A family’s experience in the Holocaust

P B Hirsch
1919 Bartenstein
Wedding: Ismar Hirsch and Regina Less
1905: East and West Prussia
1914-18: Ismar Hirsch

Ismar in German uniform, with ribbon of Iron Cross (second class)
Fought in Horse Artillery at Verdun; was wounded
1919 Bartenstein
Wedding: Ismar Hirsch and Regina Less
History of Isakovsky (later Irwig) family
Bartenstein (East Prussia)

Gustav Isakowski – Gertrude Less
married 1906
1884-1973
married 1906
1884-1973
died 1930
to South Africa
1938

Herbert Isakowski - Kate Voss
married 1936
1907-2005
1910-1959
to South Africa
1936
Grocery Store (Johannesburg)
to US 1975
2 Children:
Henry (US), Leslie (Australia)

Fred Irwig
Gustav’s nephew
Studied medicine in Germany
1923
Surgeon
to US (Kansas City) 1923

Harry Irwig
1910-1978
to US (Kansas City) 1933
married Frances, in US
Daughter Susan
Lawyer
Assisted at Nuremberg Trial

Ruth Irwig
1912-1987
to US (Kansas City) 1938
married Kamerling 1942
1956 Johannesburg: Henry’s Bar Mitzvah

Herbert Irwig, his wife Kate (Voss), his sons Henry and Leslie and his mother, Gertrude (Less)

Kate's sister, Else (Voss), husband Ota Rosenberger, daughter Ellen were gassed Auschwitz 1943
1943 Auschwitz

Notification of fate of Herbert’s sister-in-law, husband and daughter
1938 Berlin

Silver Wedding party: Josef and Hertha Perl
History of the Gotthilf family
Breslau, later Berlin

Gustav Gotthilf - Annie Less
Married 1910
1886 - 1941
Perished 1942 in concentration camp

Ellen Gotthilf
30.10.1913 - 1980
to South Africa 1936 (Cape Town)
Daughter Jossy 6.6.1944
Jossy to UK 1958
Ellen to UK 1959 (Hospitalised Epsom)

Ruth Gotthilf
30.06.1917 - 1990
To UK 1939
Married
Fred Woodgate 1952
(Fred died 1968)
History of the Perl family
Lyck (East Prussia)

Josef Perl – Hertha Less
married 1913
born 1882     born 1889
Permit to Paraguay 1939
to Argentine via Uruguay 1939
Haberdashery Buenos Aires

Bernie Perl - Dorothea Israelski
14.02.1914     11.1.1916
-16.08.2014     -30.08.1885
married 1935
Son Norbert 1936
to Argentine 1939
Daughter Anita 1946
Jewellery business

Josef Perl had three brothers – Nathan, Felix, Jacob
Two brothers survived in Belgium
The first wife and two children of one of these two brothers
and the third brother, wife and daughter,
all perished in concentration camps.
1936: Der Stürmer

Antisemitic Propaganda
1938 Berlin: Treitschke Schule

John Hirsch, end of school year
1948 Wedding: John Hirsch and Ann Pendlebury
1938 Berlin: Frank Foley
Für den überdimensionierten Ausbau Berlins zur Hauptstadt Nazi-Deutschlands mussten teilweise erst Freiflächen geschaffen werden. Den "arischen" Mieterinnen und Mietern in den zum Abriss vorgesehenen Häusern wurden von den Nationalsozialisten Ersatzwohnungen angeboten, aus denen vorher die Bewohnerinnen und Bewohner vertrieben und in sogenannte "Judenhäuser" zwangsumgesiedelt worden waren, in denen sie auf engstem Raum miteinander leben mussten.

In dem Haus Levetzowstraße 11a bezog er ein Leerzimmer in einer früheren 6-Zimmerwohnung, die er u.a. mit dem Apotheker Max Chaskel, dem Arzt Dr. Lippmann Dossmar, dem Nervenarzt Dr. Hermann Pineas mit dessen Frau Herta sowie dem Zahnarzt Dr. Herbert Meyerson teilte. Die Mieterinnen und Mieter hatten in der "Gemeinschaftswohnung" eine "Gemeinschaftsküche", in der sie jeweils über eine eigene Speisekammer verfügten. Die Lebensgefährtin von Julius Moses, Frieda Nemitz, und der Sohn Kurt kamen täglich um ihn zu versorgen.

