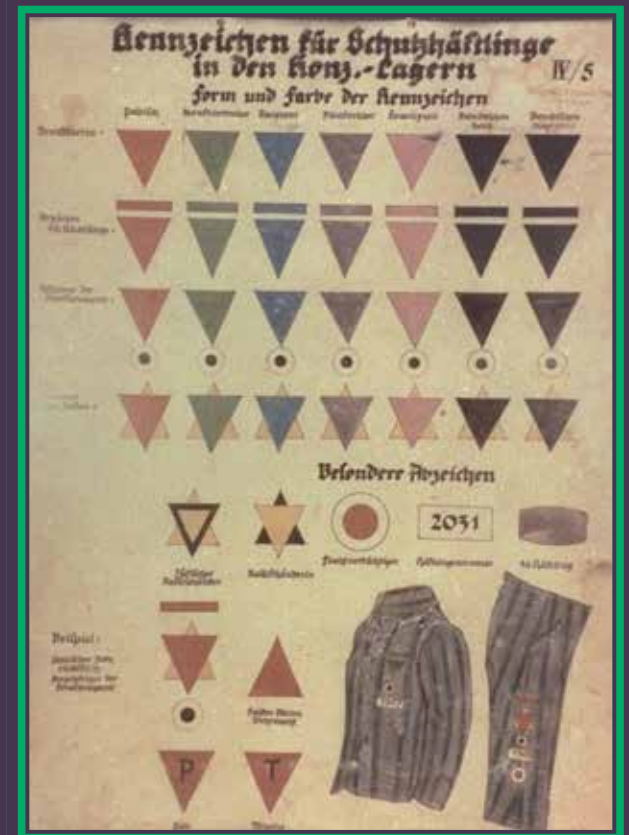


Searching for identity

3

# Bearing witness

*By Claire Bruell*



COVER

Poster used by the Nazi party to mark the clothing of prisoners and detainees.

See page 12 for a fuller description.





earching for identity

---

# Contents

5	Introduction
17	Gertrude Drexler
29	Ilsa Maier
39	Markéta Nováková
47	Milos Dobry
51	Eva Binder
59	Eva and Anita Grätzer - by Peter Briess
69	The escape of Viktor Bermannn
75	Post liberation letters from Adele Briess - Granny Adi
85	Paul Ungar's legal appeal
93	Sue Eldridge
99	Marietta Markham
119	Josef Berger's Nazi file
123	Stolen assets
133	Transport cards



# Introduction

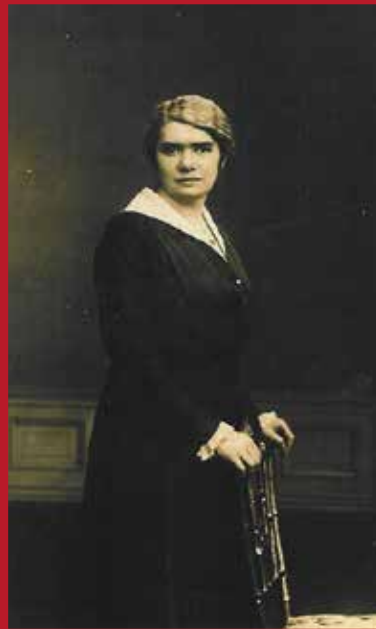
Linz a. D.

12.



FOR EVER LET THIS PLACE BE  
A CRY OF DESPAIR  
AND A WARNING TO HUMANITY,  
WHERE THE NAZIS MURDERED  
ABOUT ONE AND A HALF  
MILLION  
MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN,  
MAINLY JEWS  
FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES  
OF EUROPE.

AUSCHWITZ - BIRKENAU  
1940 - 1945



---

# Introduction

## The Shoah and its aftermath



WHAT happened to our large extended family based in Czechoslovakia before the war? Many “perished” – as in “were murdered” or “died”. Those who were taken from their home towns – which was most of them – were deported first to Theresienstadt (Czech Terezin), the concentration camp set up by the Germans as a collection point, sometimes referred to as a ghetto. Many were sent from Theresienstadt to death camps in the East – overwhelmingly to Auschwitz. Others were sent direct to Lodz, Baranowice, Sobibor and Auschwitz, all in “The East”.

### **Bearing witness**

We are fortunate to have written records and oral testimonies that describe the various journeys they took.

There are a number of transcripts of oral histories given in the first person including:

- Trude Drexler, (Frank’s first cousin) interviewed by the USC Shoah Foundation.
- Ilsa Maier (née Drexler) (Trude’s daughter) interviewed by the USC Shoah Foundation.
- Markéta Nováková (née Drexler) (daughter of another of Frank’s first cousins) interviewed by the Memory of Nations Collection administered by

the charitable organisation *Post Bellum*.

- Eva Binder (née Grätzer) (daughter of Frank’s first cousin) one of the Kindertransport, interviewed by Claire.
- Milos Dobry from Olomouc (interviewed by the USC Shoah Foundation) mentioning Fredy Briess (Frank’s brother).
- Viktor Bermann (another Briess cousin) told by Carmit Sagie in *Family Ties*.
- Marietta Markham (Claire’s first cousin) interviewed by Claire.
- Peter Briess (about his cousins Eva and Anita Grätzer, Briess cousins).
- Sue Eldridge (Alice’s cousin), Kindertransport.
- Adele Briess (Frank’s step-grandmother) post war letters written 1945-47 by her in Olomouc after liberation until she arrived in New Zealand in 1947.
- Paul Ungar’s escape from Vienna is recorded in the text of his legal appeal against internment in Australia (Fred’s second cousin).
- Josef Berger’s Nazi records from the archives in Sumperk. (Alice’s cousin)
- Evidence of stolen assets.
- Transport cards from the files of the Arolsen Archive. ■

# Family members murdered by the Nazis

<b>NAME</b>	<b>PLACE/ORIGIN</b>	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>	<b>WHERE PERISHED &amp; WHEN</b>
<b>Relationship to Frank Briess</b>			
Siegfried Briess	Prerau, Moravia	father	Terezin concentration camp
Alfred Briess	Olomouc, Moravia	brother	Transport Terezin to Auschwitz
Theodore Briess	Prerau, Moravia	uncle	Holice, Moravia
Erich Schulhof		cousin	Baranovice
Ida Schulhof		parent of cousin by marriage	Baranovice
Paul Drexler	Brno, Moravia	cousin	Killed in street by Gestapo
Emil Drexler	Brno, Moravia	cousin	Auschwitz kZ
Paula Drexler née Briess	Rousinov, Moravia	cousin	Auschwitz kZ
Berta Fischel née Briess	Olomouc, Moravia	cousin	Auschwitz kZ
Anita Storch	Olomouc, Moravia	cousin	Auschwitz kZ
Elly Fleischmann	Olomouc, Moravia	cousin	Auschwitz kZ
Arnost Storch	Tovacov, Moravia	cousin	Gleiwitz
Paula Fleischmann née Briess	Olomouc, Moravia	cousin	Auschwitz kZ
Kurt Fleischmann	Olomouc, Moravia	cousin	Gleiwitz
Jiri Fleischmann born 1942	Terezin?	cousin	Concent Terezin?
Erna Weinberger	Tovacov, Moravia	cousin	Auschwitz kZ
Anna Zweig née Briess	Olomouc, Moravia	cousin	Treblinka
Otto Zweig	Prossnitz, Moravia	cousin	Treblinka
Elsa Mandl née Briess	Olomouc, Moravia	cousin	Birkenau
Elsa Weiss		cousin	Auschwitz kZ
Erich Mandl	Prossnitz, Moravia	cousin	Auschwitz kZ
Herta Grätzer née Briess	Olomouc, Moravia	cousin	Baranovici
Siegfried Grätzer	Olomouc, Moravia	cousin	Baranovici

<b>NAME</b>	<b>PLACE/ORIGIN</b>	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>	<b>WHERE PERISHED &amp; WHEN</b>
Otto Grätzer (brother of Siegfried)	Olomouc, Moravia	cousin	Buchenwald
Blanka Briess née Schwartz	Trencianska Teplice, (Teplitz Schoenau?), Austria/Hungary	cousin	Lodz ghetto
Friedrich Briess	Austerlitz, Moravia, Austria Hungary	cousin	Lodz ghetto
Frantiska Benes née Briess	Olomouc, Moravia	cousin	KZ Auschwitz
Hugo Benes	Kurovice, Czechoslovakia	cousin	Dachau
Hana Benes	Brno, Moravia	cousin	Terezin?
Paula Briess née Bauml	Prague, Bohemia	cousin	Baranovice transport Aay 28.7.1942
Mathilde Briess née Heller	Leipnik, Moravia	aunt	KZ Auschwitz
Liese Repper née Briess & 2 sons, Hans, Ernst	Olomouc, Moravia	cousin	Buchenwald
Hans Repper	Olomouc, Moravia	cousin	Buchenwald
Ernst Repper	Olomouc, Moravia	cousin	Buchenwald
Therese Friedova	Uhersky Hradiste, Moravia	aunt	Treblinka
Augusta Friedova	Uhersky Hradiste, Moravia	aunt	Transport Terezin to Baronovice
Paul Briess	Lednice, Moravia	cousin	Transport Terezin to Baronovice
Rudolf Briess	Prerau, Moravia	uncle	Terezin
Hedwig Briess née Deutsch	Gablonz, Moravia	cousin	Transport Terezin to Baronovice 28.7.1942
Josef Kopperl	Vienna or Czechoslovakia	uncle	KZ Auschwitz
Julie Schindler née Schindler	Kanitz bei Brunn, Moravia	aunt	Maly Trostinec
Regine Schindler née Schimmerling	Brno, Moravia or Vienna	cousin	Izbica
Regina Schimmerling née Schimmerling	Brno, Moravia	aunt	Terezin concentration camp
Otto Schimmerling	Kanitz bei Brunn, Moravia	uncle	Mauthausen
Ernestina Schimmerling née Loewy	Bielo, Moravia	aunt	Mauthausen
Pauline Schimmerling	Kanitz bei Brunn, Moravia	aunt	Modiborczyce
Elsa Schindler	Brno, Moravia or Vienna	cousin	Izbica

<b>NAME</b>	<b>PLACE/ORIGIN</b>	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>	<b>WHERE PERISHED &amp; WHEN</b>
Eugen Heller	Berlin, Germany	uncle	Terezin
Charlotte Katz	Berlin, Germany	cousin	Terezin
Sidonie Katz née Heller	Berlin, Germany	cousin	Terezin
Egon Levi	Berlin, Germany?	cousin	
Irma Katz	Berlin, Germany?	cousin	
Berta Stransky (Stranska)	Teplice Schoenau. Czechoslovakia	mother of brother-in-law	Transport Aah Prague to Ujzdow 10.6.1942
Chlotilde Platchek née Schimmerling	Kanitz bei Brunn, Moravia	grandmother's sister	Unknown
Flora/Dora Fürth	Prerau, Moravia?		Baranovici
Hans Jan Fürth	Budweiss		Lodz, Poland
Leonora Friedländer	Teplitz		Lodz
Marie Fürth	Ceske Budovice		Baranovice

### **Relationship to Alice Briess**

Marta Loewy née Berger	Val.Meseritsch, Moravia, Cz	mother	Baranovic, Poland
Rudolfine Berger	Czechoslovakia Val. Mezirici	aunt	Lodz 29.5.1942
Josef Berger	Wal.Meseritsch	uncle	Suicided when Germans invaded
Melanie Lachs née Berger	Wal.Meseritsch	aunt	KZ Auschwitz
Adele Loeffler née Berger	Wal.Meseritsch	aunt	KZ Auschwitz
Ludwig Broll	Moravia	uncle	Transport Terezin to Riga
Helena Broll née Loewy	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	aunt	Transport Terezin to Riga
Grete Fischer née Loewy	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	aunt	Terezin?
Arnold Fischer	Boskowitz, Moravia	uncle	Terezin?
Edith Fischer	Czechoslovakia or Vienna	cousin	Concentration camp
Alfred Broll & 2 children, Liesl and Ilse	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	uncle by marriage/cousins	KZ Auschwitz
Regina Schoenova née Loewy & 5 chn	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	aunt	KZ Auschwitz or Terezin 8.2.1943
Irena Schoen	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	cousins	KZ Maly Trostinec

<b>NAME</b>	<b>PLACE/ORIGIN</b>	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>	<b>WHERE PERISHED &amp; WHEN</b>
Gertrude Vlasta Schoenova	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	cousin	Poland, Holocaust
Valerie Schönova	Uhersky Brod, Moravia?	cousin	Transport Ap 18.4.1942 to Rejowiec
Arnost Schön	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	cousin	
Albert Schön	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	cousin	
Elsa Schön née Broll	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	aunt by marriage	Transport Ap 18.4.1942 to Rejowiec
Ruth Schön	Znojmo	cousin	Transport Ap 18.4.1942 to Rejowiec
Lev Schön	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	distant relation	KZ Auschwitz
Helena Schön	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	distant relation	KZ Auschwitz
Ella Schön	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	cousin	KZ Auschwitz
Emil Schoen		uncle	Terezin 5.12.1943
Hermine Subak née Loewy	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	aunt	KZ Auschwitz
Marianne Subak	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	cousin	Terezin, Lublin
Gertrude Subak	Uhersky Brod, Moravia	cousin	Terezin, Lublin
Jenny Vogl née Subak	Czechoslovakia or Vienna	cousin	
Alfred Wolf	Czechoslovakia Val. Mezirici	great uncle	Sobibor
Josefina Wolf	Czechoslovakia Val. Mezirici	great aunt	Sobibor
Jan Wolf	Czechoslovakia Val. Mezirici	cousin	Sobibor
Stepan Berg	Czechoslovakia Val. Mezirici	cousin	KZ Auschwitz
Grete Bergova (née Wolf)	Czechoslovakia Val. Mezirici	cousin	KZ Auschwitz
Jirko Berg	Czech Uherske Hradiste	cousin	KZ Auschwitz
Eva Berg	Czech Uherske Hradiste	cousin	KZ Auschwitz
<b>Relationship to Fred Bruell</b>			
Maximilian Bruell	Znaim, Moravia	uncle	Terezin 21.9.1942 Treblinka? Deported east from Terezin
Marie Bruell née Husserl	Vienna, Austria	aunt	Sobibor or Treblinka 21.9.1942?
Arthur Bruell	Znaim, Moravia	uncle	Terezin
Friedrike Bruell née Zeissel	Tischnowitz, Moravia	aunt	Auschwitz 15.12.1943

NAME	PLACE/ORIGIN	RELATIONSHIP	WHERE PERISHED & WHEN
Auguste Immergluck	Neu Oderberg	aunt	Terezin
Walter Bruell/Kurt Brull	Znaim, Moravia	cousin	Terezin

**Relationship to Lilly Bruell**

Mendel Jurmann	Buchach, Galicia	uncle	Buchenwald
Ida Jurmann née Hirth	Lomna (Austria)	aunt	Opole camp 26.2.1941
Sophi Jurmann	Vienna	cousin	Opole camp 26.2.1941

## The marking system

**T**HIS particular chart of prisoner markings was found in the German concentration camp in Dachau, Germany and used between 1938 and 1942.

Beginning in 1937–1938, the SS created a system of marking the prisoners using colour-coded badges.

Among those picked out were: Political opponents (primarily Communists, Social Democrats, and trade unionists); Jehovah Witnesses; Male homosexuals; Roma, Black people and foremost, Jews – who were viewed as racial enemies and subjected to arbitrary arrest, internment, and murder.

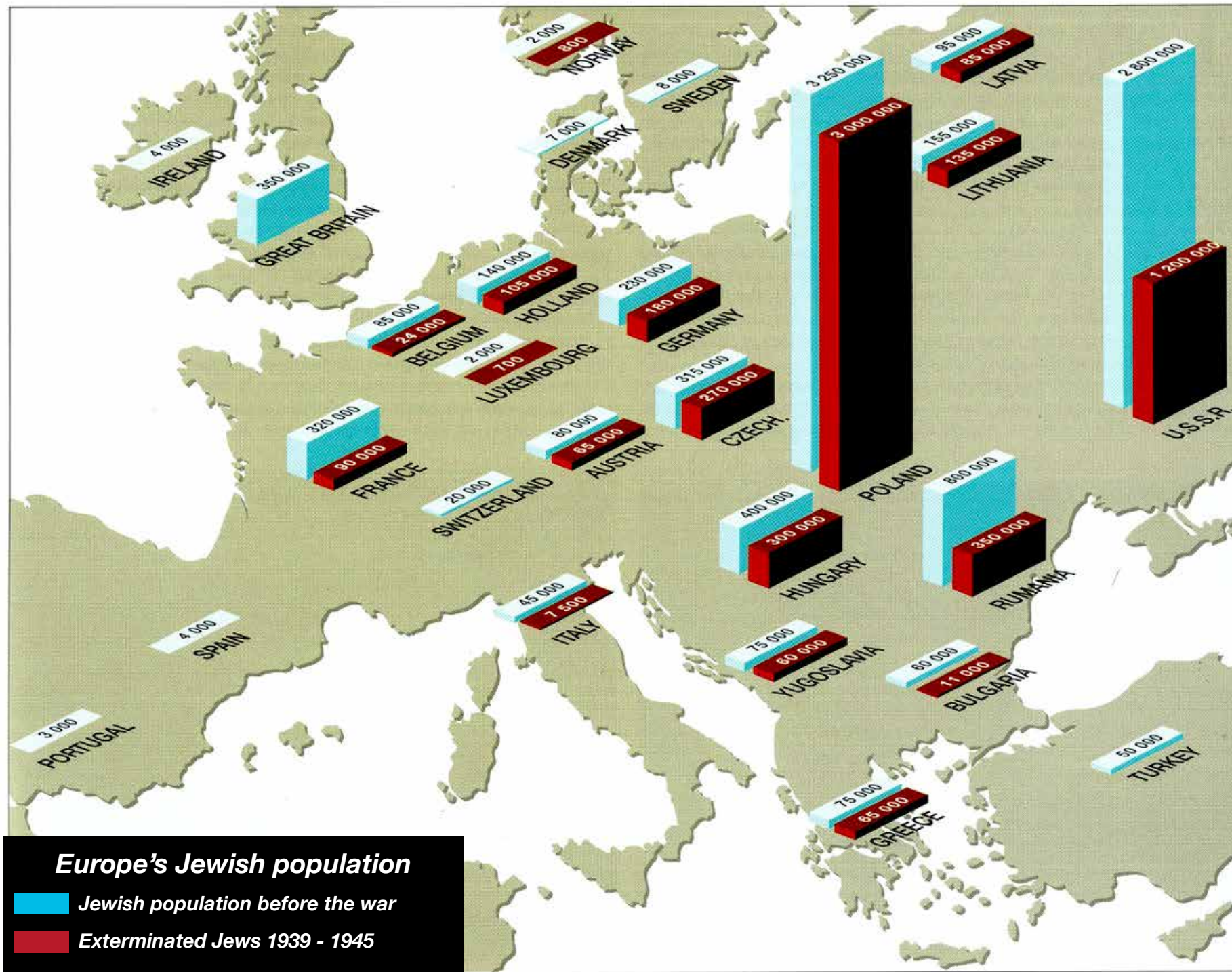
From 1938, Jews in the camps were identified by a yellow star sewn onto their prison uniforms.



Criminals were marked with green inverted triangles, political prisoners with red, “asocials” (including Roma, non-conformists, vagrants, and other groups) with black triangles or – in the case of Roma, in some camps – brown triangles.

Men accused of homosexuality were given pink triangles, Jehovah’s Witnesses purple, while non-German prisoners also had the first letter of the German name for their home country sewn onto their badges.

The two triangles forming the Jewish star badge would both be yellow unless the Jewish prisoner was included in one of the other prisoner categories. A Jewish political prisoner, for example, would be identified with a yellow triangle beneath a red triangle. ■



From: A historical atlas of the Jewish people: from the time of the Patriarchs to the present by Elie Barnavi.

# Theresienstadt

## Explanatory notes:

- 1 *L 417* The Ghetto Museum. The former school of Terezín served as a boys' home.
- 2 *Q 619* Terezín's town hall was a seat of the so-called Jewish administration's bank and other offices; cultural performances were also held there.
- 3 *L 414* The building of the fortress' former headquarters first served as the SS-Kommandatur, later as a post-office and home for the young.
- 4 *L 410* Girls' home. This is where painting lessons were given by Friedl Dicker-Brandejsová.
- 5 *Marktplatz* The square was fenced and inaccessible for prisoners. During the "embellishing campaign", it was adapted to a park and made free to use.
- 6 *L 415* One of the shops situated mainly in streets L4 and L3.
- 7 *Q 418* It is in this house where a café was open in December 1942.
- 8 *Q 414, 416* SS-Kommandatur. There were the notorious bunkers in its cellars.
- 9 *L 311* Sappers' barracks became a home for the aged prisoners and an auxiliary hospital.
- 10 *L 315* A seat of the ghetto's guards who helped maintain the order in the ghetto.
- 11 *L 318* Home for young and pre-school children. Terezín kindergarten. There was also a kitchen for children.
- 12 *Block F III* Homes for children and apprentices.
- 13 *Block G II A* seat of the division of gendarmes who watched the camp.
- 14 *Block H II* The so-called Bauhof where craftsmen's workshops were concentrated.
- 15 *L 324* A complex of buildings called Victoria served as a canteen and apartments for the members of the camp's SS-Kommandatur.
- 16 *Block H IV* Podmokly barracks — the prisoners' dormitory. It was later used as the RSHA archives of Berlin.
- 17 *Block J IV* Ústí barracks — a central store of clothes and luggage confiscated from prisoners.
- 18 *Block H V* Dresdner barracks — women's dormitory. The camp's jail was situated in the cellar.
- 19 *Block G VI* Home for infants and young children. A library with a reading room and a theatre were established in one of the houses.
- 20 *Stadtpark* During the embellishing campaign, a children's pavilion was built and a playground made.
- 21 *Block E VI* Vrchlabí barracks — a central hospital and spa.
- 22 *Block E VII* Kavalír barracks. It served as a home for old and mentally handicapped prisoners.
- 23 *Block D VI* The former brewery was adapted to a disinfection station.
- 24 The former military stable served as a joiner's workshop.
- 25 *Block B V* Magdeburg barrack — a seat of the Council of Elders and the Jewish administration.
- 26 *Block B IV* Hannover barracks — a dormitory of working men.
- 27 *Block A IV* Bakery and central store of groceries.
- 28 *Bahnhofstrasse* A part of the railroad tracks built by the prisoners in 1942–43 from the station of Bohušovice to Terezín. It made it possible to handle transports more quickly.
- 29 *Block C III* Hamburg barracks — a dormitory for women and since 1943, for Dutch inmates. Also it was the central place for dispatching transports, the so-called Shioiska (Flood Gate).
- 30 *Block A II* Forester's barracks — a dormitory of the old, and quarantine.
- 31 *Südberg* Southern hill. In 1943, prisoners were allowed access, and sports grounds were made.
- 32 *Block E I* Sudeten barracks — the first complex of buildings in the ghetto and dormitory of working men. After the evacuation in the summer of 1943, a part of the RSHA archives were moved there from Berlin.
- 33 *Complex C I* Sokol gymnasium. In the beginning, it was used as one of the hospital wards, and during the embellishing campaign, it was changed into the Ghetto's "community house".
- 34 *Südstrasse* Mortuary and ceremonial rooms. Columbarium on the opposite side.
- 35 Jewish cemetery and crematorium.
- 36 A place by the Ohře river where the ashes of the perished prisoners were thrown to the river at the Nazi orders in 1944.

