



Destroyed Lives Cannot Be Resuscitated

Translation of the article *Zerstörte Leben kann man nicht ersetzen* from *Mainpost* (southern German daily newspaper), dated November 20, 2011 (Notes by the translator in [])

by Walter Reed



Kurt, Herbert, Rika and Siegfried Rindsberg about a year before they were murdered
(photo: Walter Reed)

Four so-called Stumbling Stones [German *Stolpersteine*] recall in front of the home at No. 9 am Mühlberg in Mainstockheim [village in Bavaria's Lower Franconia region, 10.5 miles southeast of Würzburg] the couple Rika and Siegfried as well as their sons Kurt and Herbert Rindsberg. They are the first Stumbling Stones in Mainstockheim.

The Jewish family Rindsberg was brought to Kitzingen [county seat 11 miles southeast of Würzburg] by the Nazis on March 23, 1942 and deported from there to the transit camp Izbica (Poland). Since then they are presumed dead. The stones were placed upon a request of the development association of the Old Synagogue of Kitzingen [a non-Jewish local commemoration organization] and funded in part by contributions from Karl Niedermeier and Renate and Alois Mayr of Kitzingen. The stones were installed by the originator of the Stumbling Stones Project, the artist Gunter Demnig of Cologne [30,000 others have already been installed in Germany and nearby countries since the year 2000].

Formerly Chairman of the First Football Club

Siegfried Rindsberg was a wine merchant and co-founder and chief official of the 1. FC Mainstockheim [the village's adult soccer club]. Already during Crystal Night [Nov. 9/10, 1938] he and his son Werner were put in jail. The son was dismissed after three days but the

father was carted off to Dachau for several weeks' detention. The elderly mother of Siegfried Rindsberg died shortly after the deportation of her family in a retirement home in Würzburg. Werner Rindsberg was the only family member to survive the Nazi terror. Today he resides under the name Walter Reed in the city of Wilmette in Illinois USA. He survived only because his father sent him away to go to school in Belgium. After the war began he was able to escape [from Belgium] to southern France with some 100 other children, a group which became known as the *Children of La Hille* who survived the war in precarious fashion. Reed still maintains close connections with people in Kitzingen and Mainstockheim and returns regularly to Germany and tells his history to students in German schools.

In a letter read by Günter Voit, whose grandfather worked as cellarmaster for Rindsberg, Reed is sending his appreciation to Mainstockheim. Reed stated that his father was an honorable local employer and a well-liked fellow citizen, his brothers Herbert and Kurt decent young boys whose lives were extinguished all too early and that his mother was highly regarded as a respected homemaker.

What was inflicted upon them and upon millions of other innocent victims can never be reversed. *Destroyed lives cannot be resuscitated*, Reed wrote in his message. The placement of these Stumbling Stones is the only doable act today to redress the injustice committed in the past. For that he and his family wish to express to the community of Mainstockheim their sincere gratitude and admiration.

Mayor Karl Dieter Fuchs thanked the Nuss family, who bought the home at No. 9 two years ago and who agreed immediately to the placement of the Stumbling Stones in front of their property. The citizens of Mainstockheim would, through this placement, not only honor the former fellow citizens, but also through the former local synagogue, which, after renovation, now serves as a Catholic church. A prayer was offered by Catholic Deacon Lorenz Kleinschmitz and by Renate Klein, representative of the board of the Protestant church community.

Artist Gunter Demnig also placed Stumbling Stones in the villages of Kleinlangheim and Mainbernheim. [villages of the region whose Jewish citizens also were deported and murdered].

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