

### **Jette Pessel, née Hommel**

Max's eldest sister lived as a widow in Magdeburg in 1942. From there, the pianist was deported to the Theresienstadt ghetto and died at the age of 77 on February 11, 1943 due to the murderous living conditions. A Stumbling Stone at Erzbergerstr. 12 in Magdeburg commemorates her fate.

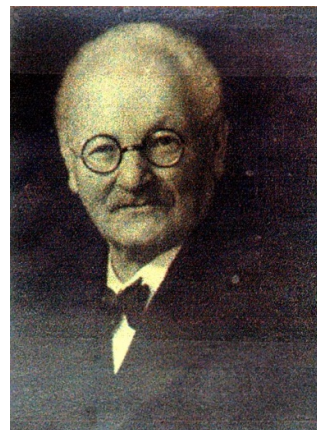
**Rita (Ruth) Eben, née Hommel**, was a daughter of Oskar Hommel, Max's next younger brother. The young widow lived with her son Karl-Heinz Eben in Nuremberg. Both were deported to the Riga-Jungfernhof ghetto in November 1941 and murdered there.

**Kathi Pessel, née Hommel**, another of Max's sisters, lived as a widow in Frankfurt/Main. In August 1942, she too was deported to the Theresienstadt ghetto, where the 73-year-old died miserably on December 10, 1942.

**Recha Strauss, née Hommel**, was Max's youngest sister. She was married to the cattle dealer Julius Strauss and lived with him in Bad Mergentheim.



Recha Strauss (Source: Yad Vashem):



Julius Strauss (Source: Yad Vashem)

While their children were able to flee Germany, the couple were deported to the Theresienstadt ghetto in August 1942, as were most of Max's siblings. Recha died there on November 1, 1943, Julius on April 21, 1944. Stumbling stones at Holzapfelgasse 15 in Bad Mergentheim commemorate the couple.

**Justus Hommel** was Max's youngest brother, and Max's son was presumably named after him. The unmarried, childless businessman lived in Nuremberg. Like his niece Rita Eben, he was deported to the Riga-Jungfernhof camp in 1941. It is not known whether the 63-year-old froze to death in the icy winter of 1941/42 or was murdered in the massacre in March 1942.

**Jakob Hirschmann** was the son of Louisa Hirschmann, née Hommel, an aunt of Max Hommel. Max's cousin Jakob lived in Frankfurt/Main. He was 51 years old when he was arrested during the Pogrom Night. His life ended violently in Buchenwald concentration camp on November 16, 1938.