Address: Komenského street, 411 55 Terezín ● Phone: 0416/92 576-7 ● Fax: 0416/92 245

Opening hours: daily from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. ● Closed on Dec 24-26 and Jan 1.

Crematorium open March-October daily from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. except Saturdays

The Ghetto Museum was established in October 1991. Its permanent exhibition displays the ghetto's history and individual aspects of the inmates' day-to-day life. A display of pictures painted by the inmates and imprisoned children are also part of the exhibition. ● Documentary films are screened at the cinema. ● Professional literature, promotion material and videocassettes about Terezín on sale. ● There is also a permanent exhibiton in the crematorium.

On the site of the former ghetto/camp there is now a museum dedicated to preserving the history of Theresienstadt.



A group of survivors of Theresienstadt settled in Israel at Kibbutz Givat Chayim where there is now an archive and museum dedicated to the preservation of the history of Theresienstadt.



ARBEIT MACHT FREI



Prisoners wait for food rations, Theresienstadt ghetto, Czechoslovakia, between 1941 and 1945 (ICD-81223)

*Olomouc. Masarykovo náměstí.*



**Gertrude Drexler**



***Trude Drexler  
(née Briess)***

---

# Gertrude Drexler



***ERTRUDE (Trude) Drexler, Frank's first cousin, interviewed by the USC Shoah Foundation***

***Gertrude Drexler interviews – Los Angeles 22.2.1993 and 14.3.1995***

***Shoah Foundation: Begin by telling us when and where you were born?***

Gertrude: April 4th 1897 in Czechoslovakia Novi Rousinov. My father had a smaller malt factory and I think I was about four years old when we moved to Brno where he bought a big malt factory. Malt is a product which is bought by breweries for beer making. Then he bought another factory in Olomouc also in Moravia, Czechoslovakia, and we moved there and later on I married in Olomouc and then moved to Brno and this was my permanent home then.

***Did you have any brothers or sisters?***

We were five so there was me, a brother and a sister and then after 10 years my brother and a sister were born. My younger brother was 12 years younger than I and the sister came later. I was married on July 28, 1918, just after the first world war and I moved with my husband to Brno where we first stayed with his parents and later we got an apartment.

***What was his name?***

Dr Paul Drexler. He was a lawyer who had studied in Vienna. He had two

degrees a lawyer degree and a business degree, here it's called Business Administration.

***What was life like well before the war?***

It was a good life. We were very assimilated. We had not only Jewish friends, we had many types of friends, German and Czech friends and we never felt anything against the Jews. I wouldn't say there was no antisemitism but everywhere around the world it was the same. My daughter attended public school, there were no private schools.

***Did you belong to a synagogue?***

Me not, but my parents and we celebrated all the festivals in my parents' house and there were always relatives invited, also some students which were studying in Brno from smaller places and it wasn't convenient for them to go home.

***When did you first hear about Hitler?***

When it first started in Germany. We had a lot of friends in Germany and my father did business there and made frequent trips, then I don't know when, but it wasn't possible any more. But he also exported product to America.

### ***Did you ever feel that what was happening in Germany that it would come to Brno?***

No. We didn't know that he would occupy. We started only to fear when he invaded Austria in 1938.

### ***Did things change for you then?***

In a way, because a lot of people, also friends who had visas for far away countries, came to visit us and they were waiting till they had the opportunity to leave.

### ***Did you think about leaving?***

Yes. Friends who were living in Australia tried to get visas for us and once the Germans occupied Austria the Australians wouldn't give visas any more.

### ***Where were you when the Germans invaded?***

We were in our apartment in Brno even though he already occupied the Sudetenland and we went by car with our chauffeur to Bohemia but when we got to the border we realised it made no sense and went back.

### ***What happened when the Germans came?***

Everybody stayed home. Everybody stayed home.

### ***How did your life change after the occupation?***

There came some changes like we couldn't use the parks any more, and later on we were not allowed to go on the sidewalk and there were only certain hours that we were allowed to shop and so on.

### ***Did you have to wear the yellow star?***

No, not yet – much later. I remember now when they occupied, my daughter stayed home from school and the director sent some classmates to call for her to let us know she is still welcome in the school.

### ***What happened to the family business?***

They put in a man from Germany. They called this a Treuhandler and he was the head of the business and the staff had to stay. Only my father as the owner was not allowed to come any more and later on gradually also my husband was not allowed to go there any more and my brother was also. He and my husband had a Prokurer (agent?) and my brother, before Hitler came, he was on a trip in Belgium and he didn't return. And through the business friends in America he got a visa but first he went through Cuba and then he came to America.

### ***How long did you live in Brno before you were sent away?***

I had to leave the apartment. They took the good apartments for people in the party and they made a ghetto. Several streets where Jewish people lived together. At that time I was only with my daughter because my husband was killed on a Sunday afternoon when he was in the Kaffeehaus. This was the only place for Jews to go because the owner was Jewish. And there he was killed. A hoard of Nazis came there. They had a celebration on the outskirts of Brno and someone had the idea to go to the Kaffeehaus and my husband died there. So I was only with my daughter and I was moved to an apartment and occupied one room with my daughter. Another man occupied the other room. It was only a small apartment and I lived there until the transport to Theresienstadt on November 30, 1941.

After the so called Aufbau Kommando – the young mens' transports that went to Theresienstadt first – we were in the first of the family transports. We were accommodated in the school and then we were sent by train. First we were all together but after a day we were separated. The men went to the so called Sudeten Kaserne (barracks), the women went to another Kaserne. I was with my daughter in the Dresdener Kaserne and then there was another Kaserne and then a smaller Kaserne where the heads who worked for the SS and they were together there. And in Brno all this was done under the

Israeli Kultusgemeinde which had to follow the instructions of the Nazis. From time to time they had to select other transports.

The kasernes were from the time of the Emperess Maria Theresa. They were old buildings with thick walls with water running down the walls and the floor was covered with wood and later on we had to stuff covers with straw with our bare hands. I remember I was all bloody with my hands because we had to arrange the straw on the floor. We were with 40 women there. I was no longer with my daughter because she was in a nursery caring for babies.



*Trude & Paul Drexler.*

***When they sent you to Terezin, did they tell you where you were going?***

Not the name. Only they told us we were going to a place for work. You know, there were always rumours and we never knew what was true and what was not. Before my transport there were already transports to the east. We were kind of glad we remained in Czechoslovakia. Later on, the little town of Theresienstadt, the original people there for generations had to leave as there were always more and more transports and it became a Jewish city. Before that we worked – people in the kitchen working there. Each kaserne operated independently. They made the meals in the kitchens. They made so called coffee in the morning and we had to stand in line to get breakfast and then we got one meal, a soup and so on. And then people had to work at different things. There were doctors. Male doctors were only in the male kaserne. We had only in our kaserne, female doctors like eye doctors, not interns etc and many people got sick. My daughter got very sick and I got also sick. I had high fever and actually

I didn't know what sickness I had, only after the war I discovered I had a scar on my lung and I found I had had a severe illness. But I recovered and was able enough to work. First in the cellar of the Kaserne I had to separate the good potatoes from the foul ones because they came in a big amount but were not all eatable. Then I got another occupation, when the 'managers' realised there had to be everything organised. People had to wash clothes and had to dry them somewhere and they had to put strings along the ceiling and there were certain hours when everyone had to do their laundry and hang up the clothes there to dry.

There were many old people and I had to help them to hang them up and take them down. That was my occupation with another woman till I was in another transport to Auschwitz. But in the meantime my parents came and my sisters and my mother were in the same kaserne as I and she was allowed with a group to visit on certain days, my father, in the men's Kaserne but my father didn't survive Theresienstadt. My father got sick, was 73 years old and was buried in a mass grave. My sister, with her daughter, my niece came also to Theresienstadt and she was working outside in the so called "Wirtlandschaft" so she was a little better off as she was working in the fields so she got every now and then a carrot or something which she would bring into the camp, effectively stolen.

In July 1943, I was put in a transport to Auschwitz from Theresienstadt and this was in a cattle car. I don't know how long it took. It was a terrible shock for us because we didn't have food, we didn't have water and I think they stopped only once. We never saw anyone as we never stopped in a railroad station because the Nazis didn't want people to know about us.

Then we arrived in Auschwitz we were put in a kind of cage like for a dog

## SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY: Bearing witness

---

and ordered “sit” and it was only the next day we were put in blocks in the Auschwitz/Birkenau Familienlager. But when we arrived in Auschwitz already children were separated out or if the mothers didn’t want to leave them, then they went with them to the gas chamber. But we didn’t know they went to the gas chamber.

We were still able to work. The blocks were former horse stalls with bunk beds with only straw covering them, three storeys high. Some young people were put in a block where they made from nylon household things, strips, bands, which were then shipped back to Germany where they were used for bed straps and other household things. Actually there we didn’t have jobs. Some were put in the Krankenbau where people were sick. I was there for two days and it made me so sick that I asked to be transferred to get another job. So I was assigned to where there were like big pitchers which were put where we went for a bowel movement and when it was full some of us were always assigned to take them out. We were given a stick to put through two holes and we carried them out away from the camp street, but you can imagine what kind of air was in the whole place.

On this bunk, I was lying with my friend which I knew for many years from Brno. She was there with her daughter also but she was shipped from Theresienstadt there with her daughter and her daughter was selected by the SS to be the manager or guard for the whole block, responsible for seeing that it is clean and so on and she got from the kitchen the pitchers with the soup and gave us extra soup and bread and she and another had a small room next to the entrance and the SS always picked beautiful girls for that and they were friendly with them though it was forbidden, so they got extra food so my friend’s daughter always brought us some so we got some extra. It was an advantage for us. In winter 1944 there were a selection for those women still able to do hard work because at that time Germany was bombed, some of the cities, Bremen, Hamburg etc so they needed to clean up the streets. There was a selection in front of the SS, so the block älteste (supervisor) which in

our block was my friend’s daughter we had to parade in front of them naked and they chose who was going to work there and who would go to the gas chamber. My friend’s daughter told the SS that besides her mother, he had to send me who she said was her aunt so this is how I came to be still alive. That I was selected to go to work and not to the gas chambers.

So then we came to Hamburg and we were put in a warehouse, over the river Elbe. There were again bunks with only straw and every morning we were shipped by boat to another place which was where work was needed. I remember we worked for a few days after a snowfall to shovel the snow from the sidewalks because this was an occupied city and the housewives went shopping – there were stores, bakeries, butcheries and everything and they must have mostly felt very sorry for us and there were some women who dropped a package with bread or something and the one who dropped every day to me, rolls or bread, she told me “come in half an hour opposite the street – and inside the door will be coffee” so approx. that time I went there and found the bottle with hot coffee. And I think these people living in Hamburg, always an international port, they were used to think different, so they knew that we were not thieves or murderers, that we were only prisoners because we were Jewish, no other reason, so they were good hearted. But this only lasted a few days and we were shipped nearby, to Hamburg. This was damaged very much and we had to clear damage from bombed houses, material which the Germans could use for buildings again and others that were broken. The good ones they shipped away and the broken was discarded. This was rough material as the buildings were built by stones and it made your hands bloody, so it was painful work. And there we went always in one street and then the next and then when this section was cleaned up then we went to another section which was not all bombed out.

And special on Thursday afternoon when they passed by from shopping they dropped also some food. Usually they didn’t use the head and the insides of fish and we took that raw and cooked it as it was – yes, I’m tired now.



*Trude with a young Ilsa.*

BREAK

22.2.1993 CONTINUATION

From Auschwitz we left earlier, we left already in July 1944.

### ***You were telling us about work camps after Hamburg...***

Then we were shipped to another camp also near Hamburg. Neuengamme, and this place was situated in a very beautiful woody surroundings where there were new buildings for German families who were bombed out and they were living there in small houses but they didn't have electricity or water so we were assigned to make ditches around the houses, deep enough for plumbing and electricity. And we went there in the morning and went back to the camp in the evening and this was from November till about January and it was cold but somehow there were still some in the woods, some moss and some bushes because we found some kind of mushrooms and as I was from a place near Brno where we had a lot of woods and from childhood I found edible mushrooms. So I was used to finding them and I would try the mushrooms first, a bit on my tongue to see whether they were bitter or not and if not we would take them back to the camp. This camp was different in this way. We were not so many in one room and we had a little stove, it was a round little iron thing called a "Kanone" and we also found on our way, wood, so we could make a fire and every evening somebody else could cook something. We had cans like when you open now a can of soup and in these cans we cooked things and I must say the people in the houses where we worked on the ditches, were sorry for us and they put a little vegetable or something for us in the cans in the garbage can. One of the women talked to me a little and I asked her for salt and once for a needle with a thread because I ripped my clothes and I was uncomfortable because it was cold.

Then we were shipped from there to Tiefstack also somewhere near Hamburg which was still occupied by some people but some sections were

bombed out and there we had all sorts of jobs to clean up the streets and of course it was very cold and we were there from about mid January and we were always allowed to warm up for a few minutes with our hands, standing over a big fire, like an open fire.

There I got sick, I got an infection on my lips and mouth, my lips swelled and went black and my chin also. With me also from Brno was a lady doctor who was a children's doctor and she told me she needs to operate. So with a simple kitchen knife, she cut off a piece and tied it up. I survived but I couldn't swallow anything, and although there was a so-called Krakenbau and I could only swallow some herb tea with the soup and bread which was our ration every day and my friend, she exchanged food for a bottle of beer which I could swallow and this was the nourishment I got. There were French POWs along from us and they got a salary and could buy cigarettes and beer. In exchange for this I wrote French love letters for the soldiers.

As the British approached, when I was in the Krankenbau sick, I was very weak and I asked the doctor "please let me stay here for another 1 or 2 days because I'm very weak and would have to go back to work" and she said "I can't, because when the SS comes, I'm not allowed to keep you" and it was best because the next day the city was bombed and the bombs fell on the Krankenbau and many people got wounded and the doctor herself, both her legs had to be amputated and we both survived and I always visited her in Brno after the war.

Sure, it was also luck that I survived many situations. In the beginning of April the SS went with us (we didn't know until we arrived and I don't know how many days we walked) in Bergen-Belsen. And only a fraction of us could make the walk and the others were shot and when we arrived there, we were so crowded that we could only sit in some wooden buildings and I know we were the last days, we didn't even have water and nothing to eat and we heard the bombing nearer and nearer and every day somebody around me was dead.

Then the British army liberated us on April 15. The whole camp was full of

dirt and everybody had lice and typhus and the British came, dressed in rubber suits and on a chain, a big scissor where they cut off the lousy clothes and put us in a station where we were cleaned up/disinfected. This was like a hospital. I think I was there at least four weeks until I was declared non-dangerous to others for typhus and then brought to a clean and healthy Bergen-Belsen which was actually a former military camp which was actually fairly well equipped with an office, kitchen room where they cooked for everybody and there were also people from other countries there and we got dressed, also English ladies there and a courier from Prague came once a week and took back to Prague a list of the



Czech survivors and I was told I can write a letter if I know somebody in Czechoslovakia. So as I always believed that my daughter will survive, I wrote a letter to her. I had no address but I addressed it to the transport number to Terezin and she went to Prague because she heard some people survived and she got my letter and answered. One day a friend of mine came and said "Trude there is a letter for you in the office". I went there and read her letter and broke down for joy. This was later, because we were shipped on cattle trains home and now I had her address. Our first address was in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia and some of the women got off there and the relatives or friends knew we were coming and people from the towns brought food for us and in Pilsen we were also fed. Also in Prague we were fed and beside me only 2 or 3 were from the Brno area so we were sitting in the restaurant and people recognised we are from a camp and they gave us food and beer and we were waiting for the next train to Brno. But nobody in Brno knew when we were coming so the train

stopped outside, somewhere where the streetcars go. In Bergen-Belsen everybody got a care package with food but I was sensible enough not to open it because I knew my stomach could not eat regular food so with this package I boarded the streetcar. In Brno I knew where to go and I arrived where my daughter had an apartment with two other survivors. So you imagine how it was!

My daughter had been liberated earlier. In the meantime she met already a friend of mine, a Czech lady when we had to give up our beautiful apartment I gave her some furniture and she took an apartment in the outskirts of Brno in Königsfeld and there she was living and she had of my belongings a fur coat and my husband's fur coat and some valuable things. She sold some of these things to pay the rent because her salary was not enough so later on she gave these things back to me and I lived in this apartment. In the meantime I was most happy that my mother survived in Theresienstadt and was already living in Brno with two other women, one was Jewish and another was a Czech gentile. There she was living until we went to America in 1947. Later on my brother who was on his business trip when Brno was occupied and came later to New York found us through the Red Cross and came to Brno and took all us survivors, including my niece, for a vacation to Switzerland. Then we returned to Brno because we had to wait for the visa to America. It took a few weeks before the American Consulate was open in Prague. So then my brother, we had to have some sponsors too because we were quite a few people who he needed to apply for. So it took a long time before we got the visa. From 1945-47 we could only

## SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY: Bearing witness

---

leave with a visa. So we went to Prague, flew to London only we left behind in Prague my niece because she met a Czech non-Jewish man who had worked in the Underground, caught and imprisoned in a very hard camp, the so called HartFestung. She didn't want to leave him and so she stayed and married and they had two sons. He was a sick person and died but she still lives in Prague.

### ***Where did you live in NY?***

My brother took an apartment for us.

### ***Did you speak any English?***

I could speak a good Czech and German and French and I began to learn English. My brother gave me a radio and told me to put it on when I wake up every morning so that I had the sound of English in my ear and he paid for one hour's tuition a day.

### ***Did you work when you were in New York?***

Later on I worked for 17 years. I knew a lot from our business in Brno and with the languages, French and so on.

### ***What kinds of things did you do?***

I worked in the office, filing, I was a file clerk.

### ***And when did you come to Los Angeles?***

My son-in-law from nothing found himself first a job in the paper business with a very big business, but only domestic and he had the idea to sell to foreign countries which he did and he got a company and after many years, some people in the paper business who wanted to retire and then they sold him the business. I worked an unusually long time but the last years only part time.

### ***When did you move to Los Angeles?***

1970. But before that I was here for a visit and then when I moved, I took a small furnished apartment and put the furniture in storage and made a trip

so called 'Around the world', because I had relatives and friends almost everywhere. I went to everywhere I was invited, Australia, to NZ, where I had cousins from Czechoslovakia who were able to leave when it was still possible. They were also very hard working because they also didn't know English and they established businesses. I had also a lot of friends from Vienna and Czechoslovakia and then I went to India, I saw the Taj Mahal, side trips.

### ***What relatives did you visit?***

From there I went to Israel, not the first time, because I was visiting my brother who left as a young man as a chalutz, working on a kibbutz, married and had a happy marriage and had 3 children. I was regularly there as I had friends, former survivors who survived Bergen-Belsen and I stayed longer with them. After that I visited often and the last time I was in Israel because the trip became too much for me, the last trip was eight years ago.

### ***Tell us about your grandchildren.***

I have two grandsons, both in Bayside, New York. Now they both are in the business with their father, both married. I have great grandchildren which are of course a big joy. Until three years ago I was able to live a social life. I went to concerts, but now I don't go any more, it's too much for me and I belong to the Sunset chapter of ORT. We meet once a month for lunch and that's actually all I do. From the beginning when I first arrived I also belonged to the club of 1933 which was created by the Jewish Germans who came here when they left Germany and they were mostly from Germany but also Vienna.

### ***Tell us how you think your experiences during the war affected your life after the war.***

Actually I don't know what you mean.

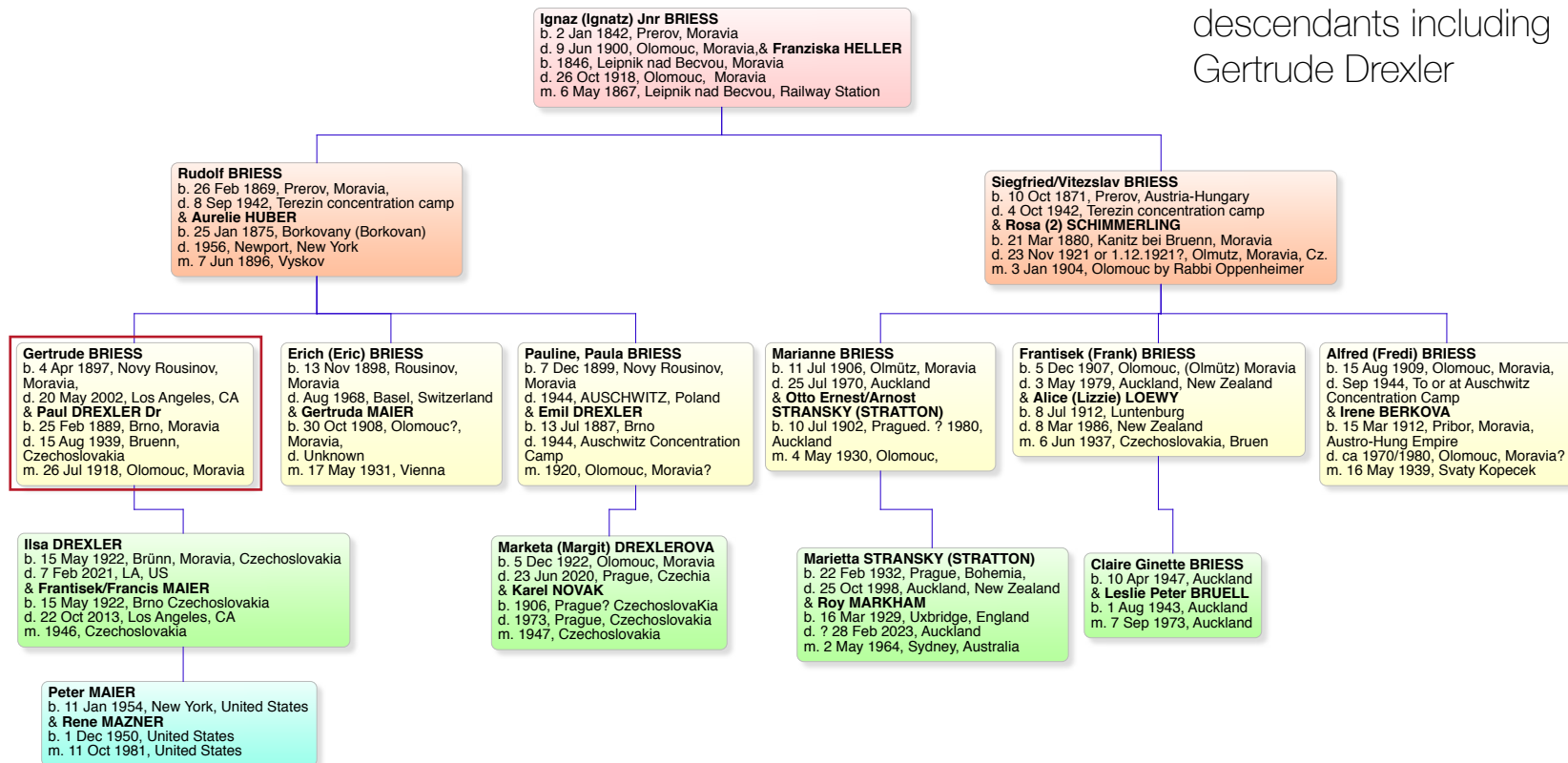
### ***You had very difficult experiences during the war. Do you think it changed you as a person?***

Not really, I only try to explain to my family. The grandsons don't understand really what it was and you know, they are afraid to hear too much. They love me very dearly and are very good to me. They are busy with the business and with the family too and are very good parents but they call me a lot because sometimes there's no time to see each other. You know how they are here – they belong to a synagogue in Encino and there are many activities with the children in America, so they call me frequently 2/3 times a week and sometimes I stay there overnight.