Im Sommer 1942 wurde Dr. Moses deportiert. Er starb am 24.9.1942 unter ungeklärten Umständen im KZ Theresienstadt.
Berlin 9-10 November 1938: Kristallnacht

Levetzowstrasse Synagogue was heavily damaged. It was used by the Nazis in 1941-42 as a collection point for Jewish deportees to Auschwitz.
Mahnmal Levetzowstrasse

Cattle truck Memorial at site of Levetzowstrasse Synagogue
Stolperstein Levetzowstrasse 11a

Hier wohnte
Gertrud Walter
geb. Stern
Jg. 1896
Deportiert 1942
Ermordet in
Auschwitz
1938 London: Max Halfin

Max Halfin, Guarantor of Kindertransport to UK for Peter Hirsch (1st January 1939) and Herbert Meyersohn (April 1939)
1939 Berlin: Exit document for Herbert Meyersohn
1940 England

Herbert Meyersohn, Pioneer Corps.
Peter Hirsch evacuated with Sloane School, Chelsea, to Addlestone, Surrey
1947 England: Regi, Herbert and Peter

Herbert Meyersohn: Captain, Dental Corps
1956 Peter Hirsch and Steve Kellar

Peter Hirsch read Physics at Cambridge, took up academic career. 1959: married Steve Kellar; two step-children, Janet and Paul
## History of the Hirsch and Meyersohn families

**Broniewo, Grutchnow, Schwetz, Bromberg (West Prussia)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Born</th>
<th>Died</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ismar Hirsch</td>
<td>01.04.1879</td>
<td>14.12.1936</td>
<td>Textile business</td>
<td>Died in Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina Less</td>
<td>06.02.1891</td>
<td>20.07.1973</td>
<td>Domestic service + clerical post at Telfers in London</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert Meyersohn</td>
<td>24.05.1890</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Captain in Dental corps</td>
<td>Captain in Dental corps in Berlin and London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Hirsch</td>
<td>16.01.1925</td>
<td>01.01.1939</td>
<td>Married Steve Kellar 1959</td>
<td>Married Steve Kellar 1959 2 stepchildren, Janet, Paul</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Ismar Hirsch**: Textile business
- **Regina Less**: Domestic service + clerical post at Telfers in London
- **Herbert Meyersohn**: Captain in Dental corps
- **John Hirsch**: Married Ann Pendlebury 1948 4 children
- **Peter Hirsch**: Married Steve Kellar 1959 2 stepchildren, Janet, Paul

## Connections

- **Ismar Hirsch** married **Regina Less** in 1919
- **Herbert Meyersohn** married **Regina Less** in 1934
- **John Hirsch** married **Ann Pendlebury** in 1948
- **Peter Hirsch** married **Steve Kellar** in 1959

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**Lisa Meyersohn**

- (daughter of Siegbert)
- Nurse
- Was sheltered and survived in Berlin throughout the war
- To Palestine

**Siegbert Meyersohn**

- (Herbert's older brother)
- Doctor
- He and his wife perished in Concentration camp
Summary

Three of the four Less sisters and families survived; one husband perished in a concentration camp.

The fate of a number of relations at the 1919 wedding is unknown, but some of them did not survive the war.

Those who survived fled to where they could, not where they wanted to go. The three surviving sisters and families found refuge in South Africa, U.S.A., Argentine, U.K; an example of the diaspora resulting from Nazi oppression. Much ingenuity and help from others was needed to make a successful escape.

Many who escaped were in their 50’s and 60’s and showed remarkable determination and resourcefulness to rebuild their lives in a new land, and contributed to their new countries.

Chaim Weizmann described the situation accurately in 1936:

"The world seemed to be divided into two parts; those places where the Jews could not live, and those they could not enter."