

Short Bios of the NAZI victims for whom the “Stolpersteine” will be placed

Alfred Löb, one Stolperstein in front of Großer Markt 15

Emma Löb, along with her son, Alfred, operated a textiles and toy store located at Großer Markt 15. Alfred Löb was apprehended during the “Night of Broken Glass” and, as was the usual with Jewish males between the ages of 18 and 60, deported to the Buchenwald concentration camp. Emma Löb found it extremely difficult to continue running the business without her son due to her being 75 years old and suffering from problems with her feet.

She therefore went to Mayor Hinterwälder on January 2nd, 1939 with a petition asking him to see to it that her son be released as soon as possible to return to Montabaur. She made sure to mention in the petition that, as a younger man, Alfred Löb served at the front in Russia and France during World War I and was decorated with the German “Iron Cross” medal.

The final lines of the letter asked: „Is that not terrible, Mr. Mayor? (...) How many others returned home, and my son is terribly needed here but doesn't come back. Mr. Mayor this is my final plea to you. Take pity on an old woman and please see to it that my son returns. (...) I await his arrival every night to no end.

(From: Markus Wild. The history of the Jews in the Montabaur municipalities)

Betty and Willy Stern, two Stolpersteine in front of Bahnhofstraße 24

Willy and Betty Stern owned a leather shop at Bahnhofstraße 24, where they also resided. The shop was founded in 1876.

Mr. B remembers Willy Stern. He describes the time shortly before the Night of Broken Glass: „Mr. Willy Stern and I were together quite often. He owned a leather shop and supplied a number of shoe makers in the Westerwald. As the situation for the Jewish people in Germany became more precarious, I sometimes accompanied Mr. Stern to collect the money, which many shoemakers were still able to pay for the leather. Mr. Stern had already told about the difficulties that he had had due to his religion. I was present when one of the shoemakers told Mr. Stern that he would not pay him because he was a “dirty Jew”. That was not the only time that such an event occurred (Mr. Stern of course needed the money to be able to feed his family, because all types of business with Jewish people was officially forbidden as of mid 1938.)

(From: Markus Wild. The history of the Jews in the Montabaur municipalities)

Alois Skatulla, one Stolperstein in front of Biergasse 6

Adolf Adam Edel, one Stolperstein in Holler, Hauptstraße 66

Skatulla and Edel were political National Socialist victims, who met the same fate and were killed together. No matter that Edel lived in Holler, they were thought to be together.

Skatulla and Edel were charged with undermining military morale. Shortly before the end of the war both men were imprisoned in the district court building and confined to the same cell. Skatulla's daughter, Ms. Gertrud Zuchristian has the following memory: „On the 26th of March, 1945, at

around noon, the American forces gained control of Montabaur. We were sitting in the air raid shelter in the cellar of the Lenaif house in the upper Kirchstraße (which is now the American Sportsbar). As soon as the Americans arrived, we hurried out of the cellar. My mother and I wanted to take my father away from the prison. Along the way we met the Edel family and were told that both of the prisoners had been taken away just one hour before the arrival of the Americans. It was only at a later date that we were given the horrible news that both our father and Mr. Edel were found shot to death by the gravel quarry on Limburger Straße.”

Their deaths are made even more tragic by the fact that they met the terrible fate of being shot to death in a gravel quarry in Limburger Straße only one hour before the arrival of the American forces.
(From: F.-J. Löwenguth. I am Adolf Hitlers Little Soldier)

Bruder Hyazinth, one Stolperstein in front of Ignatius-Lötschert-Straße 2

When one thinks of Brother Rektor Hyazinth, his name and the work of the Merciful Brothers are unfortunately unwillingly forever connected to the mercy killing victims of the third reich.

On the 12th of August, 1923, as Brother Hyazinth was being elected to become the Superior General of his religious order, he could not have imagined what difficult times lay ahead. He was successful in his job and was able to accomplish quite a lot during the 1920's. It was under his leadership that the Catholic Charity house (Caritashaus) in Montabaur was able to expand, in order to take in and care for additional epileptic patients. But soon after the NAZI's came to power, all of that would change. The new government began dissolving the order's branch offices and clearing institutions out. During the Herz-Jesu-Fest in 1936 the omnibuses stood ready in front of the Caritashaus in Montabaur to take the patients from the Merciful Brothers and send them to state run institutions. Shortly thereafter the Vinzenzhaus was also cleared out. The patients were taken to the state run mental hospitals in Weilmünster and Hadamar. Almost all of the mentally ill people in those facilities were killed.

(From: Festschrift of the Barmherzigen Brüder in Montabaur)