**Why did you want to make this tape today?**

I felt it was important that they know, hear from my voice, that it is really true and they will be able to tell future generations what happened because there are still a lot of people which believe it didn't happen. It's not only that it can happen again, for the Jews, it's also important for other minorities if it happens again if the government is not doing enough to stop the KKK and small Nazi groups, it can spread further. ■

Ignaz Briess Jnr tree showing descendants including Gertrude Drexler







**Ilisa Maier**



*Ilse and her cousin Margit, mid 1920s.*

---

# Ilsa Maier [née Drexler]

## Interviews:

- USC Shoah Foundation 1 June 1995
- Claire Bruell 22 November 2008

## Background notes from Claire's interview



Ilsa was born 1922 in Brno, an only child. Friends were all also only children which was an economic decision. Mother's side many generation of the family Briess, owned many factories. A privilege given out by the Emperor to make beer.

Mother Trude was the oldest of five and grew up in Olomouc which at the time was the capital of Moravia. Father born in Brno 1889, one older brother, middle class, no Czech high schools at the time, studied in Vienna and had degrees in law and commerce. Mother had a strict upbringing and her father behaved as an emperor but democratic and was a big influence. Language



***Highlighted are Ilsa Maier and Markéta Drexlerová as they walk into Auschwitz. The photo was spotted in the window of a New York rare book store by Ilsa many years after the war.***

predominantly German and children and schools were bilingual. Father not religious.

Ilsa was very close to her father as her father and Margit's were brothers and their wives were sisters. Both were only children and the same age. Went to shul. Remembers playing in the yard during Yizkor.

Jewish religion was taught in the afternoon. Could be excused as it was offered after school and when she started to learn Hebrew her father said that she should learn French instead.

Home was not observant. Started in a German speaking school and when Hitler came to power she wanted to transfer to a Czech speaking school. Skipped fifth grade – Latin from age 12, then Ilsa chose English as French was after school. English class had 29 boys and only a few girls. Ilsa had a charmed childhood. Skiing with class, summer camp, went to Italy with the family every summer. One summer went to Lake Balaton in Hungary as her father loved the water. Had to learn piano, dancing classes (supervised by a chaperone).

Father came home at noon for a big lunch but then there were discussions on politics, etc. Night before Hitler invaded she wanted to go dancing to a bar. In

Auschwitz when Margit was to die she blamed Ilsa for never having taken her to a bar. As teenagers they went on all day hikes, before that walks with other families on Sundays.

### Ilsa's voice

#### ***Shoah Foundation interview***

Some 3,000 Jewish inhabitants in Brno, a few thousand Czechs who had lived there for many years then in the 1930s many came from Poland and Austria. Only two others in my class were Jewish. I was never forbidden to marry out but nevertheless never went out with non-Jews. Quietly manipulated by my parents. In 1938 I joined a Zionist youth organisation to learn about Zionism and do sports. I didn't realise the danger. I was a good student and the British Council gave me a scholarship for a trip to England to improve my English. Other children arrived there in 1938 when Sudetenland ceded to Hitler and I returned home from school with a gas mask. My cousin's father worked for a newspaper and heard on 14 March Hitler would invade – he thought it would be Sudetenland only so they left for Prague. The Czechs thought France would stand by them.

In August my father was in a coffee house playing cards and some Germans came. The owner hid him upstairs but Germans found him and kicked him down the stairs. My father died, the first victim. It was said he died of a heart attack but when they found him later he had had internal injuries. I turned into an adult overnight. My mother and I became as sisters.

I joined Maccabi Haza'ir. My current husband Francis belonged and he was head of a boy's group and I became head of a girl's group. I taught the girls Jewish history, anatomy etc. In 1939 I was about to go to England as a maid but I was 17 and the cut off was 16 for the Kindertransport. I was on the train, when war was declared.

After the war I was at the same level as my classmates because the schools had been closed. After 1940 no Jewish children were allowed in Czech schools and Francis asked to go to Prague to teach his group of boys. I took a one year course in social services until 1941 and then 1941 they started registering Jews. Before that our family had to leave our big apartment to share an apartment with another couple in a different part of town. We had to hand in jewels etc. In 1941 we heard of impending transports. I married Fritz Bauer the day before we left for Terezin, the first transport to Terezin. We never had a home together. In Terezin he was in charge of youth from 13 years up. When Francis came back that day from the work camp he didn't approve of the marriage. He thought we weren't suited.

We arrived in Terezin and were separated into men's and women's barracks. Also infants from parents and mothers (who had to work) so at 19 I was in charge of 30 infants and 30 mothers. Infants were easy, mothers not. I worked there for a year then worked as a nurse and wanted to become a paediatrician. I was brought up with expectation of going to university. All the girls from my gymnasium were planning to go to university. I was working in Terezin with doctors of renown and the work was satisfying. We were treated as equals and lived with medical personnel. At night there were talks. On my 21st birthday I got chickenpox. Typhoid – probably – we were carriers. I then trained as a kindergarten teacher. All these occupations at kindergarten and Francis with his group of boys were illegal. Teaching was in Hebrew so I needed help and had an assistant. I was also trained as a kindergarten teacher and did this job until I was sent away to Auschwitz.

At the beginning, the Czechs were still there but as more Jews arrived the Czechs left and internal walls of buildings were taken out and became barracks. Originally you needed a permit to move out of your barracks. I arrived in Dec 1941 and my cousin arrived in 1942. She had been on hakshara (agricultural training) in preparation for life in Palestine.

They also took care of animals in Theresienstadt. I was taken to look after the pigs and was housed with the animals – there was more food. We were not really really hungry but they all came from healthy households. We caught pneumonia and pleurisy but recovered because we were relatively healthy. I was with my mother for the first month in the barracks. She had a job hanging washing on the roof of the barracks. She adapted to a lifestyle which was foreign as she had always had household help. In 1942 my grandparents arrived and sanitary conditions were not good and my grandfather eventually died of diarrhoea. Women survived more easily. Men had been emasculated. At the beginning it was 100 to a room, later conditions more organised and better. Transports coming and going all the time but they thought it had to be worse than where they were. The earlier you had arrived the better off you were. I was a nurse and my husband was taking care of young people. We had a good classification. My mother was sent to the Familienlager in Auschwitz. We stayed on through the transports and the Red Cross visit and the beautification. We had better food, theatre, learned poetry. After that the transports went to the east. Germans said they were sending 3,000 young people to start a new camp. Quite believable. Irony was after the last 1,000, 500 women could come, had to be young and related so I volunteered and so did my cousin. We were in the same transport and arrived in a Pullman car with luggage – irony. We looked down on the prisoners in striped clothes and didn't even realise they were part of us. (see photo page 31)

When we left the train, a man in front turned out to be Mengele. I didn't realise the difference between left and right. He sent me to one side and Margit to the other. Margit had a broken arm but I spoke up and said she's strong and he sent her with me. When we got to the other side we trampled on the plaster cast on her broken arm.

Acclimatisation was made easier by being three girls from Brno



*Ilsa in 2015 at Auckland Rd.*

– we helped each other. Nothing in Terezin prepared us for the living conditions in Auschwitz. They took our clothes, men were shaved, also women, even private parts. After we were all shaved, you could hardly recognise people. A psychological tool? Every time we did anything they separated us into two rows to the showers or delousing.

There was a special selection where the representative for a munitions factory came to select people to work. We were all interviewed and asked our education. I said classical gymnasium and got into a Transport and was sent to another camp under the jurisdiction of Gross-Rosen. Conditions were better there. The transport in cattle cars for three days, no space to sit, a pail for excrement and so on. Near Nachod, not far. In survival instinct I blocked out everything. In Auschwitz. I said to myself in the shower – “It’s only my head getting wet outside, not inside and I will survive and I will show Hitler.”

Put into barracks where I shared a bed with my cousin. But I worked day shift and my cousin worked night shift. She was making propellers for airplanes and wore wooden clogs. The only food was a little piece of bread and thin soup at night. After three months I figured I should be dead but the body follows on a different rhythm. We knew we were only a few kilometres from the Czech border. Prisoners of war – Italians – were undisciplined, stole food and shared it. An Italian would leave a bit of food in my machine. Our biggest fear was that the Germans would shoot us before they left. At night some food packages were thrown over the fence and we were able to help. My cousin had smuggled her watch in her private parts so we could monitor the deliveries. (See photo of Markéta Nováková holding up the watch she concealed on page 40). My cousin with the broken wrist had to operate

**One other thing they realised was that the larger muscular men did not survive whereas the women, who were smaller, required fewer calories to stay healthy.**

her machine. There were few instances where we had to run to the hills because of a bombardment but not really. We suffered from cold and lack of food. Two women in our group were pregnant and they waited as long as they could before sending them to Gross-Rosen for extermination. It was in April 1945 by which time they couldn’t get through so they survived.

A lot of what happened to us was a matter of chance. In the camp they ran out of Czech numbers and had to give them Hungarian numbers which was fortuitous. There was no longer enough work at the end of the war and another factory owner in Czech needed workers, so they took people with Hungarian numbers. There were little tokens of humanity when people on platforms would throw the odd apple to us. On May 5 Czechs in Prague were in an uprising and they thought they were free but they were taken back to camp and then no one left. But the Czechs had promised not to forget them. We never had to go on a death march because we were near the centre of Europe.

The way the war ended we formed a column and marched into the town of Nachod and all the Czech girls were taken into the town. We formed a column under the Czechs and walked together as they heard there were still Germans in the woods and they were still attacking people. They put out water for us to wash and families were told they had to be careful and they couldn’t eat any fatty food. We went with families and the Hungarian girls were taken to the school because no one could communicate with them. We stayed with them for a week. Part of the way by train and walked the rest.

When I arrived in Auschwitz, I thanked God my mother was dead. Not until I came back to her home town and heard from a lady I had last seen with my mother in April 1945 – she would have been in Belsen or one of the camps. I

would have been too if my mother had not survived. I had a lot of luck and had a lot of ability and guts. There was a Russian Jewish family who turned up in the town and a lot of the Jewish population turned up their noses at this family but my mother did not. One of the girls was a capo in Auschwitz and an SS man fell in love with her and he put her on a transport and the SS men didn't shave their heads in the Familienlager (family camp). So this girl said she had her mother with her and that's how my mother got out. Her mother was already in her 40s. The first chance she got because of something she did many years earlier. She was in a barracks with a group of much younger girls and she helped them with emotional support and they in turn helped her with the heavier jobs.

There was a big bombardment and they had to pick up the rubble and she caught typhoid.

When she got back after the war she heard that her husband died in Dachau at the end of the war because he had a 12 hour shift in the mines and then they made them work during the day too.

One other thing they realised was that the larger muscular men did not survive whereas the women who were smaller required fewer calories to stay healthy.

The Czechs acknowledged that the marriages entered into before deportation were not legally binding. Francis came back and got his family house and apartment back and it had big garden with fruit and all the Jewish young people would meet there. As part of the repatriation effort there was a place we could get free meals so there was a place we met all the Jewish people every day. Francis found out his fiancée had died in Belsen and I found out my mother was also in Belsen. She didn't come back till June because . . . after the war she separated and got most of the things back that she had hidden and my mother came back about a month later. Francis and I were friends and had the same background and experiences and one day we decided to get married but because he came back with the Russians he got his house back. Even before

we married my grandmother had survived in Theresienstadt and he paid for her new teeth. After the war they reopened the universities. I forgot – when we wanted to get married because the death certificate I had for my husband was not legal because it was from the camp so we needed a witness so we postponed the wedding until we could get a statement. Then I had to have the marriage dissolved. Otherwise you have to wait seven years to see if people came back. I moved earlier with my mother into Francis's house because the Russians had departed and you needed a certain number of people per house. I went back to college.

Because we had our education interrupted we had the opportunity to study. I had to give up my dream of becoming a doctor.

In the meantime my grandfather had a malt factory and they also exported and my uncle was on a business trip when Hitler invaded – he didn't return. He finally made his way to the US and after a lot of hardships he did quite well. After I married we went to Switzerland on honeymoon with the whole family and my Uncle Erich came and I left my studies and registered with the American consulate. Then when our number came up we had to leave suddenly as he had got them very good affidavits and when your number came up you just had to leave. In the US my studies didn't count for anything. We arrived in February 1947.

My cousin Margit chose to stay in Czechoslovakia. She met an older Czech man not Jewish and she decided to stay. They got married stayed there all through the years and she had two sons. I also had two sons, about the same age. Francis and I were sent by my uncle to the mid-west so he could work in a malting house. So he took a course and returned to NY and we had a difficult time with the uncle. Francis had some trouble with him too. He was a wonderful person but wanted to own his soul. We made friends with other immigrants. We had no money but I had my first child and my younger son is five years younger. A lot of the women who had gone through the same

## SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY: Bearing witness

---

experiences had trouble conceiving, so I wanted to make sure I could conceive again. When we came to New York my uncle said we had to have a religion so we joined a temple in New York and our children went to Sunday school and they both had bar mitzvahs there and when the younger son was 14 we moved to California because Francis had been in paper export at the time and it became harder to export to Latin America and he found life in New York very taxing where he would be away for weeks at a time. I didn't want to but went back to college and they asked if I wanted credit to a degree so I received a free bachelor's degree in German – because they gave so many credits for my German. Free tuition also if I taught some courses and I could study slowly. My husband wasn't pleased.

Just when I got my masters degree and a job we moved to California and they wouldn't recognise my degree at UCLA and said I would have to take it all over again – the master's degree. No one would give me a job because they didn't want to pay social security and I decided to become a tennis bum. I was really very unhappy there. It was difficult. I had always been the baby in the circle. But we did very very well there. My older son turned away from religion after his bar mitzvah and he eventually married a Korean woman and had the wedding in the back yard. Peter, my younger son married Rene, born in Los Angeles, whose parents were from Lodz who survived the war by going further and further East until they wound up in Kazakstan or somewhere like that, and after the war they were repatriated to Poland and with the help of friends they came to Los Angeles.

Me and Francis have three grandchildren – a girl who resembles me a lot and is the daughter I never had. She is now 12. Three years later I had a boy, Brandon. Then my son wanted another child but it didn't work out so they eventually adopted a non-Jewish boy whose parents came from Tennessee. The mother came to LA and was there for six weeks and she gave birth in a hospital in LA and they immediately took him over, was circumcised etc.

Then they found out that in Israel he would not be recognised as Jewish so he even went through a conversion. He is a fantastic, big and funny guy. He's a giant. Francis is always sorry that his other son (Paul) won't have any children because his wife doesn't want any. ■



*Claire with Ilsa's son Peter in New York, 2016.*



*Brandon and Rachel, two of Ilsa's grandchildren, New York, 2016.*





# The wartime story of Markéta (Margit) Nováková



*Margit shows the watch she hid in  
her private parts while in  
Theresienstadt and Auschwitz.*

---

# The wartime story of Markéta Nováková

## **Interview:**

USC Shoah Foundation 31.8.2009 recorded in *Portraits of Prague citizens*.  
Translated from Czech. Interview can be located at:

<https://www.memoryofnations.eu/en/novakova-marketa-margit-1922>

**Markéta Nováková was the grand daughter of Rudolf Briess, Frank's cousin once removed, a cousin of Paula Briess who died in the Holocaust.**



MARKÉTA (MARGIT) was born as Markéta Drexlerová in Bratislava on December 5, 1922. Her father was a journalist, which caused the family to move a lot. When Markéta turned two, her family moved to Prague. At ten, she returned with her mother, who divorced in the meantime, to Brno. Markéta's happy childhood and youth ended with the Nazi occupation - her parents were Jews. All the anti-Jewish measures applied to her. She had to leave Brno Real Grammar School after the first term of her sixth year. For the following two seasons she worked as a woman farmer. She also worked for the Jewish community distributing summons to transports. She herself, her mother and her grandparents were transported to Terezín in March 1942. Due to her previous con-

tacts, she was able to start farming in Terezín ghetto, which brought her certain advantages (staying outside the overcrowded ghetto, the chance to steal food and smuggle goods into the ghetto). She married her friend Egon Forscher in Terezín. When Egon was ordered to go to the transport to the East in 1944, Markéta asked to be transported as well. Immediately after their arrival in Auschwitz - Birkenau she was separated from her husband. However, she met her cousin Ilsa (later Maierová) in the transport. They shared the same fate until the end of the war. Despite Markéta's arrival in Auschwitz with a broken arm, she luckily managed to go through the Mengele selection and she was sent to work. After six weeks she was deported from Silesia to a little town, Bad Kudowa (Kudowa Zdroj in Poland today) in the autumn of 1944. It was only a few kilometres from the Czech town, Náchod. The women from the transport were interned at the Gross-Rosen concentration camp. Markéta worked with a milling machine in the local munition factory. Thanks to her contacts with the prisoners of war and forced-labor workers, she was informed about the forthcoming front. The SS women commanders left the camp at night on May 8th and 9th. Markéta and the other female prisoners were liberated as a result of help from Czech rioters from Náchod. Markéta met her husband after the war and followed him to Prague. However, their relationship didn't last in 'ordinary' conditions. Markéta graduated from Business School and married a former political prisoner whom she met during her recuperating

stay in Karlovy Vary. After February 1948, the family lost her husband's delicatessen shop. Markéta worked as an accountant in a textile store. She raised two children, Milan and Karel and is survived by their children Petr, Sharka and Radek and Jakub. Their children, Markéta's great grandchildren living in Czechia today, David, Miriam, Rebecca and Katarina and Barbora. Markéta Nováková died on 23 June 2020. Within the family, Markéta was known as Margit.

***Extracts from Margit's interview,  
translated into English.***

### Joining the transport

"I can't remember now what it was at that time, if it was a school where they made an assembly point. I can't remember, really... It was like this. Everyone was allowed to have 50 kilograms with him or her. It meant a suitcase and usually a backpack with the most important things. There were straw mattresses or mattresses or just nothing at all. And we spent about three days there.

Then we came in columns of five at the railway station. But I remember such a thing – there went grandfather and my grandmother in front of me. And the SS men were flying all around us all the time shouting: 'Faster, faster! Schneller, schneller! (Faster, faster!)' And my grandfather was very old already and it was making him terribly nervous. And I told him: 'Relax, slowly! Do not be provoked!'"



### Smuggling cigarettes to Terezín

"I kept in touch with the outside in the following way: As I looked after the rabbits I had to go out for grass. Because what would they live on? I had a wheel barrow and a sickle and I had to pass by the police on my way out (ed: of the ghetto). I had to give the police my identity card there so that they knew I was out. On my way back they gave me my identity card back and I went to the garden.

And once I was out there getting some grass for the rabbits and I sat down for a while, there was something moving behind me. All of a sudden I heard someone speaking Czech behind me: 'Don't move, I'm from abroad, I just want to ask you some questions and such.'

Simply a young girl from Prague trying to smuggle some stuff to her acquaintances in the ghetto. Mostly cigarettes because they were selling like hot cakes. Because we were not issued with anything of that kind and anyone who was a heavy smoker would give anything for it. So later on we always met on a particular day at a particular time when I went out for some grass for the rabbits. She always gave me some cigarettes and I hid them under my skirt and I brought them to the ghetto this way.

Well, it was a risk. Of course it was not for free. She also brought me some food and such stuff."

## With my arm in plaster

“By unfortunate accident I fell down in Terezín and had my arm in a plaster cast. It automatically meant death in Auschwitz. I was very lucky because in the same transport was my cousin (Ilsa Maier, editorial note) and a former good friend of hers (and mine at the same time). Her name was also Ilsa. So we were three girls who knew one another before the war and we could rely on each other. Well, the two girls helped me enormously when I was getting off the wagon. We had to stand in columns of five and I was hiding my arm in plaster at the back. They were standing so close to me so that they couldn't see it. When they were checking us, the SS men were walking among us in a row. Well, I had no arm in front and he didn't notice that. And when he walked behind us, well, I put my arm to the front.”

Markéta and Ilsa Maier describing their photo from Auschwitz (see page 29).

(Markéta): “These are the buildings, which were stables before they put us up on the bunk beds there. There were two separate camps with a road in the middle. And we went along the road until we reached the place where they wanted to put us up.” (Ilsa Maier): “And it was typical for me, when you're asking me what my feelings were... I have got such a protective reaction that I smile. I do that every time when I find something fishy. Well, I smile and don't know about it. I think it is a kind of a shock that you just do not realise. I felt absolutely nothing.”

## Mengele selection

“Right behind the showers and the clothes, we came to the front of a large table at which Mengele was sitting. There is no need to tell you who he was. Well, we came to him and he asked what our job was. I mean what our profession was. And I said I was a gardener. And because we were young and it was in October 1944, they probably needed some work force already. Well, he gave

me this look, I took off my glasses... And he did like this (motioned to the left). And I went to the left. I had no idea what was on the right hand side. Only later I got to know that all those who went to the right went to the gas chamber.”

Markéta and Ilsa explain the reason for wearing scarves on their heads in an interview on Czech radio (photo page 29 found in New York in the window of a rare books store by Ilsa many years after the war).

(Markéta): “As we were young women we had periods of course. When we were given some clothes there was always a pile of some cloth... cloth sanitary towels. Well, we had cloth sanitary towels, there are cotton wool ones today. Well, there were those cloth sanitary towels and they were laid there just like that, ready for those who had their periods right at that moment. So we said to ourselves because we were smart enough:

“It's October, it's cold and we have got nothing to cover our heads with. So we put it on our heads. At least I did.” (Ilsa).

“Well, me too.” (Markéta) “The white stuff on my head.”

(Interviewer): “And can you recognise any more people in the crowd?”

(Markéta): “No.”

