corset factory. He wrote about it in 1950:

In Heppenheim a. d. Bergstraße I had a corset factory.

I had run a corset factory in Heppenheim a. d. Bergstraße. I had an annual net income of around 15,000 RM. As I was deprived of the right to live in Germany and to continue running my factory, I sold it at an unusually high loss with effect from 1 January 1939.

The sale of the corset factory to Wilhelm Zours from Hattingen took place on 22 December 1938 for the sale price of 16,175.60 marks.

Markus Hirsch and his wife Lina de-registered in Heppenheim on 15 March 1939. A few days later, he was forced to emigrate, first to Haifa in Palestine and later to the USA. He never saw his homeland again.

Markus Hirsch wrote:

On 23 March 1939, in order to escape hell, I emigrated to Palestine. Here I was constantly treated for my severe headaches. But I couldn't gain a foothold there because I was in a constant state of dizziness, which the doctors attributed to the severe head injuries I had suffered in the concentration camp.

As we didn't yet have a visa for the destination of our emigration, namely America, we initially emigrated to Palestine. Only after a year did we receive an entry visa for the USA, where we arrived on 11 April 1940.

After my emigration, I had no income during the years 1939, 1940 and 1941. We lived on the support of foreign relatives and by taking out loans ...

Pastor Martin B. Hellriegel, a native of Heppenheim in St. Louis (USA) and a neighbour's son from Kleine Bach, had supported the Hirsch couple's emigration with a letter of guarantee.

Markus Hirsch suffered greatly from the head injury he sustained in 1938 and had to spend much money on medical treatment until his death.

His application in March 1950 for compensation for damage to his body and health as well as financial losses was followed by years of litigation. On 10 October 1955, the compensation authorities announced that he would be awarded a monthly pension of DM 290.40 to be applied retroactively from 1 November 1953. On the same day, he was notified of DM 21,135.40 as capital compensation for the damage to his body and health.



The Hirsch couple around 1937 or 1938 in front of St Mark's cathedral in Venice.

On 31 July 1956, Markus Hirsch died in New York at the age of 60 in the Jewish Memorial Hospital as a result of the partly incurably aggravated illness caused by the persecution. He was survived by his widow. The couple had no children.

Es kann keinem Zweifel unterliegen, dass Herr Hirsch letzten Endes an den Folgen rassistischer Verfolgung gestorben ist, da sein Leiden auf die in Deutschland erlittenen Aufregungen, Strapazen und Miss-handlungen zurueckzufuehren ist.

H. G. Liebmann
Dr. H. G. Liebmann.

No decision was made about the financial losses before 1958. Neither Markus Hirsch nor his wife lived to see this decision.

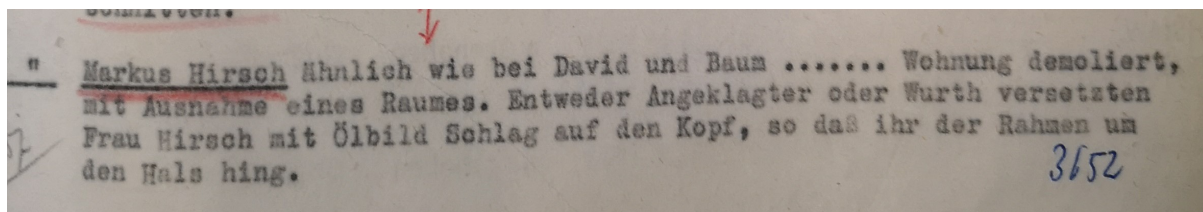
Lina Hirsch née Nathan

Wife of Markus Hirsch

Lina's parents, Heinrich and Betty Nathan, lived in Laupheim. Their four children were born there. Lina was born on 12 May 1905. She grew up in Laupheim with her twin brother Alexander and older sister Frida. Her middle sister Emma was only 6 years old. In 1937, Lina was living in Göppingen. She was an office clerk.

Her marriage to Markus Hirsch is dated 29 April 1937 in Göppingen. Lina lived with her husband in Heppenheim from May 1937. Her parents visited their daughter Lina there in February 1938. Her twin brother also spent some time in Heppenheim. Six months later, their father died in Laupheim at the age of 80.

Lina experienced the pogrom night of 1938 with her mother-in-law in their house in the Hambach Valley. The perpetrators are recorded after the war:



* * *



Lina Hirsch estimated 1937/38.

Her husband returned seriously injured from Buchenwald on 6 December 1938. Their livelihood changed completely. Their assets were lost, their home was lost.

In March 1939, Lina and Markus Hirsch emigrated to Palestine and a year later to the USA. Lina's mother, Betty Nathan, managed to flee to the USA in 1941. Betty died there in 1951.

Lina died of cancer after a serious operation on 30 March 1958 in New York.

Helene Hirsch, née Scheuer

Mother of Markus Hirsch

Helene Scheuer was born on 17 August 1866 in Monsheim in Rheinhessen.

On 14 September 1887, she married Joseph Mayer Hirsch from Heppenheim in Monsheim. The couple had one child – son Markus. Her husband died in Heppenheim on 5 February 1933.

On 18 May 1939, she was deported from Heppenheim to Stuttgart (Hölderlinstr. 50).



*Helene Hirsch geb.
Lehener Ww.*

In 1940, at the age of 74, she fled to New York to join her son Markus Hirsch.

She set sail from Genoa on 15 May 1940 on the ship Conte de Savoia and arrived in New York on 23 May 1940.

She was naturalised in the USA (Declaration of Intention) on 10 January 1941.

Helene Hirsch died in New York around 1945 or 1950.

Quellen

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