

# Attempts to Flee

## THE FATE OF The Höchster Family 2 survived, 4 murdered



**Erwin Höchster:  
Warned to Flee**



The boat Henni and Marlon sailed on to South Africa.

Because Erwin Höchster spoke out against the Nazis, a concerned neighbor advised him to leave the country. In September 1936, he moved to South Africa with the help of his brother-in-law, Max Waldorf. He was able to smuggle money out of Germany in the heels of his shoes. The following year, he was joined by his wife Henni (shown with Erwin before his departure) and their infant daughter, Marlon.

Photo courtesy of Marlon Höchster

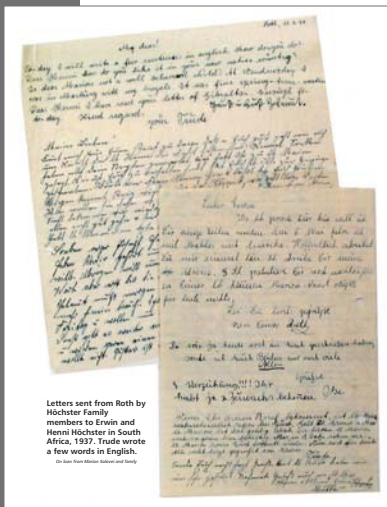


Birthday card sent from Roth to Erwin Höchster's daughter Marlon by Ilse Höchster in 1937.



Report of the Mayor of Roth to the District Officer in Marburg that Erwin Höchster left Roth on September 10, 1936, for South Africa.

Historisches Museum Marburg 100 (Landesarchiv Marburg), 4717



Letters sent from Roth by Höchster family members to Erwin and Henni Höchster in South Africa, 1937. Trude wrote a few words in English.

### Trude Höchster: Escape to England

Trude was the last member of the Jewish community of Roth to reach safety in a foreign land.

"...the only way I could get out was if she (a relative in England) found a job for me. It was like a maid... I was employed there to a young couple. They had two little girls. She was a young woman and he was a very nice guy. I couldn't speak much English and he tried to teach me. He worked nights and was at home during the day, and he was very, very nice. But I never got enough to eat. I was always hungry... I remember so well that they had those delicious doughnuts, and all they paid me was 5 dollars/weeks - 5 Shillings. And it wasn't much, but I worked home all the time. Instead of buying a doughnut for me to eat, I didn't do that, I got stamps to write home."



Trude was reported by the Mayor to have left Roth for London on June 12, 1939.

Historisches Museum Marburg 100 (Landesarchiv Marburg), 4716

### Bertha, Hermann and Helmuth Höchster: Death at Auschwitz/Birkenau

From South Africa, Erwin Höchster tried repeatedly to obtain visas for his family, but was only able to secure them for his parents, who refused to leave without Ilse and Helmuth. From England, Trude Höchster succeeded in obtaining British visas for her parents and brother, but the outbreak of World War II three weeks later prevented them from fleeing.



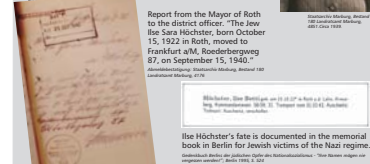
L-R: Bertha, Helmuth, Hermann, and Trude Höchster.

Genealogisches Handbuch, Roth, Vol. 11, 7

### Ilse Höchster: Slave Labor and Death at Auschwitz/Birkenau

A year after this photo was taken, Ilse moved to Roederbergweg 87 in Frankfurt, the address of an orphanage and synagogue used by the Jewish community to organize emigration. Ilse did not escape. In February 1941, she was one of 120 young Jewish women ordered by the Nazis and forced to work as a slave laborer in the Siemens munitions factory in Berlin. Working and living conditions were abysmal. Two years later, at age 20, she was deported to Auschwitz/Birkenau, where she was murdered.

The last remnant of Ilse's life was this letter written to her brother in South Africa from the Siemens Labor Camp on February 21, 1942. Like all correspondence to and from Nazi concentration camps, it was transmitted by the Red Cross and subject to Nazi censorship. A month earlier her brother had sent greetings for her 20th birthday and reported that he heard "good reports from Trude" - but did not yet know the whereabouts of his parents. In answer, Ilse says she is "happy and healthy" and sends greetings from her parents, noting that her father has work. It is not known if she was forced to write this letter or if she was protecting her brother from the news that their parents and younger brother had been deported one year earlier in the Riga Ghetto.



Report from the Mayor of Roth to the district officer: "The Jew Ilse Höchster, born October 15, 1922 in Roth, moved to Frankfurt a.M., Roederbergweg 87, on September 15, 1940."

Historisches Museum Marburg 100 (Landesarchiv Marburg), 4718

München: Ilse Höchster am 21.02.1942 in Roth a. d. Main. Frau: Hermann Höchster, 87, Roederbergweg 87, Frankfurt a. M. (1940). (Landesarchiv Marburg)

Ilse Höchster's fate is documented in the memorial book in Berlin for Jewish victims of the Nazi regime.

Das Buch der Namen: Die jüdischen Opfer des Holocausts. Berlin: Hentrich & Holtz, 2003.