## Munition factory – Bad Kudowa

“My boss came from Frankfurt am Main and was quite a short man. He simply checked up on me if I was doing this or that right and such. But they were not allowed to talk to us. But once, it was after sometime later on in the winter, (1945) I had an open plan in front of me and he came from behind and we pretended we were talking about something in the plan. And then he asked me: ‘Why are you here?’ And I replied to him: ‘Well, because I'm Jewish.’ And he said to me: ‘Nothing else? You have not murdered anyone?’ So they were probably told that we were women murderers. It is obvious that each ordinary

human must despise a woman murderer.\*

### Liberation 9.5.1945

“We woke up in the morning and the chief female leader was gone and so were the SS women. And in a while, about nine o’clock or so, three guys from Náchod turned up and I remember that one of them was called Rudolf. It was such a funny name, so I remembered that. And they told us that they were contacted by our chief female leader the day before. They were asked

to bring them some civilian clothes (the women had no civilian clothes, they had uniforms only) and then they would simply leave us alone. They would do nothing to us, which actually happened. The Germans fled to the woods around Náchod. They were captured later but it is another story. And the guys said: ‘The war is over.’ They organised us and led us to Náchod.” ■

© All rights are based on the rights of the project: Portraits of Prague Citizens

Also recorded on the website “Memory of Nations”

---

\* Ilsa and Margit were sent from Auschwitz to Bad Kudowa, a sub camp of the Gross-Rosen network. After a change of policy in August 1942, prisoners were likely to live longer as they were needed as slave workers in German factories. Companies that benefited from the slave labour were Krupp, IG Farben and Daimler-Benz amongst others. By 1944 the Gross-Rosen complex had as many as 100 sub-camps.

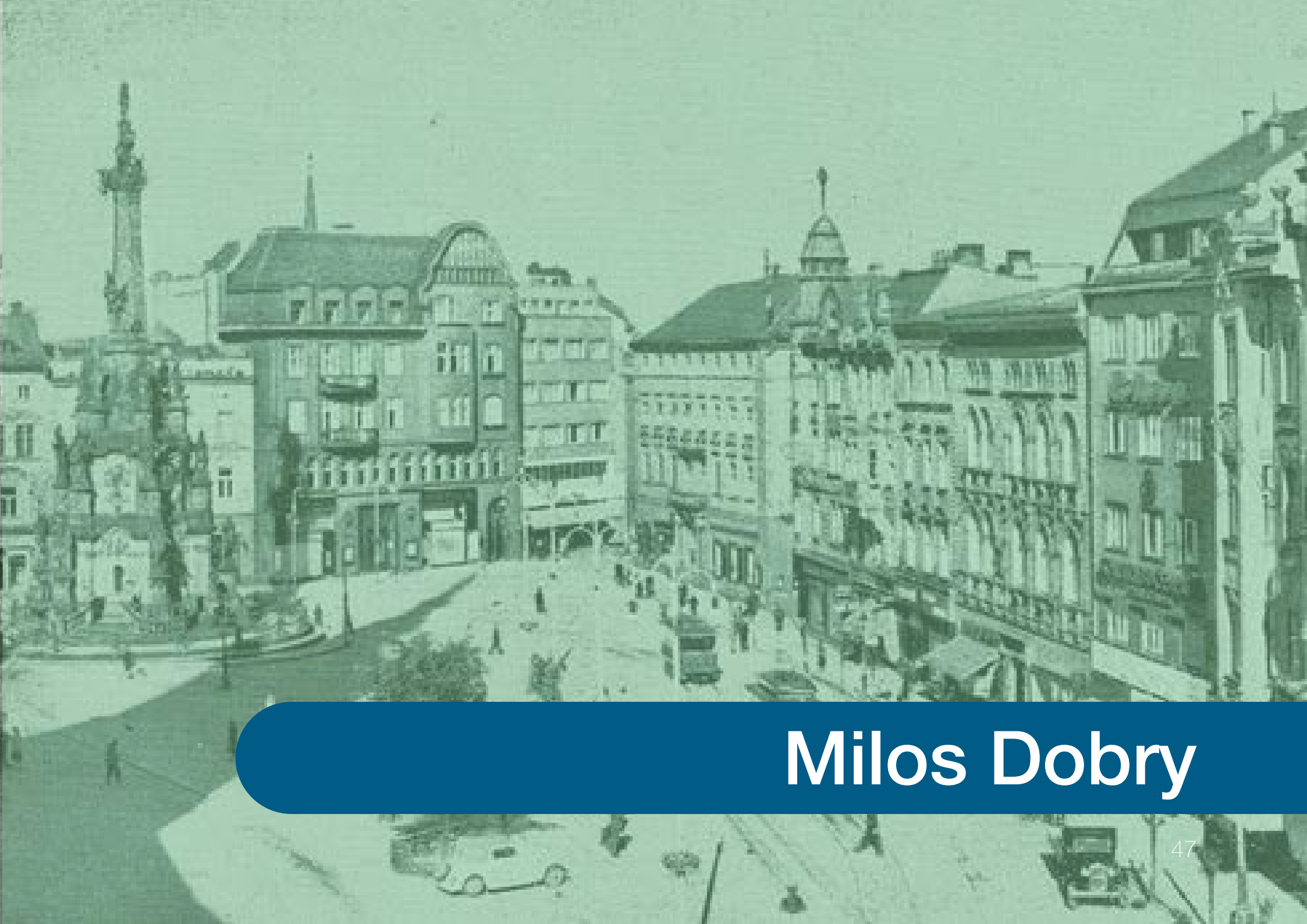
*The entrance to the main Gross-Rosen concentration camp in the village of the same name. It was set up primarily as a base for slave labour dispersed through many sub-camps.*



*Margit with her  
granddaughter Sharka  
and great  
granddaughter Miriam.*







# Milos Dobry

*Milos Dobry (l) with Peter Briess.*



---

# Milos Dobry

**Milos Dobry from Olomouc, in his interview with the Shoah Foundation, mentioned Fredy (Alfred Briess – Frank’s brother – and told Claire they had been on the same transport.**

Extract from an interview by the USC Shoah Foundation, June 23, 2014, Olomouc.



MILOS DOBRY describing how his wife Zuzana Beckmann was saved by a man called Bris, almost certainly Uncle Fredy. We know from Milos that he was deported with Fredy and they were both in Theresienstadt.

“My wife and her parents got the transport note in September 1943. It was a misfortune to me because I was a young guy in love. So I was there with them at night. So I was lying there waiting what would happen next. There was always somebody who came and said: ‘I need 50 more people! Twenty more! Ten more people!’

And then those people waiting there, there were a few people who were



**Fredy Briess.**

there extra. There used to be so called ‘ghettowache’ (‘ghetto guard’). It was Jewish police who wore black uniforms with yellow shoulder boards (epaulettes). They were guarding the place like police. They had no authority. They simply guarded so that there was no fighting and so on and so forth. And they also supervised that people sent to transport were regularly taken to the station in Bohušovice. And one of those from ‘ghettowache’ was from Olomouc. His name was Bris and Zuzana knew him. And he said: ‘Hide somewhere round the corner.’ The family and I with them. ‘And I’ll try to keep you here as long as the train is full.’

And it really happened.

He was taking us from place to place where they were transporting the people in the meantime.

In the end he came saying, that the train was full.

The family of my wife Beckmannová – her father, mother and Zuzana could return to their quarters.

It was a great mercy. The transport that came to Auschwitz on September 6th, they all went to the gas.” ■





# Eva Binder



*Eva Binder.*

---

# Eva Binder

***Eva Binder (née Grätzer), daughter of Frank's first cousin Herta Briess.***

***Interview: Claire Bruell with her husband Peter in Eva's apartment in Ocean St, Bondi, Sydney, 2008.***

***So, Eva, can you tell me a little bit about growing up in Olomouc.***



VA: I was born in 1926 on 2nd February. We lived in a house which belonged to the family Grätzer. The office of the factories was on the first floor, my grandparents Grätzer lived on the second floor, my parents, Anita and I lived on the third floor. It was a very very spacious unit and I can well remember all the beautiful furniture and everything that was in that flat.

***Did you have maids?***

I was just going to say to you. A nanny, her name was Olga, we had a cook and her name was Marie and they



***Eva and Anita Grätzer.***

were sisters and they shared a room. Olga was with us for many, many years until Anita and I left. My favourite meal was liver made like schnitzel and my favourite sweet was pischingertorte. But then I ate it in a way that wasn't done. I liked to take it apart and eat it one layer at a time.

***Kids always did that, didn't they?***

Probably.

***What were Anita's favourite things?***

I don't actually remember. Because there was five years between us. And the grandparents also had a house there and invited us children to stay there. This must have been when I was quite little . . . whilst I remember her in the pram but I know that Peter was born roughly the same time. Our nannies knew each other and we would go to the park together and I was holding on to the pram. I remember all that vividly.

My parents and grandparents had two factories. One factory was a paper factory which was in Litovel. The other was a maltoid factory which we called dachpappe and it was in Cervencia. They

also had a house there and they invited us children to stay there in the school holidays. I think now, that must have been quite a thing for them because they were not so young. They were Solomon and Camilla Grätzer. Apart from the house there was also a swimming pool which in those days was pretty rare. We also had a cousin Lotte Rachelmann, the daughter of Irene Rachelmann. She was a sister of my father's and they lived part of their lives in Germany and she came, at times, over to Czechoslovakia and she loved it when we were together. We got on very well and when Anita went from here (Australia) for anniversary celebration, for Nicholas Winton, Anita went to the reunion with Lotte although Lotte had lived in England and Anita then lived here in Australia.

I went to school in Olomouc, but not for all the time. Once it became obvious that the Jews were being pointed at, they (my parents) took me out of school my parents took me out and put me into a convent. The nuns were wonderful and I learned a lot of needlework. We had to be physically brought there and picked up. My mother had the reputation for being a very jolly woman who always enjoyed a fancy dress party and she liked to have fun. My father was a wonderful person and as a daughter we were close as girls are with their fathers and I recall one day we had glass windows with blinds and I broke a window and was afraid I would get into trouble. So the first thing I did was to ring Daddy downstairs in the office and tell him and before I knew it there was someone who fixed it and Mummy never even knew until some time later. I have never forgotten that. We had blinds, wooden blinds. It's a memory one never forgets.

### ***Was the family religious?***

My family was not religious but my family attended synagogue on all holidays. Where we lived was opposite the park and there was a synagogue a few doors down and that synagogue was burnt down still while we were in Olomouc and now I believe they have erected something in honour of that synagogue which no longer existed. I don't recall Sunday school or religious instruction.

We were put on a Kindertransport and taken to a Jewish boarding school in England. My parents had prepaid the school. There we were separated as Anita was only five. Mr Cohen (principal) was not a nice person. Aunty Else and Uncle Hans escaped with their children, Peter and Hana, and put them into the same school so they would learn English quickly. Mr Cohen used the cane. He caned Peter to the extent that his legs were bleeding. When aunty and uncle found somewhere suitable they took all of us out of boarding school.

### ***In Czechoslovakia?***

I don't recall knowing your parents in Olomouc. Only later in New Zealand.

I remember that my parents were never secretive and anything was discussed but I recall that the families were brothers and sisters and I was asked to go to my room so we knew something was up. They came in the evening now and then to talk to each other.

They said my father was an optimist and my mother was a pessimist and they put money in a bank account somewhere. Joe Gilbert who was a distant relative knew all about it. We left in April. Hitler had invaded. We got up one morning and all the swastikas were out; and we left in April 1939 and my parents gave Anita a big doll and that was her last connection with our parents. I never forgot. Anita was five years old and I was 12. And we had luggage and stopped at stations on the way where we carted our luggage and I couldn't manage all of it. I asked Anita to leave the doll behind because we couldn't manage and the doll, and it left a very bad mark on Anita. There was another girl on the transport and she was on the top bunk and she was a Schulhof relative. She married and had a baby who was a mongol and she passed away, she was so badly affected. The last transport was in August and none got through after that. The last transport held 700 children and didn't get through any more.

### ***Discussion about Eva Hayman whose boy cousins were on that train.***

We went from Olomouc to Prague by train which I remember very well and there is a lovely photograph that was taken just before we left.

Anita and I were always very close and my parents asked me to make sure to look after Anita as I was the older sister after all. At that time there was no one they could ask. I tried my best to be as good as I could. And Anita, young as she was, tried hard to be good too. And that's part of the reason that I made her leave the doll behind because I knew we needed everything my parents had packed for us.

***I always felt I knew you better because you spent more time in New Zealand.***

She only lived in New Zealand for about 18 months and then she went to Sydney to join some girlfriends she had there. She lived in a house with them which was owned by Jack and through that, in the end they got married – and very happily at that!

***What are your memories of the trip to London?***

The trip from Czechoslovakia to London took six days because the Germans made us miss all the trains and we spent six nights in railway stations. It wasn't until we got to Holland that the Quakers opened a soup kitchen for us to have some soup, the whole transport, the first hot meal in all that time. We only had food that was given to us from home. You asked what happened when we arrived in England and in fact you asked me about Robert Breece and I think I mentioned to you that they mixed mainly with – the position he had, don't ask me why I am saying it, it was hearsay but he was really the black sheep of the family. And we really didn't know him well.

***Was Stasha Jewish?***

Stasha was Jewish. And he had a very distinct Viennese accent in his English and you couldn't overlook the fact that he had a distinct Viennese accent in his English.

***They had lived in Vienna, hadn't they?***

Yes, they had lived in Vienna and you couldn't overlook the fact that he was Viennese. And I recall he had a little moustache and the most important thing which I forgot to mention to you on the phone was that he gave Anita away at the wedding because there was no one else here, no family, to do that. And consequently they were much closer than, for instance, I was to them. I know what when Robert passed away, actually Stasha passed away first. I don't know what she passed away from. She had a stomach problem all the time I knew her nor do I know what he passed away from. Anita went to visit him in hospital but I had no opportunity to visit. He must have died a couple of days later. He left her certain things at the end which she treasured until the very end until four years ago she unfortunately passed away. He left his walking stick to her and two paintings to her which she had in a prime position in her house and she very often quoted him which I thought was really lovely.

***It must have been lovely for her to have had that relationship with him?***

Yes. It was very nice. Stasha we didn't see much of, he would come on his own because she was unwell. And Robert was the one actually who was at Victoria station as well as Joe Gilbert. Unbeknown to us they stayed at the station as well because no one knew exactly when we would arrive. In the meantime Joe Gilbert had numerous phone calls from my parents wondering whether we had arrived. Well seeing that we were taking so long to arrive they felt they couldn't leave our parents in suspense any longer because they were so petrified that they told our parents that we had arrived, when we hadn't arrived and they didn't even know where we were. And so finally when we did arrive there was no way we could ring them. We only had one Red Cross letter from them. In fact my uncle Otto, my father's brother, for one reason or another, still during our time in Olomouc, was taken to prison. It was because he was taken to be more on the Czech voting side – not on the German side

– that they came to get him in the night. They put him in prison and two days after that he strangled himself with his pyjama cord.

### ***So Joe Gilbert and Robert Breece picked you up?***

And Joe at the time had a mother and her name was Tante Wanda. Wanda and my grandmother Briess were slightly related. Tante Wanda and they were very religious English Jewish people and she lived in the Royal Hotel in Oxford St near Baker St. She had a suite and they took us to her in the morning when we arrived. We were supposed to lie down for two hours, mind you we hadn't slept for many hours, and then she was going to take us on the top of a bus to Harrods where she was going to select school uniforms for the Jewish college that our parents booked us into out of the money our parents had sent.

### ***And you still managed to arrive with all the suitcases you had and that your parents had given you minus the dolls?***

Yes, we had all the suitcases and as it happened she equipped us with uniforms and not only that, English blankets. We had all our continental things packed away in our suitcases so it was all a total waste of money. We had no idea what money our parents had left nor what money Joe Gilbert had left, but the reason was they still wanted to take us on the same night to Cuckfield in Sussex to where the boarding school was. So to took us in the middle of the night where Dr and Mrs Cohen stood in front of an open fire, which we had never seen in our lives because it was winter, and over the fireplace was a whole lot of canes and we soon found out what those canes were used for. And that particular col-

lege was full of children from overseas up to age 18. We couldn't sleep in the same dormitory, because of the age difference, so Anita, of course was crying. But we were told you spoke English or you didn't speak or if you used your own language you got the cane. And that was how it was. It was probably the

only way we learned English quickly but it was quite unique for anything like that to be made a law of a school. He took a liking to me and would take me shopping when he went shopping.

I would point at things and he would tell me the name – apples, oranges etc. Anita suffered very badly. I could never say that I liked the man. Our parents used to send us parcels and I knew what they looked like. My parents had a great friend in Italy who used to send us parcels of a certain type of chocolate. And they opened them and cut up the chocolate and the pieces were sold in the tuck shop. We recognised them, that they were ours and they were selling goods that were sent only to us as a gift. When uncle and aunty took us out of there, September 1939, they found a big house in Harpenden where they took us in and raised us as if we were their own children. They really did their very very best and we did our very best and we would be grateful to them evermore. Obviously, on the other hand we felt it at

times. There was nothing wrong but we felt it. You could tell they were not our parents. Uncle had no intention of adopting us because he still felt that there might be a time when our parents would just appear out of nowhere.

### ***Do you know when your parents got to the Italian border and were later taken to concentration camp?***



*Eva modelling one of her hats*

Unfortunately that day would never come. It was to have been the 9th of June 1939. When they crossed the border to Italy, Italy declared war and this was when they were put into a concentration camp.

I'm probably quoting hearsay. So we went to live with Hans and Else and Hana and Peter. Hans was a marvellous businessman which I now know he was, despite the lack of English, and he had that food colouring that you put in food, it had a special name, and he built a very very good business and obviously he learned English and Aunty did, in fact Aunty, who had learned dressmaking just prior to leaving Czechoslovakia, started dressmaking and instead of doing my homework I began helping her and that is where I learned my knowledge of dressmaking! She used to keep track in a book of the money she spent on housekeeping and money she earned from dressmaking and she managed very very well.

***It's a great skill to have, to be able to sew.***

Yes, I have found it very very useful. And of course having been to the convent I did learn quite a bit about sewing. I was quite nimble with my fingers.

***And you went to school?***

Yes, we went to St Albans which was not very far, we went by bus and by that time I could leave school and I then took an apprenticeship at Harrods in millinery and went to St Albans to learn millinery. And I had to travel from Harpenden to London every day – 1941 and uncle agreed to it until a bomb dropped close to where I was and then Uncle put his foot down and wouldn't allow me to live in London anymore so I had to go in every day. Quite a task but better not to take a chance.

The apprenticeship lasted four years but I didn't. Through a friend I got into a business where they employed me as a milliner because she realised how much I had been taught. It was very enjoyable and I was very grateful. We continued to live with them until I met Ken. Ken proposed to me after six months.

Uncle was not pleased but he said he was not my father and it was my decision.

Anita had been going to school and after that she went into pastry cooking with some people she knew but she unfortunately had an allergy to sugar and flour and it was on her scalp, under her arms, everywhere. She had to be bandaged all over and was in pain for about nine months. Then she went into nursery nursing which she did for quite some time then.

I met Ken at a dance. Tante Wanda was very religious and I was invited there one Shabbat and Joe mentioned a dance for Jewish youth. I was warned how to behave. According to Ken I was sitting there like a wallflower and he felt sorry for me. And that was the way we met. But he lived in Hatfield at the time and that was how we met and well it always meant travel and as I said, you know, eventually we did get married, and actually was a very happy marriage only at the end for one reason or another it turned out to be not as happy as we would like it to have been and we decided to move to New Zealand. Ken thought being with the family was the answer but it turned out we just transplanted our problems. But luckily we had Eric. He did very well in NZ, had a lot of friends. We came by boat, the *Athenic*, and landed in Wellington and actually Otto Stratton picked us up in Wellington. Frank Briess employed Ken even without meeting him. He had a flat in Manukau Rd and in that house was living a Swiss family, a Swiss sausage maker and they had two lovely daughters. Their English was poor and Eric was supposed to teach them English and as a result Eric learned Swiss German and they were annoyed. It was the corner house and up the side street. It's probably not there anymore.

***Thank you for sitting with us.***

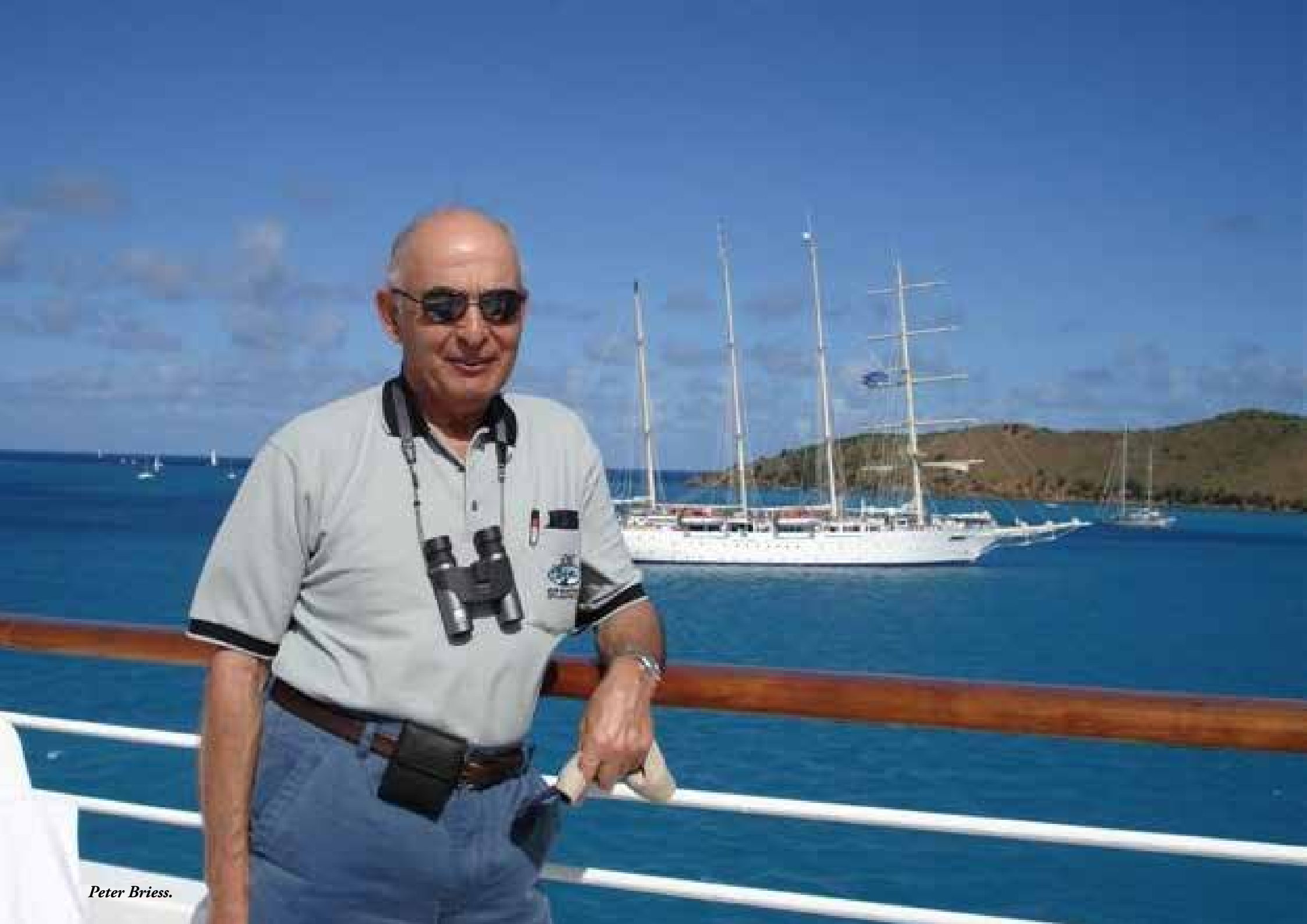
It was enjoyable to travel over the years together and I am grateful to you, Claire and Peter, for giving me this opportunity.

