

Pnina Plawner, born on March 7, 1926 in Haifa, murdered in Warsaw in spring 1943

Pnina's parents Mina, née Gruber and Dr.-Ing. Bernhard [Plawner](#) came from Oswiecim/Poland and considered emigrating to Palestine in the 1920s. During her stay in Haifa, Pnina was born as her



first child. Economic difficulties there prompted the family to move back to Europe, and in 1928 Bernhard Plawner found a well-paid job at the Fleischer paper mill in Eislingen. During her time in Eislingen, in 1934, Pnina's sister Rachel-Dina was born.

Mina, Plina, Wolf-Bernhard und Rachel-Dina
(Source: Initiative Stolpersteine Göppingen)

Pnina probably attended the Catholic (North) Eislingen ‚Volksschule‘ (elementary school) from 1932 to 1936. After its rededication to the 'German School', she was undesirable as a Jewish pupil and had to transfer to the Göppingen Jewish School. In the photo, which shows students of the Jewish School, you can also see Pnina's little sister Rachel-Dina. Since the photo was probably taken in the summer of 1938, Rachel-Dina, who was only 4 years old at the time, probably did not attend the school. However, it is possible that she was allowed to be a 'guest' in the photo.

School class of the Jewish School around 1939: Pnina is probably the second girl from the left (with her hand raised)

(Source: Initiative Stolpersteine Göppingen)



Since the family 'only' had Polish citizenship, the Nazi state pursued their deportation, which initially took place in Pnina's father's case in October 1938. At the end of 1938/beginning of 1939, Pnina was also deported to Poland with her sister and mother. With luck, the Plawner family was able to settle in the southern Polish city of Jasło (pronounced like: Jasswo). At the end of 1941/beginning of 1942, Poland had been occupied by Nazi Germany since 1939, but all Jewish inhabitants of Jasło were forced to move into the newly established ghetto, which was fenced in with barbed wire. This fate also befell the Plawner family. It can be assumed that all family members had to do forced labor. 16-year-old Pnina worked e.g. in a cleaning squad and also outside the ghetto.

But the Plawner family initially had an unexpected 'protector': Ludwig Romeis. In the family memory, he is referred to as 'Schultheiß' (= mayor) of Jasło; we do not yet have confirmation from other sources. However, Romeis was part of the murderous Nazi administration and was in contact with the Nazi district administrator Walter Gantz, a murderer who was never held accountable even after the war. But Ludwig Romeis—whose capriciousness as a “master race” knew no bounds—initially protected the Plawner family. He gave Pnina food and helped her escape when it became clear that the ghetto was to be ‘cleared’ in August 1942.

Pnina, who pretended to be a married couple with a friend, was able to live first in Kielce, then in Warsaw with false papers. In the spring of 1943, in a queue for bread, her poor Polish caught the eye of an ethnic German who denounced her. On the same day, 17-year-old Pnina and her boyfriend were shot. Pnina's parents and her little sister were also murdered by the Nazi Germans.