

**Overview:**

updated: 12/30/2014

1924 Born in Laubenheim, Germany

1938 Member of Maccabeus and Hashara Jewish organizations

1939 Left Laubenheim for Cologne

Detained and moved through Riga Ghetto and several Nazi camps:

1941-1944 Riga Ghetto

1941 Salaspils K.Z.

1943-1944 Riga-Mühlgraben K.Z.

1944 Stutthof K.Z.

1945 Lauenburg K.Z.

1945 Gotendorf K.Z.

March 10, 1945 Liberated

Click on this link to access a map outlining the locations of Fred's journey:

<http://bit.ly/FredKahnWWII>

**May 25, 1924 Laubenheim:** Born in Laubenheim-Nahe, Germany to Moritz Kahn b: 11 Oct 1885 and Erna (nee Stern) Kahn b: 21 Aug 1899. House address: Hauptstrasse 12 Laubenheim-Nahe, Germany.

Note: street name also spelled Hohlstrasse.

**Laubenheim** is an [Ortsgemeinde](#) – a [municipality](#) belonging to a [Verbandsgemeinde](#), a kind of collective municipality – in the [Bad Kreuznach district](#) in [Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany](#). It belongs to the [Verbandsgemeinde of Langenlonsheim](#), whose seat is in the [like-named municipality](#). Laubenheim is a [winegrowing](#) village in Western Germany.

**Nov 9, 1938 Laubenheim:** Fred was arrested Nov. 9, 1938 (Kristallnacht) and later released. The Nazis thought Fred was his older brother Eric. When they learned it was the wrong brother, they let Fred go free.

**Feb 27, 1939 Cologne:** Moritz, Erna and Fred left Laubenheim for a larger city in hopes they would become anonymous. They moved to Cologne.

Apartment address: 15 Steinweg Cologne, Germany.

In Cologne they were required to wear a yellow "Star of David", and had to carry special ID cards. The star was a cloth patch that Jews were ordered to sew on their outer garments to mark them as Jews in public. Beginning in 1939, all German Jewish men had to be called "Israel," and all Jewish women were to be called "Sarah." Fred had to register a new name, "Israel-Fritz" in his official documents.



Jews could not work alone anymore and had to work under supervision in groups of 10 or more people.

Fred worked at the Schlotman (Schlofman) Company building barracks for the German Army. This was in 1940.

Fred also worked installing hardwood floors, his supervisor was named Franc Dismont. (One of his jobs was to help lay hardwood floors in the Cologne Cathedral.)

**Dec 7, 1941 Riga:** The Kahn family was on the first deportation from Cologne to Riga, arriving in Riga on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>, 1941.

*According to historical information, the first deportation train to the Riga ghetto left Cologne on December 7, 1941 and arrived in Riga three days later.*

From the Riga train station the transport had to march a few hours to get to a deserted ghetto. The ghetto covered fifty blocks and was surrounded by barbed wire. Clothes were scattered over the ghetto streets and the smell of death was ever present. Fred discovered that the Jews of this Latvian ghetto had been shot a few days before he and his family arrived.

**Dec 1941–1944 in Riga:** Fred began ghetto work immediately upon arrival in the Riga Ghetto.

. Fred worked sorting clothing and then tying them into bundles.

- . Fred also unloaded straw and hay from ships at the Riga docks.
- . Fred worked as a carpenter building docks for the German Army. These docks were used by the Germans to unload uniforms of dead soldiers who were killed on the Russian front. These uniforms were then transported to a large laundry facility.

In Fall of 1941 (early 1942) Fred was transferred to Salaspils K.Z. for a short time three months (a month or two) and then transferred back to the Riga Ghetto, where he worked until the Ghetto was dissolved 1944.

Salaspils work: stacking lumber; working inside barracks. Near death story of tablecloth story.

Made suitcases with Hans Berman for German Soldiers.

***Salaspils concentration camp was established at the end of 1941 at a point 18 km (11 mi) southeast of Riga (Latvia).***

Riga Ghetto work: Erna worked in a hospital kitchen from Dec 1941 to end of 1944 and then was deported to the Stutthoff K.Z. In Jan/Feb 1945 Erna died of malnutrition and typhus at the Stutthof K.Z.

Riga Ghetto work: Moritz worked in the slaughter house as a butcher.

After the Ghetto was dissolved in end of 1942/beginning of 1943, Fred, his mother and father were transported to Riga-Mühlgraben K.Z., where they all worked for the German Army until 1944. They had to repair and launder the uniforms of German soldiers killed on the Russian front. Moritz helped transport the cleaned and repaired uniforms via a cart.

**July 28, 1944:** Moritz was taken away from Riga-Mühlgraben K.Z; He was taken away as a hostage for the July 20, 1944 attempt on Hitlers' life when the German officers tried to kill Hitler. Fred does not know how the Nazis killed Moritz. They took Moritz to Kiezerwald K.Z.

Fred was in Kiezerwald for 1 or 2 days

**At the end of 1944 in Danzig:** Fred and his mother Erna were transported on a large transport ship to Danzig where the Stutthof K.Z. was located. Fred saw his mother on this ship (was the last time he saw her). It was a very rough sailing. After arriving in Danzig prisoners were put on small barges to Stutthof.