Note: Robert Briess changed his name to Breece. ■





# Eva and Anita Grätzer



*Peter Briess.*

---

# Eva and Anita Grätzer

***The story of my cousins Eva and Anita Grätzer***

**By Peter Briess, 12 May 2021**

## Paying respects to memory



**R**EADERS of my book *The House that Saved Us* may recall that I had two cousins Eva born 1926 and Anita 1931. We were great friends in the years before the war when we all lived happily and securely in Olomouc. They often came to visit us in our garden in NaVozovce.

I was sometimes invited to their flat in 7 Dvorakova (now Videnska Street) for tea and cakes. I loved their mother my aunt Herta, she was such a kind and affectionate lady! Their grandfather Leopold, father Friedl (Siegfried aka Vitezslav) and his brother Otto owned big paper mills at Litovel and Cervenka which are still there to this day. The Grätzers were a prosperous family with a car and chauffeur. They enjoyed weekends in their cottage at Cervenka and occasionally went on holiday to Abbazia in Italy.



***Peter Briess (l) with cousins Eva and Anita Grätzer.***

Sadly, those happy carefree days did not last long. In March 1939 Czechoslovakia was invaded by Hitler's Nazi Germany. The immediate urgency was to get the girls out of danger and to a safe country. Fortunately, their parents managed to get them on one of Nicholas Winton's Kindertransport trains to London. It was a selfless and courageous act that saved their lives. Eva was 13 and was put in charge of her little sister Anita just eight.

With name tags round their neck and a small bag of possessions they arrived by boat in Harwich from Holland on 19 April 1939. Although their parents tried to escape, they were sadly never able to follow. Despite every effort they became victims of the Nazis' determination to exterminate the Jewish People.

Fortunately, their grandmother Paula Briess had a sister living in England. Wanda Gilbert [née Briess] met them on arrival at Liverpool Street Station and immediately the same day took them to an English School for Jewish children, Macaulay House College in the countryside in Cuckfield, Sussex. They spoke hardly any English but despite finding themselves in a strange land with people they did not know, managed to cope bravely and settled in. Fortunately, they were still able to correspond with their parents until 3 Sept 1939 when war broke out.

My father Hans fortunately managed to get an exit visa for our family to

leave all together and we arrived in England on 2 July 1939. A few months later my father rented a small house and my parents were able to bring Eva and Anita to live with us. It was wonderful to be once again reunited as one family. We lived in Harpenden, a charming small town some 40km north of London. By good fortune, we were saved from the worst of the terrible wartime bombing that London and so many other cities suffered in 1940-41 and during the rocket attacks of 1944-5. We all went to English schools. Eva and Anita to St Hilda's and my young three year old sister Hana to a kindergarten. Surprisingly, it took us only a few months to learn to speak reasonably good English!

In 1940 we joined up with the family of Paul and Madi Fischer (also from Olomouc) in a bigger house with a garden where all of us helped my parents with the cooking, baking and housework. We were very short of money so my mother Else set up a dressmaking salon to provide us with some income. Eva was able to help her. We also grew our own vegetables as there was strict food rationing. It was actually a happy time despite the threat of a German invasion in the summer of 1940. We shall always be grateful to Winston Churchill and the pilots of the RAF for protecting us.

We did receive occasional Red Cross messages from our family during 1942-43 but in 1944 the terrible news reached us through the Red Cross that Herta and Friedl as well as my grandmothers Paula Briess and Ida Schulhof had all been killed by the Nazis. Eva and Anita bore the news of the loss of their parents with heavy hearts but stoically. By then they had accepted my parents as their own and loved them deeply.

**“In 1944 the terrible news reached us through the Red Cross that Herta and Friedl as well as my grandmothers, Paula Briess and Ida Schulhof, had all been killed by the Nazis.”**

---

Towards the end of the war Eva at age 18 went to live in London where she was apprenticed with a milliner Vally Brill from Vienna. She lived in a hostel where she met a refugee from Stuttgart, Kurt Weinstein. He was working for a firm of agricultural machinery engineers. They married in 1946 and settled in a flat in Bayswater. A year later Eric, their only son, was born. It was very exciting to have a new member of the family!

After the war we moved to a house in Hendon, North London, where my father was able to establish his new business supplying raw materials for the food industry. Anita

went into the catering trade and worked with Egon Ronay, who had a restaurant in Knightsbridge near Harrods store. He later became famous for his Restaurant Guide.

My father's cousin Franz Briess and his wife Alice (*Lizzie*) had escaped to New Zealand in September 1939 and established a food and delicatessen business there. On a visit to London in 1950 he offered Kurt a job and he and Eva decided to emigrate to New Zealand believing there would be greater opportunities there. They set sail in 1951 and after six weeks at sea arrived in their new home, Auckland.

Anita meanwhile lived with us in Hendon. In 1950 I joined the Royal Air Force to do my National Service and then in 1951 left for Geneva University to study Chemistry. I saw little of Anita during this time. In 1955 she decided to join Eva and Kurt (who by then changed his name to Ken Winton) in Auckland and so we lost both 'sisters' to the New World. In those days distances were much greater and communications much slower than today's four day

flight to Auckland and airletters took about a week!

In Auckland Eva soon established a millinery shop ['Jane & Judy'] which became quite successful until a few years later when fashions changed and ladies stopped wearing hats. She then took a job at Elizabeth Arden perfumery. Ken meanwhile joined an engineering and timber processing machinery firm, Fletchers, where he worked for the rest of his career. Sadly, their marriage broke up in 1967.

Anita meanwhile worked with her sister until in 1958 she decided to move to Sydney in Australia. There she rented rooms from Jack Chajmovic who had survived the holocaust as a slave labourer and inmate of the notorious Mauthausen camp. After a brief spell in Israel he managed to get to Australia. He worked as a chef and within only two years had the enterprise to set up his own restaurant. Anita and Jack married in 1960. It was a very happy marriage, both hardworking people spending all their time together. Jack and Anita Chard (as they became) owned and ran a series of cafés and restaurants including 'Claridges', 'Vienna Woods' and 'Anita's Café' which became well known in Sydney. It was particularly tough work for Anita who had two children, a son Gary in 1963 and Deborah (Debbie) in 1966. She would look after the children as well as work in the restaurants and was up at 5am most mornings to be able to cope.

Memorably in 1974 Anita and both her children came to London for the celebration of my nephew Daniel Rayner's Barmitzvah. Following that she and my sister Hana paid a short visit to Olomouc, the only occasion when Anita



*Eva and Anita Grätzer*

returned to our birthplace.

Meanwhile Jack did well and gradually built up a small portfolio of properties. They later lived in a modern house on Dover Heights, Sydney. Anita was always very houseproud. Gary became an athletic young man who loved physical exercise and motorbikes. Debbie went to Moriah College and became a teacher at a Jewish school. They were observant and kept all the Jewish holydays. They also kept in close touch with cousins Robert and Stasha Breece (changed from Briess). Robert had settled in Sydney and worked for many years with a British Engineering Company, Babcock & Wilcox.

Throughout all these years both Eva and Anita kept in close touch with my parents who they regarded as their own and with whom they continued to enjoy a very warm and intimate relationship. They visited them twice and both Eva and Anita came to London in the 70s and 80s.

Eva remarried in 1977, to Alan Binder but very sadly he died soon after. She came to London in 1990 while my mother Else was suffering from cancer and cared after her devotedly as her own mother, until her dying day in February 1991. In Australia Eva worked for many years running a coffee bar and then as manager of a jewellery manufacturer until she retired in 2008. Eva enjoyed her grandsons and great grandchildren and lived quietly in a flat in Bondi, a Sydney suburb, until she died in 2012.

Eric Winton, the son of Eva and Ken was meanwhile studying Economics and Administration and graduated from Victoria University of Wellington in 1968. He married Evie Spiro, a fourth generation Jewish New

# Herta Grätzer

Claire came across this document at the Bad Arolsen archives. It is particularly interesting that it was sent via the Red Cross on the proscribed form. It is dated 17 April 1942. However, it was not passed by the German Red Cross until 3 July.

It is addressed to Else Briess (Hans's wife) in London who was looking after her two daughters (Eva and Anita). It arrived just five days before Herta's transport to Baranavichy Ghetto, a town, at times in Poland, Russia and, today, Belarus, where she was shot in the forest with other members of her family.


Baranavichy Ghetto housed up to 12,000 Jews in six buildings in cramped and terrible conditions. Pre-war Baranavichy was home to 6,600 Jews - more than half the town's population. ■

## TRANSLATION

*"My dear ones,*

*I hope you are all well, as we all are too. To our dear Iderl and mother our deepest heartfelt wishes and kisses from all of us on her birthday."*

**17.4.1942**



**From :**  
**WAR ORGANISATION OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS AND ORDER OF ST. JOHN**

**To :**  
**Comité International de la Croix Rouge Genève**

**Foreign Relations Department.**

**Deutsches Rotes Kreuz**  
**-3. JUL. 1942**  
**ENQUIRER**  
Fragesteller

Christian name  
Vorname *Else*

Address  
**RED CROSS MESSAGE BUREAU**  
**34**  
**9, GERRARD STREET,**  
**LONDON, W.1.**

Relationship of Enquirer to Addressee  
Wie ist Fragesteller mit Empfänger verwandt? *listen in law*

The Enquirer desires news of the Addressee and asks that the following message should be transmitted to him.  
Der Fragesteller verlangt Auskunft über den Empfänger. Bitte um Weiterbeförderung dieser Meldung.

*Viel geliebte alle! Hoffen auch alle Wohlauf. Können das gleiche unsererseits berichten. Unserem geliebten Iderl und Mutter Herta die allerinnigsten Geburtstagswünsche und Küsse von allen etc.*

Date. *17.4.42*

ADDRESSEE  
Empfänger

Name *Grätzer*

Christian name  
Vorname *Herta*

**PASSED**  
**P.184**

Zealander, in 1970. Soon after they went to live in Israel where they settled, initially at Kibbutz Yifat and then in Haifa. Eric worked for an industry development consultancy. Their first son Ariel was born in Israel in 1973 the year of the Yom Kippur War. They moved to London a year later and their second son Daniel was born in Edgware in 1975. Eric worked for Standard and Chartered Bank, British Leyland and Lex Service Group and enjoyed London life. Evie's parents had meantime moved to Australia and in 1982 the family decided to move to Sydney where they have settled ever since. Eric and Evie divorced in 1983; both have since remarried. Eric worked for the New South Wales Government and was very much involved in the Sydney and Beijing Olympic Games.

After leaving school Ariel went to work for the major global shipping company Maersk and later for Fiji Water and a large packaging company. He married Elana Benjamin of Iraqi/Indian Jewish extraction in 2000. They have a daughter Zara now aged 16, a talented artist. They also have a son Asher who will be bar mitzvah in 2020.

Daniel studied Aeronautical Engineering at New South Wales University and after graduating worked for both British Aerospace and for Qantas Airlines. He married Aviva Bard in 2007. Her family stem from Lithuania and she is a journalist. The Covid pandemic caused his departure from Qantas and he has now started a new job with a skin care products company. Daniel is strictly observant and actively involved with his local synagogue.

They have a son Akiva who recently had his bar mitzvah, and a second son Hillel age 11. They are a happy family and live near Bondi beach. The two brothers are very close. Anita died too young in 2004 and Jack soon after in 2005. Their son Gary and wife Ilona have two sons. Jake, born 1995, is now a financial adviser trainee. Daniel, born 1998, is entrepreneurial and works in a gym. Gary has run garages and now manages a motor parts distributor. He is a keen motor-cyclist. His wife Ilona, a very capable lady, works as a hospital

administrator. Debbie, Anita's daughter, married Dean Gomel in 1997. Dean is a specialist in real estate finance and consultant to various stockbrokers. They are now divorced. They have a son Ariel (yes another Ariel!), born 1999, who was a very keen basketball player and represented Australia in the Israeli Maccabi Games 2016. He had his bar mitzvah on Masada in Israel in 2012, a memorable occasion to which I was invited. Their daughter is Jamie.

Sadly, the grandparents were no longer alive to enjoy this great event. Ariel is now studying Business and Finance at Sydney University and already has a part time job. He has visited London several times and also travelled in Europe with his family.

He plans to visit Olomouc one day! Debbie is now working at Sydney University and occasionally travels to the USA to visit old friends and cousins. Among those is my sister Hana's son, Daniel Rayner who married Alicia Glenn the daughter of a Jewish lawyer in New York in 1995. They have two daughters Olivia, 25 and Rosa, 21. Hana married Stephen Rayner a corporate lawyer in 1960 who became an officer of the Law Society in London. Sadly, he died from leukaemia in 2005. They have a daughter Marianne who is a psychotherapist and lives with her husband Clifford Weisfeld in Radlett north of London. They have a son Benjamin, 31 and a daughter Natasha, 29 who recently qualified as a lawyer. Benjamin married Odette Berg who works for Bloomberg and they have a little boy Luca, 2 and live in Mill Hill London. Benjamin has a football public relations business.

My son David was born in 1968. His mother Annamarie Schwarz came from Brno and was a qualified MuDr (MD) from Brno University. For many years she worked with Prof. Jiri Podlaha. Her father, Otto Schwarz had been a navigator in the RAF during the war while she and her mother Anny stayed behind in Brno where they were fortunate to survive under Nazi rule.

Annamarie's father was Joseph Rulisek who is famous for his wooden carvings of fruits and mushrooms which can be seen at the Moravske Zemske

## SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY: Bearing witness

---

Muzeum. Otto was tragically killed in an air crash on returning home from England in November 1945. Annamarie and I met and married while she was on a visit to London in 1966. She requalified and became a psychiatrist. Our son David also studied medicine in London and qualified in 1993. He met Tanya Rice who was an intensive care nurse in his hospital and came from Cork in Ireland. They were married in 2000 and have two daughters Alexandra (Lexie) now 17 and Annabelle (Annie) 15. They are all keen skiers and Annabelle is a passionate horse rider and animal lover. They adore the river and live in the famous regatta town of Henley-on-Thames some 60 km from London.

The Gomel family have been to visit them and so have Eric and Daniel Winton.

My father's cousin Frank and his wife Alice [Lizzie] Briess, escaped to Auckland in September 1939. They had a daughter Claire in 1947 who married Peter Bruell, an engineer, and they have two sons Ezra (1976) and Anton (1980). Ezra an IT expert, is now married with three children in Melbourne and Anton an industrialist and musician is married with two children in Auckland. They have all become part of the wider Briess family which has spread all over the world!

For my parents the move to a new life in a new world was very challenging. They had lost their parents, their culture and livelihood. However they showed great courage and resilience and grasped the opportunity their new world offered them. This was the example they gave us and that enabled us to settle down in our new homes and establish ourselves successfully. For me it is a source of great pleasure and satisfaction that the descendants of Eva and Anita (and indeed all our families) are healthy, happy and thriving in their new homes. We have become an international family. We have many more distant cousins in Israel also.

For today's younger generation, the story of their grandmothers is history.

A tragic history – over one million children were murdered by the Nazis just because they were Jewish. Hitler would have wished to eliminate the entire Jewish race. Olomouc in 1939 had some 2200 Jewish citizens who played a significant part in the city's cultural and economic life which has been totally lost. Eva and Anita are just two of the million children who, thanks to the foresight and selfless courage of their parents, escaped, survived and multiplied. I see it as a kind of revenge for what Hitler did to our family.

As I approach my 90th birthday I dare to hope that all the family's young generations will at some time in their lives pay a visit to Olomouc and see for themselves the beautiful, historic and charming city where their ancestors came from, learn about the lives they lived and pay their respects to their memory.

See Book 1 Page 69 for the family tree.

### ADDENDUM

Not long after I wrote the above our family suffered the most grievous loss with the sudden tragic death of Alexandra ['Lexie'] the daughter of David and Tanya. Following a tonsillectomy, she needed a further anaesthetic and suffered a fatal allergic reaction. She was 17 and doing her last year at school. A bright happy girl who by now would have been in her second year medical studies. She was deeply loved and will live on in our hearts.

On a happier note Ben, the son of Marianne, and his wife Odette had a second son Zachary who joins his brother Luca. Ariel Gomel has graduated from Sydney University and has completed a first year job at JP Morgan in Canary Wharf, London. His sister Jamie completed a year in Atlanta University doing business studies and is now at Sydney University. Daniel Chard has opened a retail outlet in a Sydney shopping centre. ■



***Stolpersteine for Herta and Siegfried Grätzer in Olomouc. They were laid in June 2011. Peter Briess and Claire and Peter Bruell attended the ceremony.***

4580

This document of identity is issued with the approval of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to young persons to be admitted to the United Kingdom for educational purposes under the care of the Inter-Aid Committee for children.

**THIS DOCUMENT REQUIRES NO VISA.**


PERSONAL PARTICULARS.

Name GRAETZER EVA

Sex FEMALE Date of Birth 3-2-26

Place PRAQUE

Full Names and Address of Parents  
GRAETZER SIEGFRIED & HERTA  
DVORANOVA 7  
OLMUTZ.




***Documentation for Eva's arrival in Harwich.***



Olomouc. Třída Josefa z Engliů.



# The escape of Viktor Bermann



*Viktor and Anny Bermann.*

---

# The escape of Viktor Bermann

***Viktor and Paul Bermann were the sons of Adele Briess (1866-1930), the daughter of Wilhelm Briess, who was the brother of Frank's grandfather, Ignaz Jr.***



THE Germans annexed Czechoslovakia in March 1939. A series of decrees were passed requiring Jews to list all their assets and possessions, then forbidding Jews to enter public parks, cinemas, theatres, museums and libraries and an 8pm curfew imposed. A written permit was required to travel by train and then only in the last carriage. Rations of food and clothing were limited to Jews who could only visit shops after local people had finished shopping. Radios were forbidden, all silver and gold had to be turned over (jewellery). The Nazis confiscated the apartment belonging to Viktor and his wife Anny Bermann, though Anny was permitted to remain upstairs.

Paul and his brother Viktor were the sons of Adele Briess and Josef Bermann. Viktor was introverted, with a sense of humour. He studied chemical engineering in Vienna and was a prisoner of war during World War 1.

He escaped from captivity to be awarded two decorations during the war. He worked in the firm of Ignaz & Wilhelm Briess Company, the third generation, under the direction of his father Josef until, in 1921, he became technical manager of the malt factory in 1920. When Josef died Viktor and Paul inherited his 50% share of the company. Viktor was the chief science officer. He implemented new methods in the yeast industry and invented patents designed for the fermentation and food industries. Brother Paul was responsible for sales and marketing. Paul had business connections in Venezuela and was appointed as the Honorary Consul in Olomouc.

Buchenwald (see side bar this page) concentration camp was built in 1937 near Weimar in Germany. Numbers in the camp grew exponentially after war began. Viktor was transferred there from Dachau, another concentration camp, together with Robert Fischel, a business partner and family member.

In the first half of 1940 Viktor and Robert were forced to sign a document ordering the sale of Ignaz and Wilhelm Briess Company, the company started by Ignaz and Wilhelm Briess, two cousins, though the 3.5 million

---

## ***Buchenwald***

Buchenwald Concentration Camp was established in 1937 and was one of the first – and largest – of the Nazi concentration camps. Close to Weimar in Germany, it was neither isolated nor invisible and was part of German society at the time. Prisoners came from many countries including the Soviet Union and mainly worked as forced labourers in local armaments factories. Conditions were poor and food inadequate which led to deaths – still others were deliberately executed. The main camp had 139 sub-camps. Buchenwald was liberated by the United States Army in April 1945. From 1945 to 1950 the camp operated under the Soviets as an internment camp. Robert Fischel and Viktor Bermann had lucky escapes.

---

## SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY: Bearing witness

korunas that would have been the proceeds of sale, were never received.

With the company's exports overseas in the 1920s and 30s an account had been opened at the Guarantee Trust Company Bank in New York that they used for business purposes. With the Czech assets of the company in Czechoslovakia the Germans demanded the foreign funds in the New York bank account.

In June 1940 suddenly Viktor was released from concentration camp with his health much diminished and hair now grey. Robert Fischel had also been released. In the meantime the consulate in Prague had been closed. Paul was in the US and initiated proceedings to sue the German Reich for having stolen the assets of the company. Eventually it was agreed that the funds would be released to the Germans but on the condition of exit visas and passports for Viktor and Robert and their families. Finally Viktor and Robert and their two families left Czechoslovakia in May 1941, travelling via Berlin in July of that year, continuing on to Cuba via Spain and Portugal. Apparently this happened only rarely, handing over funds to the Germans in return for release of Jews from the concentration camps and took place mainly at the beginning of the war when the Germans were very short of foreign funds. A stroke of luck for Viktor, Robert and Paul and their families.

