

Ruchla Zylberg

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Ruchla Zylberberg was born on 6 May 1936 in Zawichost, 100 kilometres from Radom. After the occupation of Poland by the German Wehrmacht, several members of the Zylberberg family fled to the Soviet Union in the autumn of 1939. Nison Zylberberg was planning to get his family to join him there, but after Germany attacked the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941, this became impossible. Nison's wife Fajga, Ruchla and her sister Ester, who was two years younger, were all deported to Auschwitz, where Fajga and Ester Zylberberg were murdered. Ruchla Zylberberg was taken to the Neuengamme concentration camp on 28 November 1944 and murdered here on Bullenhuser Damm on 20 April 1945 aged 8.

Ruchla's father Nison Zylberberg survived and returned to Poland in 1946. In 1951, he emigrated to the USA. His brother Henryk and his family came to Hamburg in 1958.

When Günther Schwarberg published his series of articles on the Bullenhuser Damm children in the magazine *Stern* in 1979, members of the Zylberberg family recognised Ruchla in one of the photographs. In 1981, her father confirmed her identity. In 1983, Nison Zylberberg visited the Bullenhuser Damm Memorial for the first time. He also participated in the tribunal against Arnold Strippel in 1986 and visited Hamburg again to attend the commemorative event held on 20 April 1995. Nison Zylberberg died in 2002.

Two streets in the Hamburg district of Burgwedel are named after Ruchla Zylberberg.

Ruchla Zylberberg

Ruchla Zylberberg on a tricycle, undated.

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,
Günther Schwarberg collection, 1995-1108*



Ruchla Zylberberg

Nison and Fajga Zylberberg with their daughters Ruchla (front left) and Ester (front right) on the beach, circa 1939.

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,
Günther Schwarberg collection, 1995-1107*



Ruchla Zylberberg

Fajga Zylberberg (centre) with
Ruchla (left), Ester and neighbours.

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp
Memorial, Günther Schwarberg collection,
1981-0889*



Ruchla Zylberberg

Affidavit signed by Nison Zylberberg
on 10 December 1980.

In this affidavit, Nison Zylberberg
confirms under oath that he
recognised his daughter Ruchla
in one of the pictures from *Stern*
magazine, which his brother had
sent him.

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp
Memorial, Günther Schwarberg collection*

Eidestattliche Versicherung

Ich weiss, dass ich bestraft werden kann, wenn ich an Eides Statt etwas Falsches versichere.
In dieser Kenntnis erkläre ich:

Ich heisse Nison Zylberberg, wohnhaft
New York Brooklyn, 647 E 85 st.
und bin der Vater von Ruchla Zylberberg,
geboren 6.5.36 in Zawichost/Polen.

Meine Tochter ist mit meiner Frau Fajga
und meiner zweiten Tochter Ester

1942 von den Nazis verschleppt worden.

Alle drei sind seither verschollen.

Mit sind die im "stern" veröffentlichten
Fotos der 20 Kinder vom Bollenhuser Damm
von meinem Bruder Henryk Zylberberg
zugeschickt worden. Auf einem der Bilder,
das bereits von meinem Bruder bei der
Staatsanwaltschaft Hamburg näher
bezeichnet worden ist, habe ich
mit Sicherheit meine Tochter Ruchla
wiedererkannt.

New York, den 10. DEZ. 1980



Vorstehende Unterschrift
wird beglaubigt.

New York, 10. DEZ. 1980

Nach dem Konsulatsgesetz zu vor-

Nison Zylberberg
Nison Zylberberg

Ruchla Zylberberg

Ruchla's aunt Felicja with her brother, Michael Waksman, and her son Alexander in 1946.

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,
Günther Schwarberg collection, 1995-1106*



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Henryk, Jozef and Michael Zylberberg showing childhood photographs of Ruchla to Günther Schwarberg (left), 19 April 1979.

From a private collection



Ruchla Zylberberg

Daniel Zylberberg planting a rose in 1983.

Photographers are waiting for three-year-old Daniel Zylberberg to plant a rose in the Bullenhuser Damm Memorial's rose garden. Daniel is the son of Ruchla's cousin Alexander Zylberberg, who had come to Hamburg with his parents as a child.

Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, 200-2085



