

Karl Zander, Helga Zander and Ingeborg Zander



Address: Ostwall 48 / Krefeld

Karl Zander was born in 1883 in the small town of Wanlo, some 40 kilometres south of Krefeld. In 1907 he moved to Krefeld where he married his wife Margarete. In 1923 Margarete gave birth to **Ingeborg**, in 1926 daughter **Helga** was born. The Zander family, who lived at Ostwall 48 since January 1933, was Jewish. Karl Zander had a drapery business at Ostwall 48. Here he sold high quality cloth (e.g. satin and silk). In May 1934 Karl was divorced from Margarete. The daughters stayed with their father.

On 10 November 1938 Karl was arrested during a wave of violent anti-Jewish persecutions. While he was in prison his sister Rosalie tried to run Karl's drapery business but she wasn't very experienced, so the shop ran into dept. Karl's daughters were still teenagers and couldn't support the business. Friends of Karl's wrote letters to the authorities, telling that the drapery business wasn't going well without its owner and asking to set him free. After a short while Karl could return to his shop and to his daughters.

But it had been too late for his business, the debts were already too high. Karl had to sell his drapery business. He blamed the Nazi State for the crash of his business, arguing that his time in prison was the only reason. Karl, obviously being a very courageous man, sued the Nazi State. Surprisingly he was successful. A Düsseldorf Court ruled that the State had to pay him back a lot of money.

When it became clear that the Government had to pay back Karl a large amount of money, the head of the Krefeld tax office wrote a letter to the "Gestapo", the secret police of Nazi Germany. In his letter from 13 November 1941 he asked if it was possible to send Karl Zander "to the East", (i.e. to a Concentration Camp). His argument was very clear: Karl's deportation to a Concentration Camp would save the State a lot of trouble and money. Soon after that Karl was taken to Theresienstadt, a Concentration Camp near Prague, and finally to Auschwitz. There he was murdered in 1944.

After their father's business got into trouble and had to be sold, **Ingeborg** and **Helga** Zander had to go through some hard times. Suddenly the family was poor. And the sisters couldn't attend a school any longer because they were Jewish. To start job training was also impossible because of anti-Jewish Nazi laws. In 1939 Ingeborg and Helga went to the Northern Germany city of Hannover to attend a gardening school for Jewish students. In 1940, one year before their father was deported to Concentration Camps in the East, the sisters returned to Krefeld.

In 1940 Karl, Ingeborg and Helga had to move to a very small apartment in a so-called "Judenhaus", a place where Jews usually lived before they were deported. In the spring of 1941 Ingeborg met a young French prisoner of war in one of the shops where she did the shopping for the family. Ingeborg felt pity for this young French guy who had to do forced labor. Regularly she brought him sweets and fruits and even wrote him letters, using the French she had learned at school. On 30 September 1941 she was arrested when she tried to get in touch with Roger, the French prisoner of war, again. In Nazi Germany it was forbidden to get into contact with foreign prisoners of war. In October 1941 Ingeborg was sentenced to 45 days in prison.

After returning to the family she and her sister were deported to the Izbica Ghetto, a Concentration Camp near Lublin, Poland. There both sisters didn't survive very long. They died at an unknown date in the year 1942.