Adapted from *Family Ties* by Carmit Sagie, Israel. ■



*Advertisement for Ignaz & Wilhelm Briess products showing the eagle on the shield of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.*

### Translation

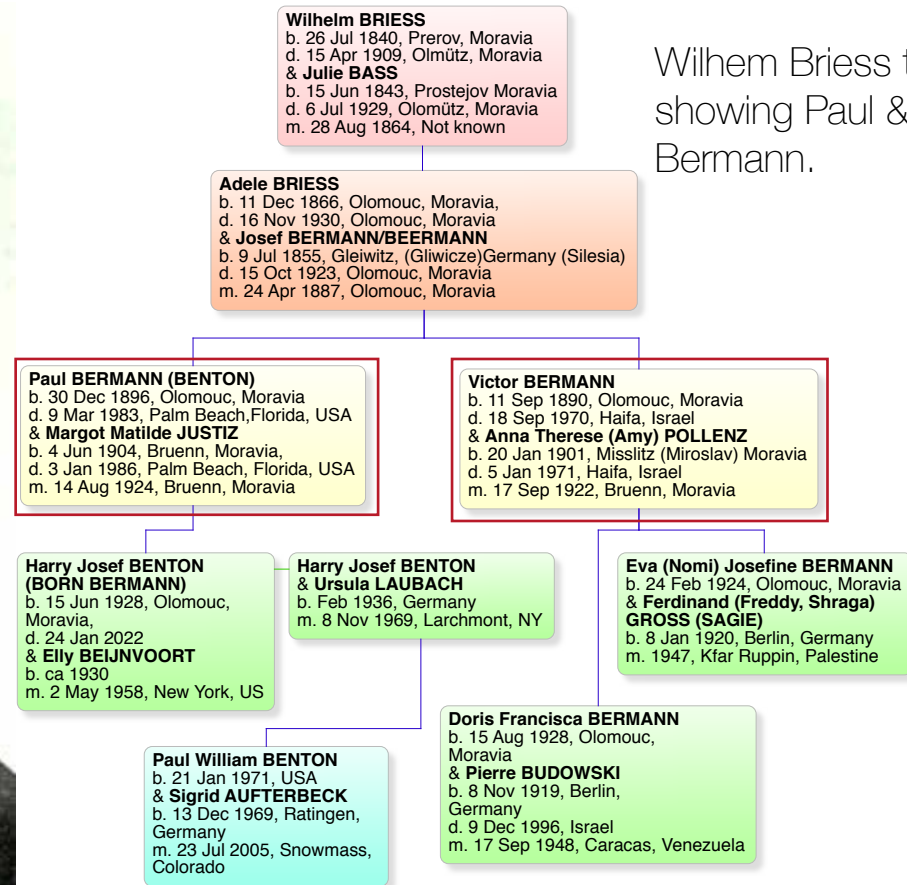
“Each type of malt is carefully produced in separate kilns specially designed by qualified specialists for 27 to 48 hours of kiln time. To extend the kiln duration, we built another large kiln for Bavarian malts - without enlarging the malt cellar. Every container and every outgoing wagon is analysed in our factory laboratory.

Enquiries from genuine parties are welcome.

Best references from long-standing customers are available.”



Wilhem Briess tree showing Paul & Viktor Bermann.



*Wilhelm Briess tree showing Paul & Viktor Bermann.*

*Friedrich Fischel (inset) and Josef Bermann were shareholders in I and W Briess Company. Their sons, Robert, Paul and Viktor, inherited the company after they died. Paul and Victor were the grandsons of Wilhelm Briess and Friedrich was married to Berta the daughter of Ignaz Briess Sr.*





# Post liberation letters - Adi & Lizzie Briess



***Granny Adele Briess.***

---

# Post liberation letters

THESE EXCERPTS ARE FROM LETTERS WRITTEN BY ADELE BRIESS (FRANK'S STEPMOTHER) POST WW2 (1945-47) FROM OLOMOUC AFTER LIBERATION AND UNTIL SHE ARRIVED IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1947.

**Granny Adele Briess, née Fried, Claire's (step) grandmother who was from Uherské Hradiště and married grandfather Siegfried in 1922.**



IN 1945 news of the deportations, murders and fate of the Jews left in Europe began to filter through. Most of the large extended Briess and Berger families were no more. Frank's mother Rosa Schimmerling had died in 1921 and grandfather Siegfried had remarried Adele Fried who had been the children's governess. Granny Adi Briess (as she was known), Frank's step-grandmother was liberated from Theresienstadt Concentration Camp in May 1945.

She spent several weeks regaining her health and slowly the mail came back and forth between Olomouc, New York where Frank's sister Marianne and family had spent the war years, and Auckland.

In Olomouc, Adi lived in the top of three apartments in the villa at Wellnerova 21 which Siegfried had built in 1937. During the war the villa had

been confiscated by the Nazis and had been occupied by a German officer. Adi and Siegfried had been forced to vacate their new home and go and live in the city centre where they had formerly lived in the building where the family business was located at 28 Rijn 11. They remained there until their deportation mid 1942. Siegfried died in Theresienstadt. When Adi returned to Olomouc in 1945 she suffered much reduced circumstances.

A three way exchange of letters began between

- Granny Adi in Olomouc,
- Marianne (Frank's sister) and her husband Otto Stransky in New York,
- Frank and Lizzie in Auckland.

## **Granny Adi wrote to them:**

*"Finally we are allowed to write you what has changed. You certainly know that our dear father (Siegfried) died on 4th October 1942. I was with him until 6 and Fredy until half past 7 and he was speaking with the neighbour but in the morning he couldn't wake up. As his life was quiet and peaceful, so was his death and he just fell asleep.*

*Fredy treated us extraordinarily well. He protected me from all the transports otherwise I would have been on the way to Poland as all the others and I would have stayed there (and died in the death camps). Orlnike was also in Theresienstadt. We were always together and she was very nice to me. Trude, Ilsa and*

*Margitka came back. Uncle Rudolf died before our father in Theresienstadt.*

*Once I was healthy I had only one wish and it was to see you all. The only single thing that pleases me is that you are doing well.*

*I don't have a flat yet. I can't do any better than where I am on my own. If only Fredy had been here, that would have been perfect. Who knows what happened to him? (He was taken to Auschwitz). Franta asked about Martha (Lizzie's mother). There is no news about her, which usually means that there is no use waiting for them any longer.*

*I was very happy at Dr Berka's. (Dr Berka was the father of Fredy's wife Irene who looked after Adi for a while after her liberation) I was there for five weeks and then three weeks at the home of one of my friends in Samotisky. Now I am living in Fredy's flat. Pazderovys are very nice to me (former caretakers). They cook for me.*

*Please write to me and tell me everything about you and Franta, what are you doing, what kind of shop do you have, how big is Maricka? Georg came to see me, he also slept here. He is doing very well and so I have lots of news of the Stransky family (Otto's family). Hans (Briess, Frank's cousin in London) has already written to me."*

### **Undated letter, probably mid 1945 to Granny Adi from Lizzie:**

*"I certainly do not have to express what I feel about my poor mother. I know I won't see her again. My cousin in Cochabamba, Bolivia says that my mother and Tante Ada had to leave Tivoli 2, were forced to sell (I don't know to whom) and moved out of there. I never received a reply although I wrote Red Cross letters and they even were not returned. Do you know anything about my mother? What happened to her after we left? I have not heard from a single soul of my father's family either. Mrs Grete Fischer, who moved from Brno to Lhota Rapotín, aunt*



*Hela Broll and her husband, Aunt Hermine and her three daughters. Neither have I heard of Alfred Wolf, Val Mezirici, Grete Berg, Uh. Hradiste, her husband and two children. Sery Reich or aunt Rudy Berger, wife of Josef Berger who committed suicide on 15th March 1939. I have looked through the few lists we could get here but not one name of my family was there. Again and again I am reading your letter. After so many years direct news again. I feel very grateful for it."*

### **Adi responded philosophically:**

*"You don't need to worry so much about your loved ones. They had an easy death – this is what we feel now and they are at peace. Rather a bad end than a bad life without end. Have fun during your youth. Nobody can take that away from you. People here had a tough time during the war and a lot of our friends were locked up for over a year.*

*Dr. Berka is looking after me and he is very nice. I am at his place every Saturday and then we have a bath. Since there is not enough coal, we don't heat here.*

*I don't need any vitamins. Dr Bolek prescribes me everything I need. I look good again and I don't want to believe how old I am. Hanus sent us small packets through soldiers. I can see how everything is difficult, I would be mad before I could have furniture, dishes etc, I can't do that alone.*

*I had a good day today. I don't know if you remember Josefka but in the morning she brought me a little something from Leber's shop. Then there was that friend from Samotisky she brought me two eggs and apple pie and the third was Miss Krejzlikova who brought some milk and flour. Sometimes nobody comes*

for ages. Franz wrote them a telegraph that he will send them some clothes. Mr. Krejzlik died in Osviecim already in 1942. His boys are 18 and 16 years old.

Are you asking where the kitchen is? On the toilet!! That's where the only socket is to power the electric cooker. Mrs Pazderová cooks me lunches, she is very nice to me. I can see how Otto is laughing if he imagines where I cook but I like it. You don't have to worry about me. If I am healthy I can manage it. Dear Otto, thank you for all those kind letters. It is the best vitamin for me. Sorry that I write in Czech. I can read your English letters without trouble but I can't write in English. Irena was three weeks in Olomouc, she still lives in Prague and she is really nice and pretty as a doll. Her mother died one year ago. Dr. Berka is looking after me, he is a very nice person.

We have to admit to ourselves that those of our relatives who haven't returned yet will never come back. I have some stuff hidden at my friends but I didn't get back much. Some carpets and clothes but not much. I am sending lots of love".

### 3 October 1945:

"Tomorrow it will be three years since our father died. He is doing well over there, no worries or troubles, he is doing better than we are doing here.

I do all the best I can so that I could be with you



*Adi Briess post war.*

soon. Concerning my health I am doing better, you gave me energy. I am running on the stairs up and down, everything what I need to arrange I do because nobody else would do it. Meanwhile, all my windows are broken. When it's raining I have to jump from one leak to the next (with a bucket or pot) to collect the water. That's funny isn't it?"

### Lizzie reported from Auckland:

"We both hope from the bottom of our hearts it won't be long before you enjoy it with us. About a year ago we started to build our house and in August 1945 we moved in. We have a picture taken of it and will send it to you next time. It is built from timber and has a ground and first floor. Downstairs is the lounge, dining room, kitchen, laundry and hall, upstairs bedroom and a spare room, now being used as another living room or guest room. Most of the furniture is built in, the floors are covered with felt. Help for the house is very hard to get here so I am looking after it myself. I have all electric appliances, like electric stove, lux (vacuum cleaner), washing machine, boiler for the washing, Frigidaire. We have got a large garden mostly in lawn at present but are growing our own vegetables, fruit, flowers. The house is situated on a little hill and has a gorgeous outlook to the sea. It can't be compared to anything we knew before as it is a typical "Pacific Ocean" scenery. The beach is only two minutes' walk".

### 28 June 1946:

#### Adi's response from Olomouc

"Thank you very very much for the parcel. Everything arrived in perfect order. The nightie is so lovely that I'm going to go to a ball in it! The neighbour thought it was an evening dress. There

## SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY: Bearing witness

*are lots of cherries this year. I think even the other fruit will be plentiful.”*

A month later she confirmed receipt of a parcel of tinned meat – beef, tripe, pork, ham, sausage, corned beef “a rare and lovely treat”. She says she had returned to her some pieces of silver and some doilies. In July 1946 she reported that there are few ships available and it would probably be another year before she could join them in New Zealand. Finally on 7 October, 1946 she wrote sending her best regards and love and “I kiss you and thank you again for everything you are doing for me. It’s so wonderful to feel that somebody is concerned about me. I can hardly wait to be with you. See you soon.”

Granny Adi finally arrived in 1947 having flown via Brussels, London and New York. Adi wrote from Auckland to Marianne in



***Granny Adi holding Claire, Auckland, 1947.***

New York about what to bring with her to New Zealand.

*“Now to my special requests. I want some hair combs so my hair doesn’t fly around so much in the wind. I can put my hat on when I go to town. I also want a basting feather, a goose feather. Bring some basting feathers for yourself because they are not available here and also bring your frying pan, dear Marianne. You cook everything here without a lid and so everything is half dried out. So that’s all”.*

Granny Adi died in Auckland on April 8, 1951. ■



***(above) The house built by Frank and Lizzie Briess at 36 Auckland Road, St Heliers bears a resemblance to the family home in Olomouc.***

***The New Zealand home was designed by Czech refugee architect Henry Kulka while the architect who designed the house in Olomouc was Jacques Groag. Both had studied under the modernist Adolf Loos in Vienna.***

***(l) Frank emerging from the driveway.***

**Meldezettel.**

*Wellnerova* Strasse, Gasse, Platz, Haus-Nr. *21*

Vor- und Zuname	<i>Siegfr. Briess</i>	<b>Anmerkung.</b> Die Anmeldung hat binnen 24 Stunden mit zwei gleichlaufend und genau ausgefüllter Meldezettel zu geschehen. Die Abmeldung hat durch rückgabe des <b>örtlich bestätigten Meldezettels</b> in derselben Frist zu erfolgen und wird jede Ausserachtlassung, wie auch eine falsche Meldung mit Strafe bestraft. Bei der Anmeldung sind die die Zuständigkeit nachweisenden Dokumente als: Reisepass, Heimatschein, Dienst- oder Arbeitsbuch usw. vorzulegen. Meldezettel sind im städt. Meldeamt für 20 h per Stück erhältlich.
Charakter, Beruf, Beschäftigung	<i>Kaufmann</i>	
Geburtsort, Bezirk u. Land	<i>Perou Währen</i>	
Zuständigkeitsort, Bezirk u. Land <small>(Nicht zu verwechseln mit Geburtsort)</small>	<i>Olomouc</i>	
Heimatsdokument, Ort, Zeit und Nr. der Ausstellung	<i>Pass 21/XI 31</i>	
Geburtstag, Monat, Jahr	<i>10. Oktober 1877</i>	
Religion	<i>mosaisch</i>	
Nationalität	<i>Deutsch</i>	
Stand: ob ledig verheiratet, verwitwet oder geschieden	<i>verheiratet</i>	
Vorname, Geburtsort u. Geburtsdaten (Tag, Monat, Jahr) der Gattin	<i>Adele - Ung. Gradisch 11/5 1876</i>	
Zuname der Gattin vor der Verehelichung	<i>Adele Fried</i>	
Vorname und Geburtsdaten, (Tag, Monat, Jahr) der im Familienverbande lebenden nicht selbständigen Kinder	<i>Wassianne 11/7 1906 Franz 5/12 1907 Leopold 15/8 1909</i>	
Früherer Wohnort im vergangenen Jahre, von dieser Anmeldung zurückgerechnet, unter Angabe: a) des letzten Wohnortes, b) der Zeit des Aufenthaltes in der betref. Gemeinde überhaupt c) des letzten Wohnortes, d) der Zeit des Aufenthaltes in der betref. Gemeinde überhaupt	a) Gemeinde <i>Olomouc</i> <i>ul. S. Regina</i> b) Von <i>1876</i> bis <i>heute</i> c) Gemeinde _____ Gasse _____ Nr. _____ d) Von _____ bis _____	
Unterschrift des Hauseigentümers (Wohnungsgebers): <i>Olomütz, am 8/9 1937</i> <i>F</i> <i>Frank Briess</i>		Anmeldeamt Olomouc 13 IX 1937 Olomouc-ířední Úřad Groag



(above) This meldezettel is evidence of the registration of the property at Wellnerova 21 in the name of Siegfried Briess, salesman of Olomouc, Jewish and German and his wife Adele Fried who were living at the property, dated 13 September 1937. Architect Jacques Groag.





# Paul Ungar



*Irene Dorfman with Lilly Bruell in Sydney c. 1960.*



*Paul Ungar.*

---

# Paul Ungar



PAUL UNGAR'S ESCAPE FROM VIENNA RECORDED IN THE TEXT OF HIS LEGAL APPEAL AGAINST INTERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA.

***Paul Ungar***

***Born Vienna 9 June 1895 and***

***Irene Dorfman (his wife)***

***Born Vienna, 30 June 1902***

Paul Ungar was Fred Bruell's second cousin. This is his objection against his internment under Regulation 20 of the National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations, heard on the 24 and 25 February 1941 in Sydney:

***How long after Hitler took control was it until your business was wound up?***

Paul Ungar was asked by Mr J.D.Holmes, appearing for the Minister of State for the Army.

PAUL UNGAR: Hitler came to Austria in March (1938) and the business was wound up about the middle of November. I had to go there to answer questions asked by the official employee of the Nazis, but I could not sign a cheque

and I had nothing to do with the business really, except to say 'Yes'.

The goods were taken away, but I never saw the money. The official said that the money from the liquidation of all Jewish businesses was to be paid into a central fund to be controlled by one office. I had to make application for any money I wanted and sometimes I was given 200 marks and sometimes 300 marks. When I said that I wanted to leave the country, I had to produce the bills showing what I had paid for travelling and for the cost of removing my furniture. They gave me enough money to pay these bills but all the other money went into a closed account.

***So that all the money received in the course of the liquidation of the business was supposed to be paid into a fund in your name?***

I had to make application for money. I got all the money I needed for my departure from Vienna to Australia. I was given money to buy tickets for three people and to pay for the transport of my furniture.

***What was the value of the business in English money?***

I think the last balance sheet showed the value of the business to be about 150,000 schillings. That was my fortune. We made a net profit in the last year of 22,000 schillings which are about the same as Australian shillings.

***Who owned the property on which the business was being conducted?***

I was the only owner, I rented the factory.

***What about the property in which you and your wife lived?***

That was a flat, rented too.

***Did they take control of any of your other property?***

An my banking account I had a private account of 4,000 or 5,000 schillings.

***As a member of the Jewish community when the Nazis came to Austria, was there anything to indicate that you and your people were Jews?***

I could not wear a swastika. After the first two or three weeks the whole population was compelled to wear it. In every flat there was one man who had to look after this. All the flags had to be put out at the window and everybody would be afraid to object.

***You said you left Austria under the threat of a concentration camp?***

All Jews were under that threat. On a particular date one of the Nazi party came to the flat where I lived and asked if a Jew was living there. The caretaker was a social democrat and not in favour of Hitler. On this particular day in Vienna, they arrested 12,000 or 15,000 Jews and sent about 6,000 to the concentration camp. On 10th November 1939 they burnt the synagogues. 60% or 70% of my friends were arrested. Then I got an official letter from the Party telling me to leave my flat. I told them of my intention to leave Vienna and they gave me 3 months to leave the flat. We were always under the threat of the concentration camp. When they took over my business I removed a very good carpet that I personally owned. I got a call saying that if I did not bring back the carpet in the following two hours I would have to go to the concentration camp.

***Did you have a motor car?***

I had three.

***What happened to them?***

When Hitler came it was forbidden for Jews to use a garage. I never saw them again.

.....

The above quotes are taken from Paul Ungar's Objection against his Internment under Regulation 20 of the National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations, heard on the 24 and 25 February 1941 in Sydney.

Ungar had escaped from Vienna for Holland with his wife Irene and daughter, Ruth, and as he was from an enemy country, had been interned as an enemy alien in Australia. This transcript of his objection proceedings is held in Australia's National Archives. I obtained a copy when I visited the archive in Canberra while attending Australia's first Jewish Genealogy conference.

It told a now familiar story of a Jewish family prospering in business in the typical manner of Viennese Jews. Like so many others, Ungar's family originally came from the outer reaches of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and grew to prosper in the melting pot of citizens from the previous lands of the Empire that was Vienna. As many others of his generation Paul was tertiary educated (in his case in engineering), married a woman from the same background and with the coming of the Nazis to power decided that he needed to leave his homeland. All Jews in his position faced the same obstacles – assets taken and stolen, no compensation, the threat of the concentration camps, escaping with little more than youth and a few pennies besides, fleeing everything familiar and hoping to begin a new life free from persecution in a distant, unknown land.

The proceedings at the hearing give a very clear picture of Paul Ungar and his family and the minutiae of their flight from Vienna and the early days of their settlement in Sydney. Paul Ungar's mother was Peter's great-aunt Pauline who grew up in Linz, Austria.

## Family background

The origins of the Sommer family can be traced back to Gutmann Sommer, born approximately 1770 in Uhersky Ostroh and his wife Nehame Kretschin, married on August 3, 1806 in Uhersky Ostroh, Moravia. Their son Sallomon, a general merchant, lived from 1807 to 1875 and is shown on the Uhersky Ostroh census of 1857. Sallomon married Rebekah Strauss from a town, a little to the south of Uhersky Ostroh in 1832. Sallomon and Rebekah had nine children, one of whom was David Sommer who was Peter's great grandfather. Both parents, Sallomon and Rebekah are buried in Vienna, in the Zentralfriedhof so we can assume they moved to that city at some stage after 1857. David, born 1841 married Fanny Benedikt, also from Uhersky Ostroh and their children were Sigmund, Helen, Grete, Clara and Pauline, all born between 1875 and 1886.

Fanny, Pauline's mother and Peter's great grandmother also came from Uhersky Ostroh and her parents were Marcus Benedikt (1810-1883) and Katrina Juli Herzka (1821-1891). Moses, Marcus's father was born around 1780 and came from Holleschau.

Marcus and Katrina Juli were married in 1841 in Uhersky Ostroh and besides their daughter Fanny, they had Samuel, Moriz, Karoline, Marie and Katty born between 1843 and 1854. Moriz was the famed editor, then later proprietor of the popular innovative newspaper *Die Neue Freie Presse* which had a widespread readership in Vienna, Austria and beyond. All the Benedikt children lived in Vienna. Marcus and Katrina Juli are buried in the Zentralfriedhof in Vienna in the same grave as their daughter Karoline who never married. Marcus died in 1883, Katrina Juli in 1891 and Karoline in 1916.

David and Fanny Sommer and their children would have grown up as the first generation of emancipated Jews in the heady days of freedom when all men were deemed to be equal. Suddenly their world had expanded. They

could marry, embark on tertiary study, move around at will, set up new Jewish communities and businesses and so on. And they did!

Pauline Sommer, David and Fanny's daughter, married Emanuel Ungar in 1894 in Vienna and they were Paul's parents.

Little is known of Emanuel's background, other than that he had come from Boskowitz in Moravia and was a retired school teacher. Pauline was born in Tarnov (now Poland) where David her father had been employed on the railways as an engineer, the family later moving to Linz where many of the Sommer children remained. Pauline's brother Sigmund also barely escaped Austria with his life and was forced to sign over his factory to the Nazis after a stay in Dachau Concentration Camp, as a condition of his release. After the war Sigmund came to Auckland for a few years before falling out with his nephew Fred and family and going to Sydney to be with the Ungars there. Another of Pauline's siblings, Clara died in Linz during the Great War when she worked as a volunteer nurse and died of encephalitis. Her name appears on a memorial stone of World War 1 victims in Linz. Another of Pauline's sisters, Helen Sommer (Bruell) was Peter's grandmother who survived the war in London and came to Auckland after the war. We have letters from Fred referring to his mother in London and on her application for New Zealand citizenship she stated that she had spent the years 1940 to 1947 in London. However, there is no evidence of her escape from Brussels where she was living with Trude and Dorl when the Germans invaded in May 1942. It was difficult to find a record of her entry to Britain however I recently obtained from National Archives at Kew a note to the effect that Helen entered England at Folkestone on 22 April 1940. A couple of weeks' delay and she would have been caught in Brussels by the German invasion.

The transcript of Paul Ungar's hearing shows that the Army was clearly suspicious that Paul and other enemy aliens were spies for the Germans and the line of questioning indicates that they were interested particularly in Paul's

circle of friends from his years at university in Vienna. Most of those were spread throughout the world, some even in Australia and as they were all Jewish, no doubt there was a strong bond amongst them in the face of the growing anti-Jewish atmosphere of 1920s and 1930s Vienna. They belonged to the Zionist Society, and many had known each other since primary school days. One of their number, Herbert Seif, eventually changed his name to Sife and later married Paul's daughter Ruth. Many of the questions Paul was asked continually laboured the theme, asking if Paul supported the British? Did he want them to win the war? Did he think they would win the war? And so on.

