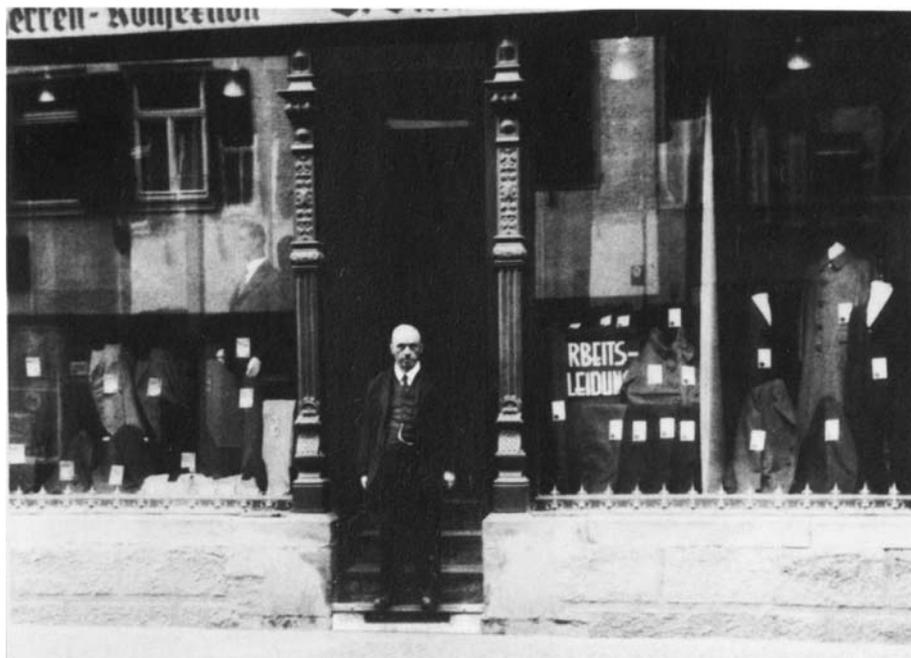


**Viktor, Helmut and Alice Esslinger, née Stern,
and Helmut Esslinger. Deported to Riga in 1941.**

Alice Stern was born in Horb on April 10th 1905. Her parents were Siegfried Stern the textile trader and Mina Leiter from Buttenwiesen near Dillingen on the Danube. Her grandfather, Lippmann Stern, had opened a textile business in 1870 and together with his sons, Heinrich and Siegfried, founded the firm “Sterns’ Clothing Factory” in 1925. Siegfried Stern was a respected citizen of Horb, juror in the district court, and a German Democratic Party candidate for a seat in the district council in the elections of 1928, barely falling short of the votes required for election. Mina



Siegfried Stern, father of Alice Esslinger, in front of his textile shop in 39 Neckarstrasse in Horb.

Stern died in 1923 when Alice was 18 years old. Apart from Alice there were four other children: Sally, born in 1899, Karola, born in 1901, Johanna, born in 1902, and Fritz, born in 1912. Fritz was only 13 years old when his mother died. One can presume that Alice took over the running of the household for her widowed father. She also worked as a clerk in her father’s textile business in 39 Neckarstrasse.

At the age of 30 Alice married 38-year-old Viktor Esslinger, son of Sofie Levi from Nordstetten and Josef Esslinger from Mühlingen. Viktor was born in Horb on December 14th 1897. His grandfather had been a banker in Horb.

Viktor and his father ran a draper’s and a haberdashery in 7 Schulstrasse, today 7 Gutermannstrasse. It was an imposing building with a laundry, vegetable garden and meadow behind the house. He had two older brothers, Eugen and Adolf. Adolf later became a bank clerk in Munich. Eugen, like Viktor, was a soldier in World War I. He died of pleurisy in Pforzheim in 1918 and is buried in the cemetery in Horb.

On November 4th 1936, Alice and Viktor Esslinger became parents and named their son Helmut. On November 12th 1938, after the night of the pogrom, 16 men from the Jewish community in Horb – among them Viktor Esslinger – were imprisoned for several weeks in the concentration camp in Dachau. On October 12th 1939 his 79-year-old-father Josef Esslinger moved to Munich, presumably to his son Adolf, and he died there in 1941. In November 1941 Adolf Esslinger was deported from Munich to Kowno in Lithuania where he was murdered.

In November 1940 Viktor Esslinger was forced to sell his house and in January 1941 the family moved to Alice’s father’s house in 39 Neckarstrasse. Alice’s siblings, Sally, Fritz and Karola had



*The house of the Esslinger family in 7 Schulstrasse, today Gutermannstrasse.
The family ran a drapery and a haberdashery here.*

emigrated to the USA in the meantime. Her sister Johanna, wife of Arthur Landau in Frankfurt, was deported with her daughter Ingeborg from Frankfurt to Kowno where both were murdered.

On July 10th 1941 Alice, Viktor and Helmut Esslinger and Siegfried Stern were forced to move to Rexingen to the house of the widow Emilie Gideon in 184 Auf dem Kapf, today 9 Kirchstrasse. Nine months later Emilie was deported to Theresienstadt with Siegfried Stern.

In 1941 Viktor and Alice were deported to Riga. In March 1942 Alice Esslinger and her son Helmut were probably shot, together with thousands of mothers and children.

In November 2011 three 'stumbling blocks' in memory of Viktor, Alice and Helmut were laid in front of the house in 7 Gutermannstrasse in Horb.

