

Hilde Berta Stern, born on January 4, 1929 in Giessen, deported on December 1, 1941 to Riga/Jungfernhof camp, murdered

At the beginning of 1936, the [Stern family](#) moved from Nordeck/Hesse to Göppingen and was initially able to live in the house of the widow Betty Rothschild, née Held, which was located at Franklinstraße 5. Hilde Berta's father Leo Stern found work as a caretaker and also as a worker in the Uhingen spinning mill, which belonged to the Rothschild family.

It is not known whether Hilde Berta still went to a state school for a few months, but she must have been a student at the Jewish school from the beginning until its closure.

Her older brothers Herbert Ludwig, born in 1920 and Berthold Artur, born in 1923, moved away from Göppingen in mid-1938 and prepared their escape to Palestine. At this time, in July 1938, the Stern family also had to leave their previous apartment, because the owner Betty Rothschild sold her house as a prerequisite for her escape from Nazi Germany.

The only photo we have of Hilde Berta Stern dates from the winter of 1940. It was taken by Berthold Auerbacher, Inge Auerbacher's father; the small group of children is standing in front of the house at Metzgerstraße 16, which belonged to the Jewish Geschmay family. The rest of the



Stern family, as well as the Auerbacher family, had been forced to move into this 'Judenhaus' ('Jewish house').

Hilde Berta Stern, back, third from left
(Source: Inge Auerbacher)

Her last year in Göppingen must have been a very depressing one for Hilde Berta Stern; the Jewish school no longer existed and only those children who, like her, lived at Metzgerstraße 16 could have been considered as playmates.

On 28 November, apart from Inge Auerbacher, all the children in the photo were forced to leave the house with their parents and siblings and deported from Stuttgart to Riga/Latvia on 1 December. Inhumane living conditions prevailed in the 'Jungfernhof' camp, so we do not know whether Hilde-Berta and her parents survived the winter of 1941/42. If they had, she was shot during the murder operation in the 'Biekerniki' forest on 26 March 1942. SS units, German police officers or Latvian allies of the Nazis could be the perpetrators.