Paul himself was born in Vienna in 1895, occupation, clothing manufacturer. He had fought for the Germans as many Jews had during the First World War 1914-1918 when he served as a flying officer in the German Air Force. Clearly this background made him untrustworthy in the view of the Australian Army officials. Paul married his wife Irene Dorfman in 1923. She was born in 1902 in Vienna and their daughter Ruth was born in 1926. Irene's parents Gustav and Bertha remained in Vienna during the war and were both transported to Riga in Latvia on 11 January 1942 where they were murdered.

Paul had two siblings: a sister Grete who was married to Hugo Reinitz. Grete and Hugo fled to Karachi in 1939. Their application to come to Australia was declined. Hugo, a physician, died in Karachi in 1949, while later that same year Grete eventually joined the surviving family in Australia in 1949. She died there in 1976.

Albert Ungar was Paul's brother, younger than him by two years, and Paul made application for Albert to join him in Sydney which eventually happened after the war.

In Vienna, Paul had trained as an engineer, initially working for 10 years for an electric light company. Following that he had taken over the running of his father-in-law's cotton goods manufacturing business. Irene was an only child and her father's health was deteriorating as he had had a stroke, so the factory

was signed over to Paul in 1935.

Paul explained to the court that Jews in Austria had been in daily fear for their lives and on 22 March 1939, having received permission to enter Australia, he left Vienna for Holland with his wife and child. The German authorities had given their permission and he was allowed his passage money as well as about £670 which he had collected together from the Jewish Community in Vienna and from Albert, his brother in Bombay. His passport was stamped with the customary 'J' denoting Jud or Jew in red. This endorsement on his passport meant that he could never return to Austria or Germany. The family arrived in Sydney on 22 May 1939. Daughter Ruth's application for registration as an alien is on file, describing her physical features as well as having a photograph attached and imprints of her fingerprints.

Paul had tried various means to get a visa for Australia over a period of about a year. His initial enquiries yielded the reply that his application might be favourably viewed, however it would take time. In October 1938 Paul's friend Walter Fichtmann left Vienna and undertook to Paul to try and get a visa in Canberra for the Ungars. Fichtmann went to the office of Smith Brothers who were considering helping with a job offer. In Smith Bros office, Fichtmann met a Mr Henry Sterling. Sterling heard the story, suggested a new application be made and assisted in having it approved.

Paul told the court:

*"The money from the sale of the business has gone into thin air. I should have had a blocked account from which I could draw some money, but I have never been given a balance sheet and do not know how much is in it, or if there is anything in it. They deducted a special tax on Jews amounting to 35% from my funds, and a further tax of 25% when I left the country. What is left now, I do not know. It may be nothing, or it may be 30,000, 40,000 or 50,000 marks."*

Asked what money he had had when he arrived in Australia, Paul said that he

got permission to take out £170 sterling but had to pay 80 marks to the pound (£) which was eight times the official rate of exchange. In addition, his brother Albert in Bombay arranged for the shipping company in Amsterdam to send the balance for the landing money, which, when added to additional money his brother sent meant that he had only just enough funds to get his family to Australia. The remainder after the trip out was banked, on arrival in Australia.

Paul's brother Alfred had the highest degree of the Technical University of Vienna, as Paul had. He had a job working as technical organiser for the European factories which produced carbon paper and typewriter ribbons; a firm known as Kores Ltd. Albert had converted to Christianity around 1922 but was still regarded as Jewish by the German authorities. The Indian branch of Kores Ltd agreed to take Albert on as a manager and he left Vienna to take up his new job. The company paid his fare, arranging for him to receive funds in India in return for the years of service he had given.

From Bombay Albert went to Batavia (Jakarta) to work in the company branch there. By July 1939 Albert was feeling very vulnerable in Batavia and Paul tried unsuccessfully to get him into Australia. At that time the government in Batavia ordered him to leave there so he went to Shanghai which was the only place in the world which accepted Jews without a permit. His money was tied up in the bank in Bombay so he arrived in Shanghai virtually penniless. By the time of the court enquiry, Paul was earning enough to be able to help his brother, however, the authorities would not let him remit funds out of the country.

As the case progressed, the story of the Ungar family's flight from Vienna and settlement in Sydney was revealed.

Various witnesses took the stand, including Walter Fichtmann, the friend who had been instrumental in obtaining the visa for Paul and Irene, other Jewish friends from Vienna such as Frank Carposi, as well as Henry Sterling who had given a guarantee for him and first employed, then later went into partnership

with him. Also giving evidence were various people with whom Paul had had business dealings, neighbours and even included a couple whose daughter had attended school with Ruth and with whom the Ungars had become friendly. All were asked whether Paul had expressed to them any pro-Nazi, pro-German or anti-British sentiment at any time and all replied that he had not. What is clear is how welcoming most local people were to the newcomers, particularly Mr Sterling to have given a guarantee and offer of a job to Paul, without even meeting him first. All the people who dealt with Paul on a regular basis had a high regard for his integrity and genuinely liked him. This would mirror exactly the experience of my own parents and Peter's parents when they arrived in Auckland in 1939/40.

At the conclusion of the proceedings, Mr Jenkyn, on behalf of Paul, stated:

*Mr Ungar is a genuine Austrian refugee who left Austria because he was Jewish, and because everything Hitler stood for was contrary to everything that he stood for. He came out to Australia with his wife and child to begin a new life here. He lost all he had in Vienna, he came here and established a business of the same kind as he had been carrying on in Vienna. If he is a genuine refugee, as I submit he is, then he is being identified with and incarcerated with, those who have persecuted him and his kind. I appreciate that if there is any real chance of his doing anything prejudicial to Australia's war effort he should be kept in internment, even though it might occasion hardship. I suggest however, that there is no such possibility and I believe that it would be a grave injustice to keep him interned in the company of those who have been associated with his persecutors.*

Some questions were raised as to why Paul had remained in Vienna for a year after the Germans invaded and why he didn't find out more about the blocked account into which the proceeds of the business were allegedly placed. The reply stated clearly that Jews living in Vienna at that time preferred to live under the radar and not draw attention to themselves by raising uncomfortable questions.

## SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY: Bearing witness

---

Mr Jenkyn stated:

*"I put it to the Committee that there was no real possibility of Ungar doing anything to prejudice the Australian war effort and that no evidence was given which would suggest that this man is so depressed as the result of the way in which the war has progressed up to the present that he would be liable to become a menace to Australia by defeatist talk and conversations which might affect the morale of the Australian people."*

Paul Ungar was released on April 16, 1941 and he, Irene and their daughter Ruth and their descendants lived out their lives in Sydney.

### **Further documentation**

Also in the archives I found the following eight documents relating to the Ungar family:

1 APPLICATION by Herbert Sife (formerly Seif) to bring his aunt and uncle Ernest and Hermine Seif, born 28.8.1897 in Vienna and 1.12.1896, also in Vienna, to Australia. Their current address was given as Tel-Aviv, Palestine/Israel. Mr Seif's occupation is shown as workshop for medical instruments. Herbert had been in Australia for eight years by that time and had a five year old child. He earned as a factory manager, £9 per week. The application was made in February 1947 and was declined.

#### 2 PERSONAL STATEMENT AND DECLARATION

Paul Ungar, arrived on the ship *Tasman* on 23 May 1939. He was born on 9th June 1895. His wife Irene was 37 years old and his daughter Ruth, 13 years. Occupation was an engineer, he was tall with blue-grey eyes. He had £500, declared his intention to stay in Australia and to faithfully observe and obey the laws of the country. Signed 23 May 1939.

3 APPLICATION to admit Albert Ungar to Australia made by his brother Paul Ungar of 24 Spofforth St, Cremorne.

Albert, a stateless Jewish person, born 13.6.1887 in Vienna, living in Shanghai at the time of application, intending to work as a factory organiser, trained as a designing engineer. He would work for the Sphinx Apparel Pty Ltd at 49 Clarence St, Sydney and would be hoping to earn £10 pw. Date of application was 9.10.1945 by Paul Ungar, at the time having assets of £7,000-8,000, a company director with an annual income of £3,500 from all sources. Paul no longer had a dependent child and was by now British by naturalisation.

4 PRISONER OF WAR - Service and Casualty form for Paul Ungar. Captured on 10.10.40 in Sydney, company manager, Jewish, Austrian. Dates of reports every month until 16.4.41 released on parole.

#### 5 REPORT ON INTERNEE FOR PAUL UNGAR DATED 23.10.1940

At the time of the report Paul had been living in Australia for one year two months. The reason for his internment appears to have been, besides coming from a country with which Australia was at war, his four years' service in the German Air Force as an officer during the First World War. The reason given for his internment was that he was an Austrian refugee.

6 FORM OF APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS A REFUGEE ALIEN by Ruth Ungar. Nationality: Austrian, date of birth 12 April 1926, entered the country on 22nd May 1939, was a student, 5 ft 2 in high with hazel eyes, brown hair and medium build. The date of application is 20 April 1942. Fingerprints of both hands appear on the bottom of the form, with a photo top right.

7 FORM OF APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION by Albert Ungar, Austrian born in Vienna 18.6.1897, mechanical engineer, disembarked at Brisbane. He was 5ft 10in tall with brown eyes and hair (going grey!), of medium build. Date of application was 12 August 1946 and he is shown as living with Paul and Irene. Albert's fingerprints are at the bottom of the form and his photo top right.

8 PAGE OF TESTIMONY, Yad Vashem for Pauline Ungar, daughter of David Sommer and Fanny Benedikt, married with three children, born 14 March 1875 in Linz, Austria. She had been a housewife in Vienna and died in the gas chamber at Auschwitz. Her last address had been 4 Heumühl Gasse, Vienna. Her children were Paul and Grete (Reinitz) living at 70 Mona Vale Rd, Pymble, Sydney. Her third child Albert Ungar was living at 10 New South Head Rd, Double Bay. Her daughter Grete made the declaration. ■

See Book1 Page 138 for family tree.



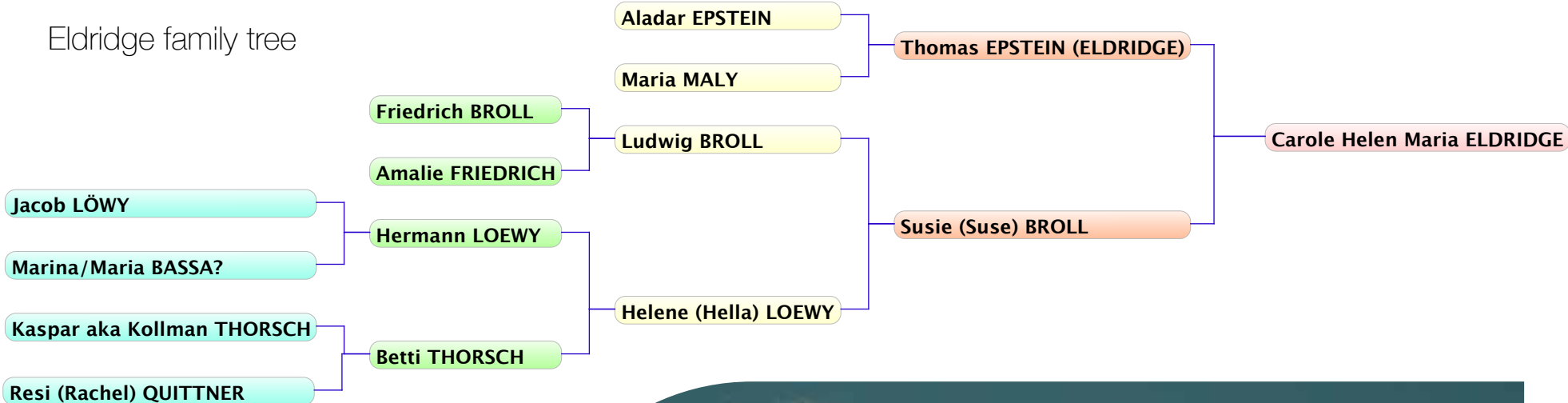
*Hitler images dominating Vienna leading up to the Second World War.*





# Sue Eldridge

Eldridge family tree



*Sue and Carole Eldridge.*

---

# Sue Eldridge

## Part 1

**Written by Sue Eldridge, Lizzie Briess's first cousin. Sue grew up in Vienna and escaped Austria on a Kindertransport from Prague. Born 1924, died 2019.**

**Sue's parents, Ludwig and Helene Broll, died on Transport No.88 between Theresienstadt and Riga on 9 January 1942.**



AFTER the movie *Into the Arms of Strangers* was released in 2000, Sue penned the following:

I saw the movie *Into the Arms of Strangers* last night. It was a wonderfully well done documentary depicting a part of my life and that of so many children, who were sent away from their homes into safety in England and into the 'arms of strangers'.

It took me years to face up to the parting from my parents on the platform of the train filled with children and no adults, waving to them as the train left Prague. We never had that promised last embrace, I assume the authorities felt this was the best for parents and children. Many children around me, older and younger cried bitterly as the train gathered speed, I did not and much later felt guilty that I did not cry, but felt pleased and excited to be going away.

It seemed we were on that train for ever, moving through station after station until we reached the border and German uniformed figures got on. I was scared, particularly as it was night and I was sleeping on the floor of the

carriage and was awakened by a pair of boots right next to my head. I am still wondering now, whether we were really locked in as we sped towards Hook van Holland. The first bright moment occurred when we reached Holland and were free. We children were on a windy beach looking at the Channel and about to board a steamer to take us to Harwich. We had a lovely meal and white sliced bread, which I thought was wonderful and spent the night in clean bunks.

Sitting in a large room the next day, wearing two coats, with my one permitted suitcase filled with new clothes and a rucksack by my side and waiting for this stranger who was going to be my guardian and take me into his home. I sat and sat, hot and very close to tears and was pretty much the last child to be claimed.

The stranger, whose name I had never heard three weeks previously was a tall man who did not speak a word of German and who was rather excited as his train from Bournemouth had been late in arriving. Later, I realised that whenever he was stressed, he stammered and it was difficult to understand him. Later, much later, I used to interpret for him under those circumstances.

My new life began outside the small town of Christchurch on a sunny day with a stroll down to the sea. I did not speak one word of English, but I do not recall being unhappy. However, it must have been hard for my parents to send me to a stranger, a widower with a housekeeper who did not live in.

Well, you know I never saw my parents again. I was taken care of by my guardian and always had a home to go to even after I was married. England and the many English people I met will always be special to me. Especially, Nicky Winton, a man now in his nineties who made my escape possible and

## SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY: Bearing witness

---

whom I met in Sarasota over a year ago.

The National Museum of Holocaust have asked me and other “Kinder” to speak to middle school children who had been shown the movie *Into the Arms of Strangers*. I would have preferred to let my memories gather dust once more, but I feel I have to do this in memory of the children who were not lucky enough to get out and to show today’s children how many kind people came forward to save and support them.

- Sue Eldridge

---

### Part 2

**The National Archives**  
**(PRO Reference:HO 396/11/255)**

## A Fateful Meeting

**Written for the Kinderlink Association publication, Spring 2008**

It is spring, the sun is shining, and here I am living in Ottawa, Canada, a long way from Vienna where I was born. These days, though, my thoughts often return to the past.

Another sunny spring day in 1939. I had unpacked the few things I had brought with me on that long journey from Prague. There was also a box of chocolates and I thought of offering some to my new guardian I just met for the first time. I went downstairs where he was reading a book and held out the open box. I spoke no English and could not invite him to take one. He misunderstood my gesture,



***Sue Eldridge with Carole, 1950s.***

said thank you, took one and closed the box prior to putting it in a cupboard thinking they were a present for him. I was horrified and so frustrated at not being able to say anything. As the days passed I would sneak downstairs and steal one or two chocolates, hurry back upstairs and feel guilty.

Bournemouth, England, in 1942, and another sunny spring day. I was filled with excitement as one of the girls told me that there was an Austrian boy in her engineering class and asked me whether I wanted to meet him. Of course I did, and this was the day! I wore my favourite dress and hoped he would like me. It had been a while since I had the opportunity to speak German and share some of my experiences since arriving in England.

The arranged meeting took place in the lower level of Bournemouth Municipal College, which gave introductory instructions in many disciplines. Going down the stairs that day with a thumping heart, I saw a tall boy with dark rimmed glasses wearing bright blue corduroys. It was a moment in time I will never forget.

We stood there and exchanged bits of information, such as my question as to his age. This he answered with a question as to how old I was. I never noticed that he did not tell me his age until I confessed to being 17 and he claimed that that was his age too. Actually, years passed and I discovered he was a year younger than I, and even his family was sworn to secrecy. When I found out, it did not matter any more.

Standing and chatting in the corridor, I decided to invite Tom to my home, which was some 12 miles away. I was one of the lucky ones having arrived on a 1939 Kindertransport with a private home to go to. My guardian was an Englishman, a retired analytical chemist, who lived outside Christchurch, five minutes away from the South coast. He had been married, never had any children and was suddenly faced with the prospect of having a 14 year old girl in his home, who did not speak a word of English. It worked out, though it got even more complicated when the constant bombing necessitated the

evacuation of children from nearby Southampton. Three school age boys were suddenly sharing the spare bedroom and I was the eldest child in the house.

By the time Tom was introduced to my guardian, the evacuees had returned to their parents and peace had been established in my home. Tom and I had a pretty similar background and were so happy to meet, as at that time there were no “enemy aliens” over 18 years of age residing within a given distance from the coast, hence we were the only ones. He often cycled out to visit and we went for walks in the New Forest and on the beach, singing songs in German and speaking of our families with whom we could not communicate. Time passed, our ways diverged, but we kept in touch. In 1947 we married and a year later came to Montreal, Canada, with our new baby.

My guardian was a lovely man and we visited him often after leaving England. My daughter thinks of him as her grandfather.

Sue Eldridge

Ottawa, Canada. ■



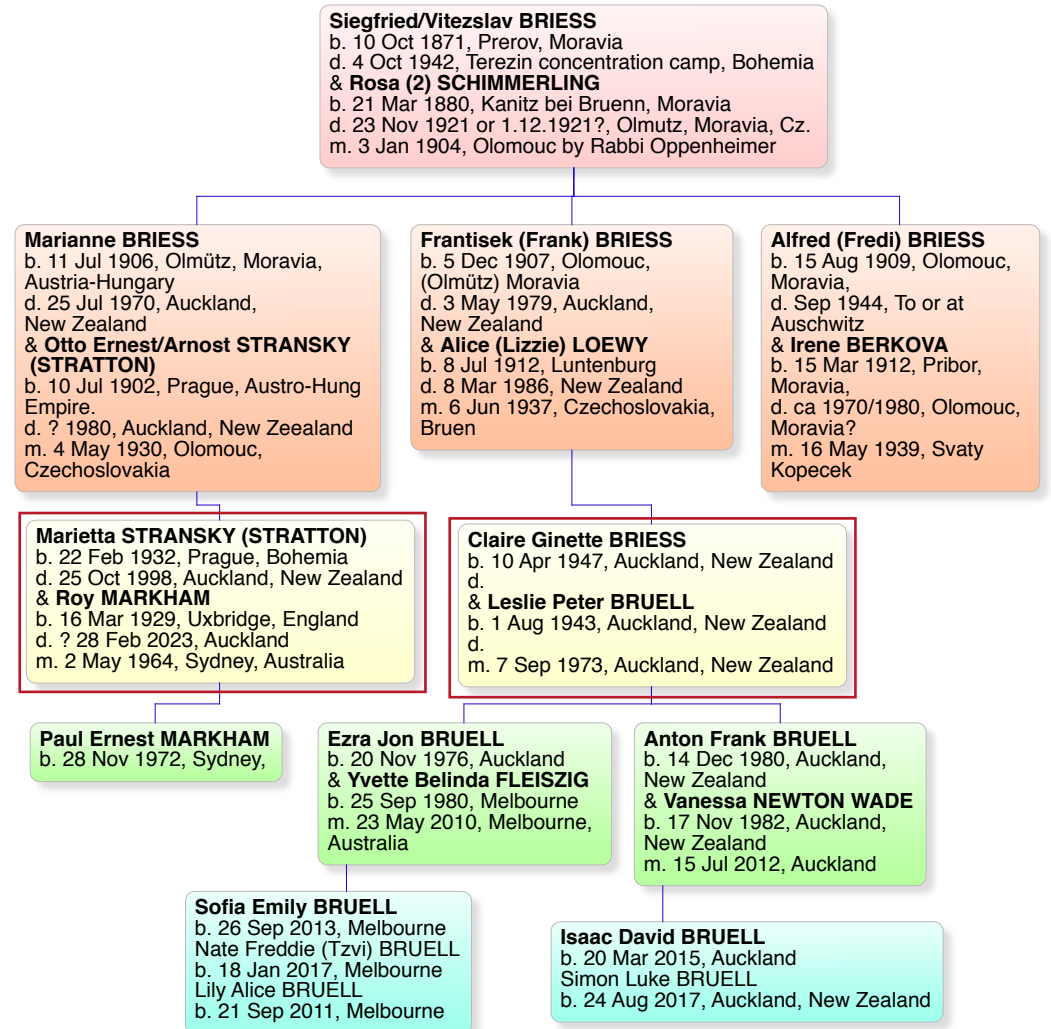


# Marietta Markham



*Marietta Markham née Stransky/Stratton.*

Siegfried Briess tree showing Marietta Markham



---

# Marietta Markham



**MARIETTA STRANSKY later Stratton.**

**Born: 22 February 1932, Prague, Czechoslovakia.**

**Lived in Prague, Buniex, Teplitz Schoenau,**

**Olmuetz.**

**Only child of Marianne and Otto Stratton.**

**From 1939 - 1947 was domiciled in: USA – New Jersey and New York.**

**Arrived in New Zealand 28 July 1947 and settled in Auckland.**

**Married Roy Markham, 2 May 1964, in Sydney, Australia.**

**Child: Paul William born 28/11/1972.**

**Interview: 31 October 1995 by Claire Bruell for the Jewish Oral History Project, Auckland.**

THIS IS AN INTERVIEW WITH MARIETTA MARKHAM  
RECORDED AT HER HOME AT 37 COLCHESTER AVENUE,  
GLENOWIE, AUCKLAND ON 31 OCTOBER 1995.  
THE INTERVIEWER IS CLAIRE BRUELL.

**CLAIRE: Can you start by telling me where and when you were born?**

MARIETTA: I was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia on the 22nd February 1932.

**CLAIRE: And is that where your family lived for some time?**

MARIETTA: For about two years.

**CLAIRE: Can you give me your parents' names?**

MARIETTA: My father was Otto Ernest Stransky and my mother was Marianne Briess.

**CLAIRE: And where did the Stransky family come from?**

MARIETTA: The Stransky family lived in Teplitz Schonau, as it was called in German, or Teplice Sanovy in Czech.

