

Max Rödelsheimer

Born on

November 1, 1884 in Baisingen, today a district of Rottenburg/Neckar; murdered in August 1942 in the Auschwitz concentration camp, was a photographer in Pforzheim . He was an opponent of the National Socialists and a victim of anti-Semitism.

From the turn of the century, certainly from the year 1901 , he worked as a photographer in Pforzheim, because the picture of a spindle drill press - machine bears the signature "Atelier Rödelsheimer, Pforzheim, 1901". He lives at Schloßberg No. 11, there, in the so-called "Kaufhaus Schloßberg", is also his studio, for advertising purposes he has rented a shop window. On April 1, 1933, the NSDAP carries out the first openly anti-Semitic action in Germany, the boycott of stores whose owners belong to the Jewish community. In Pforzheim, for example, SA men in uniform stand in front of the Schocken department store on Westliche (?), after Aryanization "Merkur", later "Horten" and today "Kaufhof ", with signs such as /"This is a Jewish store"/, /"Closed, since departed for Palestine"/ or /"Germans, don't buy from Jews!" / Eyewitness account David Krämer, a Holocaust survivor who lived on Blumenstraße at the time, writes about that Saturday morning on Schloßberg: /"At a Jewish photographer's... there was also a young SA man posted as a guard. This photographer was [...] not willing to accept things idly. Dressed in his war medals, he sat down in the shop window and attracted a large crowd. In the protection of the crowd, some found the courage to say: 'There stands such a snotty boy of SA - man, who could at best wet his diapers, when this man was in the field and earned his medals'... / The situation intensified, when SA - people came along and threatened to beat everything to smithereens, if this man did not leave his self-chosen seat. The threatened photographer left the place behind the shop window, but did not give in yet. / After a while he returned and attached to the inside of the window a colorful postcard showing children of different races dancing round dances. Underneath it was written: 'We are all children of one God'. The smallness of the card caused a crowd to the window; everyone wanted to look closely at the picture./Picture and text were spontaneously understood by all. The photographer had won a small victory with his vivid appeal to brotherhood"/. Fate Max Rödelsheimer is still registered at the Schloßberg in 1935, in 1937 the new owner of the photo studio is called Glaser. In 1939/1940 Max Rödelsheimer has to move to the ghettoized house in Erbprinzenstraße 20, on October 22, 1940 police and Gestapo pick him up for deportation to the internment camp Gurs in Southern France. The last sign of life is dated July 15, 1941, in a letter of thanks from Simon Bloch of Pforzheim from the Gurs camp to Hermann Hirschheimer, who had escaped in 1937 in time via Belgium and Argentina to the USA. This letter also mentions Max Rödelsheimer as the recipient of a consignment of aid for the inmates of the camp. On August 6, 1942, the Nazis deported him to the Auschwitz death camp via Drancy near Paris. In the files there is the abbreviation "f.t.e.", declared dead. Leonti Givant , Max Rödelsheimer's partner, leaves Pforzheim in 1933. After temporary imprisonment in the Dachau concentration camp, he emigrates to the USA in 1939 and thus survives the Holocaust. Remembrance: Stumbling Stone for Max Rödelsheimer As part of the "Stumbling Stones" campaign, a stone was laid in the ground for Max Rödelsheimer in front of his last residential address at Schloßberg 11 on March 13, 2008.

Sources * Address Book Pforzheim * Gerhard Brändle : /"Die jüdischen Mitbürger der Stadt Pforzheim"/, published by the city of Pforzheim , Pforzheim 1985 (1st edition) ISBN 3-9800843-1-0