***Stutthof*** was a [Nazi German concentration camp](#) in operation from September 2, 1939 following the [invasion of Poland](#) in World War II. It was set up in a secluded, wet, and wooded area west of the small town of Stutthof ([Sztutowo](#)) in the former territory of the [Free City of Danzig](#), 34 km (21 mi) east of the city of [Gdańsk](#). It was the first camp outside German borders, and the last camp liberated by the [Allies](#), on May 9, 1945. More than 85,000 victims died in this camp out of approximately 110,000 inmates deported to Stutthof.

Not much work to do at Stutthof. Had to stand in line to go to bathroom, not many. Took hours to get to front of line again. Had to stand at attention to be counted, count never came out correctly, so had to get counted again. Met Kurt Mendel at this camp. Loudspeaker at night, asked for 100 volunteers to work out of the camp. Stayed in Stutthof for camp for 4 to 5 months.

**Jan 1945 in Lauenberg (Lebork, Poland):** Transported to Lauenburg K.Z. by truck from Stutthof K.Z.

Fred volunteered for a carpentry assignment that he heard over the loud speaker in the Stutthof K.Z... He was transported by truck with 100 others to Lauenberg K.Z. This was the first transport to arrive at the camp. The camp had no barbed wire. As a way to prevent anyone from leaving, prisoners were told if anyone escapes, then 10 random prisoners would be shot. Fred built barracks to accommodate other prisoners who would be transported to this camp.

While at Lauenberg K.Z., Fred also volunteered to take care of the work horses at the camp. Near death Potato story. SS accused of smoking cigarette, was a piece of wood, beaten badly.

Laid railroad tracks, was put in this commando because was punished for potato story.

While doing railroad work, German soldier befriended him and gave him sandwiches. Asked soldier if he could bring food down from soldier dining area.

***Lebork - During World War II, Lauenburg was the location of the Nazi concentration camp Lauenburg, a subcamp of the Stutthof concentration camp.*** The city was occupied without fighting by the [Soviet Red Army](#) on 10 March 1945.

**Feb, 1945 Gotendorf/Lanz K.Z.:** walked for 3 days to get here from Lauenberg K.Z. without any food. They ate sugar beets from the fields. There was counting each day, Fred was too sick to stay in the line, so he stayed back. When SS found out Fred was the one missing, they beat him up.

**March 10, 1945 in Gotendorf, Poland:** Nazis made the prisoners march for 10 days in the wind, ice and freezing cold from Lauenberg to Gotendorf. The Russians liberated Fred and told the prisoners they could go and do whatever they wanted they were free. Fred weighed 75 lbs. and came down with typhoid fever and amnesia. Story about horses and house where he laid and was found by Russians who then put Fred in a farm home near the town of Stolp (Poland today) stayed for 3 to 4 weeks.

*Gotendorf (1938-1945)* is a village in [Wejherowo County, Pomeranian Voivodeship](#), in northern Poland. It is the seat of the gmina (administrative district) called [Gmina Choczewo](#).<sup>[1]</sup> It lies approximately 28 kilometers (17 mi) north-west of [Wejherowo](#) and 64 km (40 mi) north-west of the regional capital [Gdańsk](#).

**March 12, 1945 near Stolp, Poland:** The Russians relocated Fred to a farm house close by and instructed the residents to help Fred recuperate. When Fred felt better and was able to travel, he left the farm house and began working for the Russians. Wardrobe story.

May June 1945 still working for Russians. Russians wanted to send Fred to Odessa to join the army. Ran away thanks to girl who gave him civilian clothes. Ran to the train station in Stolp.

*Śłupsk is a city in the Pomeranian Voivodeship, in the northern part of Poland. Before 1 January 1999, it was the capital of the separate Śłupsk Voivodeship. It is also a part of the historic region of Pomerania.*

**Nov 1945 in Berlin:** Fred made his way to Berlin via Russian Military train. Train legal paper story.

**Dec 1945 in Berlin:** found out where Jewish refugees were located. There is where he found his friends.

Alexanderplatz is a large public square and transport hub in the central Mitte district of Berlin, near the Fernsehturm. Berliners often call it simply Alex, in Berlin started trading in black market. Chesterfield cigarettes

Was sick with kretz (crabs?) highly contagious and your skin peels off.

In the American zone of Berlin, the American Army transferred Fred to Cologne, and made his way back to his home town, Laubenheim. American Army put him a large truck and drove him to Hanover. Got off and went to ...

**Beginning 1946:** The Governor of Bad Kreuznach (Herr Kraff) made arrangements for Fred to have job and a place to live. Fred had the position of handling meat ration cards. He collected rations cards from the butchers and distributed meat for the cards. Worked with Herr Perriman. One of the butcher's named xx helped him.

**1946–1949 Bad Kreuznach:** Fred worked as a cattle dealer, buying and selling cattle in the area.

**August 1, 1950:** Fred embarked on his voyage to the United States on the "General R. M. Blatchford" a liberty ship. The voyage went from Bremerhaven, Germany to the Port of New York. Fred arrived August 8, 1950 in New York.

**Mid-August 1950:** Fred arrived in Chicago to reunite with his brother Eric.

**Mid to end of August 1950:** Fred arrived in Seattle WA to reunite with his Uncle Ludwig Stern, Aunt Meta Hirsh Stern and cousins Robert and Eddie Stern. Fred has lived in Seattle until the present day. Fred passed away January 22, 2018.

Need to add:

Burggraben K.Z.