

**Eva Susanne Baruch**  
**Waldschulallee 7**

**Reminiscences of her brother Leslie Baruch Brent, London, who had a Stolperstein (stumbling stone) laid for his sister in summer 2007**

Eva ("Evchen") was born at Köslin (Koszalin/ Poland) in 1923, 2 ½ year before I was born. Our father was a travelling representative for the firm Bleyle, the manufactures of children's clothes. He was music lover and played the piano and the organ and liked to sing. Eva and our mother played the piano quite well. My memories are those of an 11-year old as I had to leave Köslin in the autumn of 1936 because of anti-Semitic persecution in our school, where we were the only Jewish children. My parents therefore sent me, on a recommendation of friends, to the Jewish Orphanage for boys in Berlin Pankow. Eva stayed behind until, together with my parents, she moved to Berlin at the beginning of 1936.

The family Baruch were not orthodox Jews, and they were, or appeared to be, well integrated into German culture. Until Hitler came to power we had a happy childhood in Köslin, had Jewish and non Jewish friends and spent our summer holidays by the seaside in Gross Möllen. After 1933 life became ever more difficult, my father lost one commission after another and life for Jews became more hazardous. In Berlin my father had to earn a living in a timber mill and Eva became a training in a Jewish Hospital as a nurse for infants. I member her as a charming, beautiful 15-year old girl, who was somewhat highly strung, presumably because she was far more aware of what was going on around her than I was. She had inherited from our father the talent for writing poems for all sort of family occasions. I believe, that she declined nomination though for the Kindertransport, because she was in love with one of the hospital doctors, but it is just as possible that she didn't want to leave my parents behind. I myself left Berlin in the first Kindertransport from Berlin on 1.12.1938 at the age of 13. After having lived for some time at Waldschulallee 7, Eichkamp, Eva moved into the nurses home of the Jewish Hospital, where she remained until she was deported at the age of 19, to the woods near Riga, together with my parents, where they were shot.

My attempts to trace her at the Jewish hospital after the war were unsuccessful.

Yet in 1939 I received a letter from her saying that she had brought a suitcase which she hoped to use before long.... This may have been a hint that she was hopeful of leaving Germany, but by now it was too late. I have been told that Eva could remained in the Jewish hospital when my parents were sent to their death near Riga in October 1942, but that she decided to accompany them. Until they were deported I continued to receive Red Cross messages from my parents always signed by Eva. Shortly before their deportation my father wrote, in wild handwriting, "Wir verreisen" (We are going on a journey)....

I began to understand the significance of this as late as 1945, when the horrors of the concentration camps became known in England. I assumed that they had been murdered in Auschwitz, but discovered as late as 1974 that they had been sent to Riga. A few days before they were deported my parents and Eva had to fill in a detailed questionnaire in which they had to list their belongings - clothes, jewellery and anything else. Eva's questionnaire stated that she only had the clothes she was wearing and a few spares....

Our father served in World War I and had received the Iron Cross for having rescued a soldier under fire (he had been a stretcher bearer). He believed that this would protect him for the Nazi era - that turned out not to be so.

Meanwhile I had escaped to England, where I went to school for 4 years before I volunteered for the British army. After nearly 4 years in the army, which I left with the rank of Captain in 1947, I studied at Birmingham University and became an immunologist specialising in the field of organ transplantation. I retired from St. Mary's Hospital medical School, London, where I had been professor of Immunology for 20 years, in 1989. I have 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

My memoirs were published under the title "Sunday's Child? A Memoir" Bank House Books, East Grinstead, U.K., 2009.

Stumbling stones for my parents **Arthur and Charlotte Baruch** were laid at **7 Roscherstrasse** in Berlin-Charlottenburg.

Leslie Baruch Brent, London

Translation: Leslie Baruch Brent