

Ohmstraße 20

Alexander Lubranczyk

born 25.02.1854
in Pudewitz,
deported 18.06.1942
in the Concentration Camp
Theresienstadt,
murdered 03.08.1942
in the Concentration Camp
Theresienstadt

Alexander (Alex) Lubranczyk was born on February 25th, 1854 in Pudewitz, (now Pobiedziska, Poland). His parents were the tailor Aaron Lubranczyk and his wife Therese nee Skotzka from Berlin. He had three younger siblings: Louis, David and Klara. Alex married Emma Salomon, born in February 1856 in Schönefeld, in January 18, 1881 in Berlin. He and his wife resided in Berlin where Alex owned a tailor shop with his brother Louis. Alex and Emma had four children: Alfred, Bruno, Gertrud and Sophie. Alfred married Erna Wolff and had one son, Wolfgang, who survived the Holocaust in Sweden. Alfred died in 1921. Bruno and Sophie died of tuberculosis in 1913 and 1915 respectively. Alexander's only surviving daughter, Gertrud Lubranczyk, married Siegmund Hirsch in 1914. The couple had two children: Gerda and Rudolf, both born in Barmen (now Wuppertal).



Foto: Privatbesitz

In 1925, the family moved to Munich and lived comfortably in Ohmstrasse 20, Apartment 1. Alexander's son-in-law, Siegmund, was named partner at the prestigious Gebrueder Schwarzhaupt Bank in Munich. They lived a normal life as a family, often spending the summers in Starnberg and Posenhofen. In 1927, Alex Lubranczyk became a widow and in 1928 moved to Munich to live closer to his daughter Gertrud. He first lived in Steinsdorfstrasse 16, then moved to Rambergstrasse 2. In 1932 he decided to move again, this time to live with his daughter and her family at the apartment in Ohmstrasse. Gertrud was a housewife and her husband Siegmund was a banker. His grandson Rudolf later described Alex as silent and distant. Both Gerda and Rudolf, Alexander's grandchildren, attended elementary and high school in Munich. His granddaughter Gerda, however, was unable to graduate due to the Nazi seizure of power. She contracted tuberculosis in 1937 and was sent to a sanatorium in Davos, Switzerland, where she resided until 1939. During his last year of High School, Alexander's grandson Rudolph became an apprentice in his father's bank and began taking courses in pastry and photography.

In 1932, Alexander's son-in-law Siegmund became a partner at the Gebrüder Marx Bank and led the company to considerable success. As a result of the mandatory expropriation, the so called Aryanization, the name Gebrüder Marx was changed to August Lenz & Co., and shortly after Siegmund Hirsch was forced to leave the business.

After the Kristallnacht pogrom on November 9, 1938, both Alexander's son-in-law Siegmund and his grandson Rudolf were arrested and imprisoned in the Dachau Concentration Camp. They were released in December 13, 1938 after agreeing to pay a large sum for their freedom. With their assets confiscated and a small stipend to survive, the family initiated intensive efforts to leave Germany. In 1939, when Great Britain opened its doors to young refugees who could be sponsored by a British citizen, a family friend living in London helped Rudolf leave Germany. Later that year, on October 17, 1939, Siegmund, Gertrude and Gerda obtained emigration visas granted by the Chilean Government. Alexander however, was denied a visa because of his old age. The family was forced to leave Munich without "Opa", hoping they could obtain a visa for him once they arrived in Chile. They left Europe from Genoa on the Italian steamer Conte Grande in 3rd class. Upon their arrival Siegmund and Gertrud settled in Santiago and in 1940 they opened a photography shop.

In 1939, Alexander had to leave the apartment which had been his home in Munich, and was forced to move into the elderly home of the Jewish community in Mathildenstrasse 9, where he still hoped to be granted a visa to travel to Chile. In March 1942, at age 88, the Gestapo arrested and relocated Alexander to the Munich-Milbertshofen transit camp at Knorrstrasse 3, a camp with primitive barracks. Later that same year, in June 18, 1942 he was deported to the Terezin Camp (in German "Theresienstadt") by Transport II / 7-305. He died in August 3rd, 1942 as a result of the terrible living conditions which elderly people were specifically subjected to. The death certificate from Terezin shows pneumonia and pyelonephritis as cause of death.

In September 1945, shortly after the end of the war, Alexander's grandson Rudolf, traveled to Chile to reunite with parents and sister. Siegmund Hirsch died in 1947 and Gertrud in 1949. "Foto Marion", the family business, continued to be run by Rudolf, and was later joined by Alexander's great-granddaughter.

In 1952, Rudolf Hirsch Lubranczyk married Elsa Campos in Chile. The couple had four children: Roberto, Marion, Rebeca and Raquel. That same year, his granddaughter Gerda Hirsch Lubranczyk married Heinz Seelenfreund, born in Eisenach. They had two daughters, Andrea and Daniela. Alexander's legacy was continued with his three grandchildren; Gerda, Rudolf and Wolfgang, followed by seven great-grandchildren, six of whom grew up in Chile. Seventy-seven years later, to this day, the Lubranczyk-Hirsch family continues to live on and thrive through its newer generations.

Text by Marion Hirsch

Sources:

- Archive of the Seelenfreund Hirsch and Hirsch Campos families.
- Stadtarchiv München, Einwohnermeldekarte of Alexander Lubranczyk.
- Stadtarchiv München, Judaica, Kennkartendoppel of Alexander Lubranczyk.
- Stadtarchiv München, Biografisches Gedenkbuch der Münchner Juden 1933-1945.
- Todesfallerkärung, aus: <https://www.holocaust.cz/de/opferdatenbank/opfer/23166-alexander-lubranczyk/>, zuletzt aufgerufen am 11.07.2019.