

Dormagen im Nationalsozialismus - Jüdische Dormagener

Dormagen in Nazi Germany and the Jewish residents

With its 12 districts the town of Dormagen can now be called as cosmopolitan and multicultural.

The city received from the federal government the title of "City of Diversity" In 2009. So democratic and tolerant Dormagen was not always

It raises questions about the behavior of the Dormagen citizens during the Nazi dictatorship from 1933 - 1945. Comparing photos of today with images from the Nazi era, shows that many residents of Dormagen were Nazis enthusiastically.

Thus, the Town Hall Square, today daily meeting and starting point for many Dormagen, in the Nazi period, then often was used as a gathering place for Hitler Youth, SA and SS. Hundreds of men were avid SS and SA members of Dormagen.

At City Hall, the mayor, the police and the school were staying.

Let's do a little trip to illustrate how the Dormagen looked like in 1933. Dormagen then consisted of the districts Horrem, Dormagen- Mitte and Rheinfeld.

The city had a total of 6,000 residents,

35 of Jewish fate

23 were murdered

8 fled successfully

The siblings Jacob and Emmy Dahl survived concentration camp

Who remembers these families? Who knew them? 30 "Stolpersteine" in Dormagen, cobblestone-sized memorials for victim of Nazism, remember their fates, so that they will never forget. Today is about two surviving families: Gottschalk and Dahl.

Due to her job as merchants, most of the six Jewish families Dormagen lived on the main street, Kölner Straße.

Today we will deal with the families Karl Gottschalk and Louis Dahl. Louis Dahl had his butcher shop on Kölner Str 121, his granddaughter

Mrs Paschek-Dahl and her husband continued very successful till 2011.

As a proud German patriot Louis Dahl enlisted 1914 for "God and country" in the First World War. While he was awarded the Iron Cross, Second Class, others Jewish soldiers of Dormagen gave their lives for Germany.

The monument in the cemetery Nettergasse is also reminiscent of the Jewish soldiers Max Katz and Gustav Gottschalk.

The only son of Louis Dahl, Jacob, who was born in 1916 during the First World War, was a butcher and worked with his father, although he would have preferred to visit a secondary school.

The life of the Jewish residents changed abruptly when the Nazis came to power in 1933. Systematically, they were ousted from all walks of life, their customers were threatened by the SA, so they all had to sell their stores at ridiculous prices to non-Jewish businessmen.

On 10 December 1941, the last Jewish people from Dormagen were deported to extermination camps in occupied East. Dormagen was now "free of Jews"!

The Holocaust survivor Emmy Dahl reported about the deportation to Ghetto Riga.

The 63-year-old Louis Dahl and his wife were shot dead in 1944 by the SS.

After her liberation in 1945 24-year Emmy Dahl weighed just 34 kilos and was very sick.

Jakob Dahl returned to Dormagen and opened the butcher shop of his father.

He married a Jewish Holocaust survivor Irene Harf from Wickrath/Mönchengladbach and his sister Emmy Dahl Holocaust married the survivor Kurt Mendel from Kerpen.

All the aunts and uncles of Jakob and Emmy Dahl had been murdered. Only a few cousins and cousins fled abroad in time.

The road next to the Kölner Str 127 is called "The Jewish house of prayer."

The cattle dealer Gottschalk builded the house in 1912 . After his

death, his son Karl took over the thriving cattle trade. The Jewish prayer room in the attic was for about 40 people and the Thora shrine was designed, as usual, toward Jerusalem.

Because the Nazis forbade the cattle farmers to sell to Jewish merchants, the 29-year Karl Gottschalk had to sell his house and his business at a ridiculous price to a non-Jewish cattle dealer. A cousin in New York had given him a ticket to the passenger ship Queen Mary. He worked as a waiter and Help saved with his wife Liesel every penny, so a few years later the apparel business, "Karl-Lee-store" in New Jersey could have been opened.

In 1985 with his adult children Margaret and Milton Gottschalk Karl Gottschalk visited for the first time Dormagen after his escape from Nazi Germany . He was struck how many of his Jewish friends and neighbors from Dormagen had been murdered. Six months later, he died in a car accident.

List of all murdered Jewish residents of Dormagen - entire area today

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