

Alice Denz

Alice Denz lived in the house for a number of years in the 1940s and early 1950s.

Alice was born Alice Mary Allen in 1880 in Halstead, Essex, and was baptised in Holy Trinity, Halstead on 7th February that year. She was the daughter of Edward Allen, a gardener, and his wife Elizabeth.¹ Seeking work, Alice moved to London, and 1901 she is the youngest of three housemaids in the household of Julius Homan, a retired civil engineer living in Cumberland Place, near Marble Arch.²

In Hendon in 1907 she married Johann Friedrich Gustav Denz, known as Gustave, a hairdresser from Sigmaringen in Swabia, born in 1876.³ The couple seem to have had no children.

Denz, Johann Friedrich Gustav (known as Gustave Denz); No Nationality; Hairdresser; 5, Castellain Parade, Elgin Avenue, Maida Vale, London. 4 October, 1926.

Notice of Gustave's naturalisation in the London Gazette, 5th November 1926, p.7118

Gustave was naturalised in 1926⁴ and his name appears alongside Alice's in electoral rolls from 1927 to 1932.⁵ He ran a ladies hairdressing salon "Maison Gustave Denz" on Castellain Parade, Castellain Road in Maida Vale (now a delicatessen),⁶ and the couple lived in a detached house called "Chalet" at 6, Salmon Street, Kingsbury (NW9).⁵

			years.	months.			
1	Gustave Denz	Head	44	4	M.	Married	South Germany German Sigmaringen
2	Alice Denz	Wife	41	6	F.	Married	Halstead British Essex. Born.
3	Myrtle Dinnell	Niece	23	6	F.	Single	Halstead British Essex. Born.

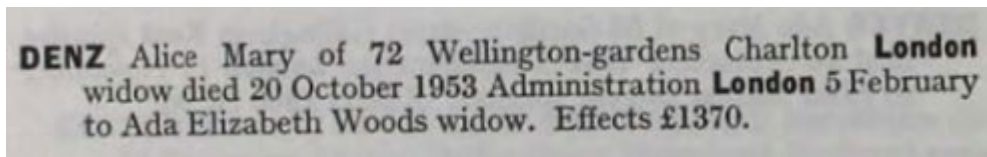
The Denz household in the 1921 Census (5 Castellain Parade, Maida Vale)⁷

After 25 years of marriage, on 3rd August 1932 Gustave died, leaving an estate valued at £4486 (= approx. £362,000).⁸ His business continued, however, and it is listed in Post Office directories until 1962. The *London Gazette* for 20th April 1962 carries the notice of the company's liquidation earlier that year.⁶

Alice continued to live in "Chalet" for four more years after Gustave's death, but in 1937, a 57-year-old widow, she moved to Charlton, where she lived initially in a flat at 182 Victoria Way.⁹ She is still at that address in 1939, but by 1948 she had moved into 123.¹⁰ It is not possible to tell exactly when she moved in: no electoral registers were compiled between 1940 and 1944, and for 1945 and 1946 there is no one in the house registered to vote. All we can be certain of is that she came here sometime between 1940 and 1948.

She remained at 123 until 1952, but then she moved round the corner to 72 Wellington Gardens, where she lodged with Edgar and Ada Woods.⁵

Unfortunately there's no evidence as to Alice's occupation or how she supported herself alone, though she presumably had income from the hair salon or from the profits of its sale. By the time she moved here, of course, she was an old-age pensioner.



DENZ Alice Mary of 72 Wellington-gardens Charlton **London**
widow died 20 October 1953 Administration **London** 5 February
to Ada Elizabeth Woods widow. Effects £1370.

Probate Service record for Alice's estate

After just a year in Wellington Gardens, Alice died on 20th October 1953, age 73, and was buried in Charlton cemetery (Plot S/980).¹¹ She died intestate leaving an estate worth £1,370 (= approx. £47,000), with Ada Woods appointed administrator.⁸

Peter, April 2024

¹ Essex Baptism Index 1538-1917 (<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FESSEX-BAP%2F1524645>)

² 1901 Census, RG13/132, fol.15, p.21
(<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC/1901/0005089708>)

³ 1911 Census, RG14PN32 RG78PN1 RD1 SD1 ED32 SN117

⁴ *London Gazette*, 5th November 1926, p.7118

⁵ London Electoral Registers, 1832-1965, 1927, London Metropolitan Archives
(<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1795/>)

⁶ *London Gazette*, 20th April 1962, p.32977118
(<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/42654/page/3296/>)

⁷ 1911 Census, RG15/32, schedule 193

⁸ Probate Service Search, (<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/>)

⁹ London Electoral Registers, 1832-1965, 1937

¹⁰ London Electoral Registers, 1832-1965, 1948

¹¹ Royal Borough of Greenwich, Charlton cemetery (<https://www.deceasedonline.com/>)