**CLAIRE: And was the Stransky family a large family?**

MARIETTA: Yes. There were three brothers and two sisters. My father was the middle brother. Do you want their names? The eldest was Georg Stransky, then came my father, Otto, and the third brother was Alfred or Fredy, And then there were twin sisters, Elizabet and Margaret, known as Liesl and Gretl.

**CLAIRE: How big was Teplitz? Did you know? Was it a small place or was it a larger town?**

MARIETTA: I don't really remember - it was big enough to have an opera house and a football team, and quite a large insurance office, of which my

grandfather was director.

**CLAIRE: So is that the business the family was involved in?**

MARIETTA: My grandfather and Georg were - and my father - in the insurance business. Fredy went to a commercial school and took up commercial studies and Liesl and Gretl both married young.

**CLAIRE: And your grandmother on your father's side - was she also from Teplitz? Her name was Berta Kafka.**

MARIETTA: Yes, Berta Kafka. And I don't really know much of her history before she married my grandfather.

**CLAIRE: And your mother, Marianne Briess, where did her family come from?**

MARIETTA: Her family came from Olmütz, or in Czech, Olomouc.

**CLAIRE: Olmütz being the German pronunciation and spelling?**

MARIETTA: Yes.

**CLAIRE: And that is in ...?**

MARIETTA: In Moravia, in Czechoslovakia.

**CLAIRE: Whereas Prague is in Bohemia.**

MARIETTA: Bohemia yes.

**CLAIRE: So there was quite a distance**

MARIETTA; Quite a distance, yes.

**CLAIRE: And her family had been established there for some time?**

MARIETTA: Yes. As the family business, grain merchants had been estab-

lished by, possibly by my grandfather.

**CLAIRE: I think they'd been trading in grain for quite a few generations.**

MARIETTA: Yes

**CLAIRE: And she had a brother and a sister? No. two brothers, sorry.**

MARIETTA: Yes, two brothers. She was the eldest and her brother Frank, or Frantisek, went into the family grain business. I'm not sure what Fredy did.

**CLAIRE: I think he did a commercial course and eventually went into the business also. Frantisek was also known as Franz.**

MARIETTA: Yes, Franz.

**CLAIRE: Can you tell me a little bit about the family's religious activities. Was it a religious family? Were your parents observant?**

MARIETTA: No. Not particularly religious.

**CLAIRE: Did they celebrate holidays?**

MARIETTA: No... not as far as I can remember. I remember that in - later, when they lived in New York, my parents attended some services at a Reform Synagogue and they said, when we came to New Zealand, that they would have joined a reform or progressive synagogue had there been one in Auckland at the time.

**CLAIRE: So you don't remember any occasions when you were taken to synagogue during your childhood in Czechoslovakia. Or your parents belonging to any organisation?**

MARIETTA: No, I don't, but I remember that my father had belonged to

B'nai Brith at one stage, but I was only seven when we left Czechoslovakia and the year before we left, I was living with my grandparents and most of that time, the Germans were had already invaded Czechoslovakia. Life wasn't normal. So that possibly things that we might have done, just didn't happen.

**CLAIRE: Were you aware of life not being normal? Could you remember your feelings, or the atmosphere at the time?**

MARIETTA: Well, The one thing that is uppermost in my mind, is that I wasn't living with my parents for that year, I was living with my grandparents in Olomouc, while my parents were in Prague trying to obtain a visa for us to get out of Czechoslovakia to any other country - England, Israel, whatever. And it just so happened that the first visa that they got was for the United States. Another thing that I remember is that the house in which my grandparents lived, had three floors.

**CLAIRE: In Olomouc?**

MARIETTA: In Olomouc in Wellnerova. My grandparents lived on the ground floor and Frank and his wife Alice, or Lizzie (as she was sometimes known) lived on the second floor, and Fredy and his wife Irena on the third floor. Now when Frank and Lizzie left to go, first to England, and later to New Zealand, that middle floor was unoccupied, and it was taken over for a German officer and his family. He was a Prussian, a professional soldier, and their daughter was about my age and was there with them. But I remember that we were told that he had two sons who were in the Hitler Youth Movement who were in Germany, and had they known that he fraternised with us, they would have turned him in – reported him.

**CLAIRE: So that would have been about 1939, the year that you were in Olomouc and I guess, it must have been after March '39 that the German officer was living in the house, because that's when the Germans invaded Czechoslovakia.**

MARIETTA: Yes, yes, that's right.

**CLAIRE: Can you remember much about living in the house with your grandparents for that year?**

MARIETTA: My grandfather was partially crippled and he walked with a stick and they didn't....

**CLAIRE: His name?**

MARIETTA; Oh, Siegfried Briess, generally known as Friedl and his second wife, Adele Briess. His first wife had died in 1921. And her name was Rosa Schimmerling. There was a verandah at the back of the house where my grandparents often sat at a little table and a garden at the back where I used to play – dress-ups and theatre and encouraged by both my grandparents.

And I remember that my mother had given me a doll and my grandmother had a wig made for it, with long brown hair which I could plait, and my grandmother and her two sisters, made a whole wardrobe of clothes for the doll and my grandmother attempted to teach me to knit and the first thing I ever knitted was a skirt for that doll. I went to a Czech school and I think there was only one other Jewish girl in the class and at first when I went to Olomouc there were no problems but towards the end of my stay there after the Germans had marched into Czechoslovakia, I remember other children calling out Zidovska which meant little Jewess. Apart from that, I don't remember having any particular problems.

**CLAIRE: And how did that make you feel at the time?**

MARIETTA: Well, at the time, it was obvious that it was derogatory and of course I was unhappy about it, but I felt very happy and secure with my grandparents who were very loving and don't really remember terribly much about that time.

**CLAIRE: Did you understand what it meant to be Jewish?**

MARIETTA: I don't think I did. I just took it for granted that I was.

**CLAIRE: And that was OK?**

MARIETTA Yes.

**CLAIRE: Did you have anything much to do with other members of the extended family?**

MARIETTA: In the years before I went to Olomouc, we often visited my paternal grandparents in Teplitz and other cousins visited them at the same time, and I played with them and I was very happy to be in that pair of grandparents' home, as well.

**CLAIRE: So there were other cousins who were your age?**

MARIETTA: Yes.

**CLAIRE: And Rosa Schimmerling – getting back to your mother's mother - where did she come from – did you know?**

MARIETTA: I don't know, offhand. No.

**CLAIRE: And your mother must have been – 13 or 15 ?**

MARIETTA: About 13 when she died. My mother was very bitter about the whole setup for a long time, because after her mother died, she was sent off to boarding school in Dresden and when she came back, she found that her father had married a cousin of his – Adi and she had never been told about it, or consulted, and it took quite a number of years for her to reconcile herself to the situation, although in the end they became the best of friends.

**CLAIRE: Are these the two sisters you saw in Olomouc?**

MARIETTA: Yes, I did – Gusti and Theresa. I mainly remember them in connection with dolls' clothes. As you know, I don't remember much about them otherwise.

**CLAIRE: And Fredy and Irena?**

MARIETTA: Yes, yes, they were upstairs and I saw them regularly.

**CLAIRE: Were you aware at that time - can you remember if you were aware of any sinister goings-on - or any you know, with the Germans having come to Olomouc it must have been tense and there must have been a lot of discussion about staying or leaving, or how your parents were getting on.**

MARIETTA: No... I don't remember anything like that, except the fact that this German officer, his wife and daughter were living upstairs. But I think that all that sort of discussion must have gone on when I wasn't in the room.

**CLAIRE: Because it must have made them very nervous to have a German officer living in the middle of the family like this. It must have made it difficult for them.**

MARIETTA: I remember that my grandmother took the daughter and me to the pictures to see *Snow White*. It was the first film I'd ever seen. That was about the only social contact that I remember. And as I said, because he was a professional soldier he didn't act the way the Nazis might have done. So in a way, we were lucky.

**CLAIRE: So what events or occasions were celebrated in the family? Birthdays? A big fuss for birthdays?**

MARIETTA: Oh, I really only remember what I see from photographs that my mother took – me with my cake and four candles on it – ready to blow out the candles. I remember when I was in Olomouc – it must have been Christmas 1938 – I remember putting out my shoes by the back door so that Santa Claus could bring me some gifts and put them in the shoes. I think that might have been the 6th of November, or 6th of December – something which was celebrated more than the actual Christmas holiday.

**CLAIRE: And did Santa Claus oblige?**

MARIETTA: Yes, I remember I found brazil nuts and oranges and a lovely light blue scarf in the shoe. That's about all I remember.

**CLAIRE: And then your parents must have come to Olomouc, finally.**

MARIETTA: Well, I think they must have come to pick me up when they finally got the visa.

**CLAIRE: Do you know how they finally got the visa?**

MARIETTA: I think possibly by sitting around in the embassy offices for hours and hours on end for a whole year. You know, I think it was sheer persistence.

**CLAIRE: Because I think it was somehow easier - well, there was a quota for America, so only a certain number of refugees could go. And it helped if you had an affidavit from someone who was already living - a relation ....**

MARIETTA: I think possibly my parents might have got an affidavit from a family called Brach who lived in New Jersey and were somehow connected through the malt business. But, I'm not sure of that I just know that they helped us when we got to the United States. I don't really remember very much except that we left Czechoslovakia by train and it seemed an endless sort of ride with people – soldiers and people ... customs officers checking papers and so on, and we finally ended up in Rotterdam.

**CLAIRE: What was the date when you left?**

MARIETTA: I don't know. It was about October 1939, but I



*Marietta with her grandfather Siegfried (Friedl) at Wellnerova, 1939.*

don't remember the exact date.

**CLAIRE: So it was after war had been declared?**

MARIETTA: Yes. Yes. It was either September or October, but I think it was October '39 and when we got to Holland, we didn't have any money and nowhere to stay. And the Salvation Army gave us a room with one double bed in it and the three of us slept in that for the three days that we had to wait for the boat. I think the boat we went on, was called the Staatendam and on the following journey that it made from Holland to the USA it was sunk by submarines.

**CLAIRE: So you were lucky.**

MARIETTA: Yes.

**CLAIRE: Statendam - how would you spell that?**

MARIETTA: Statendam.

**CLAIRE: Sounds like a Dutch ship.**

MARIETTA: Yes, it was. It was a Dutch ship.

**CLAIRE: And did it sail directly to New York?**

MARIETTA: Yes it did. I remember when we passed England we saw the barrage balloons. I remember being very, very seasick and when we got to New York, my father thought his English was better than it was – or he made some sort of mistake when he answered the questions, and we were classed as enemy aliens and sent to Ellis Island where we waited around in this huge hall with thousands of other people and my parents contacted this family the Brach people who I mentioned previously and they helped get us out of there – out of Ellis Island. Now they took on my mother as a housekeeper and I was able to live there as well, but they had no particular use for my father. So my father took a room on his own – a small room and he took on jobs like

carrying sacks of coal or helping to move pianos for several months, until we moved to Paterson, New Jersey and my parents both found jobs.

**CLAIRE: Now, how was their English when they arrived? Did they know any?**

MARIETTA: They did know some. My father had been to the United States for a short trip, when he was about eighteen, and my mother had always been interested in studying languages, so they both knew a little English – my mother used to read books with a slip of paper by her side and then every few pages she would look up all the new words in the dictionary. She would do that with newspapers as well and so her English improved fairly quickly.

**CLAIRE: They tackled it quite academically.**

MARIETTA: Yes. When she was a girl she wanted to go to university to study languages and my grandfather had said “a girl doesn't need a university education – girls learn to cook.” So she went to the Ursuline nuns in Olomouc and took a cooking course.

**CLAIRE: Returning to the question of language for a minute, what language was spoken at home?**

MARIETTA: German was spoken at home, except in the early days of my parents' marriage when they had a Czech cook and a Czech nursemaid for me when they spoke Czech with them, and I learned Czech from the cook and nursemaid, but my parents spoke German together because my father came from the Sudetenland and his German was much better than his Czech, although he did speak Czech.

**CLAIRE: Had they been to German schools?**

MARIETTA: Yes. They had been to German speaking schools.

**CLAIRE: And your father, Otto Stransky must have been reasonably well off as he had had a trip to the States at 18.**

***It was quite unusual to do that.***

MARIETTA: Yes, yes... I'm not sure if it was something to do with insurance studies or whether it was just a pleasure trip. I don't really know. After a year at a Czech school I spoke Czech and German perfectly, but very little English and I still remember the first day I started school in America – it must have been about Thanksgiving time, because as I came into class the teacher told me to draw a turkey. I didn't know what a turkey was. There was one little boy who spoke German in the class and he said "truthahn" which is the German word for turkey, but I didn't know that either. So I was rather at a loss to know what all this fuss was about some big bird and why I was expected to draw something I'd never seen in my life. But it didn't take me long to learn English and also it didn't take me that long to forget Czech .

***CLAIRE: And have you still forgotten it? Or can you remember?***

MARIETTA: I can still pronounce Czech when I see it – fairly well and, you know, I might know a dozen words or so, but I can't understand a conversation, and I can't read it.

***CLAIRE: And German?***

MARIETTA: Yes, I still speak German. I studied German and French at the University.

***CLAIRE: It must have been very strange, arriving in a new country and your parents being separated, and living in a house with other people. Can you remember how you felt at that time?***

MARIETTA: Well I remember my mother talking about it afterwards and saying she didn't really feel at ease. I'd managed to contract scarlet fever while there, but the family were nice enough but it just didn't feel like home.

***CLAIRE: Did they have children?***

MARIETTA: Their children were grown up, and they had a granddaughter older than I am.

***CLAIRE: So your mother just carried out housework?***

MARIETTA: Cooking and housework and general housekeeping.

***CLAIRE: Which she had had somebody else doing that for her at home, before they left?***

MARIETTA: Yes.

***CLAIRE: Is that the only help she had in the house? She had a cook. Was there anyone else?***

MARIETTA: Well, I'm not sure. At one stage I had a sort of nurse – she was a cross between a maid and a nurse for me, but I don't know. I think it must have been when I was very young, so I don't really remember very much about that.

***CLAIRE: Like a – what we would know as a Karitane?***

MARIETTA: No, no. More like a nanny.

***CLAIRE: So your father must have been pretty miserable living by himself in a room. You would have seen him at weekends?***

MARIETTA: I imagine we would have, but I don't remember. I always remember his saying afterwards that with his first pay he bought himself a little radio for company.

***CLAIRE: For how long did you and your mother stay with the Brach family .***

MARIETTA: I'm not really sure. I don't remember.

***CLAIRE: What was the next move?***

MARIETTA: The next move was to our own flat or apartment in Paterson, New Jersey. I remember going to school, I remember playing with the children across the back yard, and the first time they gave me a peanut butter sandwich, which was something I'd never heard of.

**CLAIRE: Did you like it?**

MARIETTA: I loved it. Still love it. ... I remember I was given a couple of books, including Heidi which I've just re-read for the umpteenth time. I became quite fond of books, and then after a time my parents went into partnership with some other people, on a chicken farm in New Jersey, but my mother and the woman didn't get on, and the daughter and I didn't get on particularly well. My father couldn't bear to kill chickens, so we didn't stay very long. Then we moved to another small town in New Jersey and my mother worked the swing shift in a factory. That meant she started work at three in the afternoon and worked until 11 at night in a factory that made components for parachutes and I used to run as fast as I could, so that I could just see her going into the factory gates before she started work. My father and I would get our tea together and he was just going on 38, which meant he would have to go into the army if he didn't learn some sort of defence work. So he went to night classes and learned how to run a lathe for metal parts and so on, and during that time he turned 38 so he was safe from the army. Then he got a job as a salesman, which was more his line of work and we moved to New York, New York City. Washington Heights. After a couple of years he got another job for a Bonekamp and Bitters company and worked there as a salesman until we left for New Zealand.

**CLAIRE: What's bonekamp and bitters?**

MARIETTA: Bonekamp I think it's something like bitters that you add to a drink and it's spelled bonekamp. Like Angostura bitters. Anyway, my mother started off working in a glove factory and then worked in another garment factory where she sewed sleeves into jumpers and this was on piece work,

so that the harder you worked the more pay you got, and most of the other women she worked with were also refugees from Europe, so that in the lunch hour they would discuss the Metropolitan Opera, and the latest books and art exhibitions and so on, but when they were working, they worked like slaves, to take home as much as possible. She worked very hard and was very very nervous and very tired. She'd come home very tense but at least she had good working companions. I went to a primary school which was half a block away and then on to a junior high school, and a high school in the Bronx and at primary school I made friends with another Jewish girl from Czechoslovakia, Ruth Abeles with whom I'm still in contact. She married an American physicist, Larry Horwitz and they live in Israel. Their son is a science lecturer and their youngest daughter lives on the West Bank, and we've kept in touch all these years.

**CLAIRE: Were you aware of any other family members of the extended family being in New York at the time that you were there?**

MARIETTA: A cousin of my mother, Eric Briess was there. He was involved in the malt industry and later on his sister, Trude Drexler and her daughter and son-in-law came out from Czechoslovakia.

**CLAIRE: After the war?**

MARIETTA: I'm not sure ... yes, after the war.

**CLAIRE: And did he have children? Eric?**

MARIETTA: Eric had a daughter from his first marriage, whose name was Ruth and she married someone called Shepherd and had a daughter. Trude Drexler had a daughter Ilsa, who married Franta Maier and they are now living in California. But that's all the relatives.

**CLAIRE: Their mother?'**

MARIETTA: Oh, Aurelie! Yes, their mother Aurelie came to New York as well. She was a marvellous old lady, with very expressive... a great sense of humour and a zest for life and she was a wonderful woman and the daughter Trude is very much the same.

**CLAIRE: She's 98 now?**

MARIETTA: Is that how old she is?

**CLAIRE: I think so. Ninety-eight.**

MARIETTA: Can I just comment on the fact that the interviewer is my first cousin and therefore sometimes is a bit more knowledgeable about things that I've forgotten, than I am myself.

**CLAIRE: Is there anything else that stands out in your memory about that time – about those years in New York?**

MARIETTA: Well, at primary school, there would be about 40 children in the class and about 38 of those would be Jewish and on Jewish holidays the only ones at school would be the Catholic, or non-Jewish children and one other Jewish girl and I, because our parents were at work and there was nobody else, they couldn't take time off work for the holidays and there was nobody else to look after us and so we just went to school.

**CLAIRE: Did you learn something about the Jewish festivals and Judaism?**

MARIETTA: Well, I went with a girl to the YWHA [Young Women's Hebrew Association] which was a sort of gathering place or social venue for young Jewish people and they held Sunday school classes and I went to those for about a year or so, and learned a bit about Jewish history and customs and so on. And then, my uncle Erich bought me a bicycle, and my parents decided it was just as good for me to have exercise in the fresh air on a Sunday and that was the end of my Sunday school classes.

**CLAIRE: So who would you have gone cycling with?**

MARIETTA: With my friend Ruth Abeles, we did everything together.

**CLAIRE: So she must have got a bike about the same time.**

MARIETTA: I think so.

**CLAIRE: And also lost interest in the Youth thing...**

MARIETTA: No, I think she was more - her family was more religious and the chap she married is orthodox and and she keeps a kosher household and her youngest daughter is so orthodox that she wears a skull cap the whole time.

**CLAIRE: So she learned quite a lot about it anyway.**

MARIETTA: Yes.

**CLAIRE: Can you remember what your parents' attitude to Israel was? Were they Zionists?**

MARIETTA: Well, I think they had been to Israel and they had bought a plot of land there in the early 1930s or possibly 1936 possibly with a view to living there one day.

**CLAIRE: So they'd actually been on a trip to Israel?**

MARIETTA: I think so. I think both.

**CLAIRE: Would the family in New York have got together on occasions like Chanukah, or Christmas or ... were there no formal occasions?**

MARIETTA: No. We did go to a Seder for several years running with friends of my parents who had a daughter about my age, but that was ...

**CLAIRE: And was that familiar to you? Can you remember?**

MARIETTA: Well Susie and I were born [the girl Susie] within a few days

## SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY: Bearing witness

---

of one another, so it was always a matter of deciding who was to say the manishtana, and I think usually we ended up saying it together. But, you know, I learned ... anything I knew about the Seder and the celebration and so on would have been at about that time - about the age of 12 or 13.

**CLAIRE: You must have known a little bit of Hebrew if you knew how to say the manishtana, or even read it.**

MARIETTA: I think we had it written out in English letters.

**CLAIRE: And going back to school, what subjects did you enjoy at school?**

MARIETTA: I was always good at English and spelling and civics and history at primary school. Then at one stage I thought I wanted to do journalism and when we came to New Zealand I did French and some German at school and decided I wanted to study languages.

**CLAIRE: And going back to those last two years in New York, were you aware of the war going on in Europe?**

MARIETTA: Oh yes. Yes. Well, my parents were worried about what was happening to the family and I remember my mother compiling parcels and sewing them up in sacking and so on, and sending them – I'm not quite sure where.

**CLAIRE: Was it food?**

MARIETTA: I think mainly food.

**CLAIRE: Were they in touch?**

MARIETTA: I don't really know.

**CLAIRE: Because they were certainly in touch with my parents in New Zealand.**

MARIETTA: Yes, yes they were in touch with your parents who'd come to

Auckland.

**CLAIRE: Franz and Lizzie . [Yes] And they forwarded letters. My understanding is that they forwarded letters for them until such time as America entered the war and then they couldn't send letters any more.**

MARIETTA: I wasn't aware of this at the time. Or if I was, I've forgotten.

**CLAIRE: My understanding also was that it was always our parents' intention that your family would come to New Zealand and when was it exactly that you did come?**

MARIETTA: About the end of July 1947, my step-grandmother Adi had come out to us in New York after she left Czechoslovakia and she stayed with us for several months and then she went on to Auckland and sometime afterwards we came as well – by boat.

**CLAIRE: Did Adi seem much changed to you?**

MARIETTA: She was tired looking. She had aged and I think she told us about being in concentration camp but the fact that Fredy, the youngest Briess brother, had managed to save her several times, because he was one of the camp organisers, and also the fact that he was sent on a death march to Poland just a short time before we ended the war.

**CLAIRE: Which concentration camp were they in?**

MARIETTA: I think they started in Theresienstadt and then went to Auschwitz but I couldn't swear to that.

**CLAIRE: I think it was Theresienstadt - from what I've heard.**

MARIETTA: Or in Czech - Terezin.

**CLAIRE: That was the camp that most of the Czech Jews were taken to. Did she have any news of other relatives, who'd been**

**left behind?**

MARIETTA: I don't know. Again, I think that things like that must have been discussed when I wasn't in the room. And in fact, it wasn't until shortly before she came to join us in America, that I found out that she was my step-grandmother. I'd always taken it that she was my grandmother and in some ways I'd always been closest to her of all my grandparents. Then one day after school, the immigration people rang up and asked me to look out some information. So I went to my parents' desk and found it said STEP-grandmother. I had never been told that previously.

**CLAIRE: So she arrived in 1947 and then stayed with you a few months, and went to New Zealand [Yes] And then you and your parents came shortly after that?**

MARIETTA: Yes, in July '47, we crossed the States by train and then went by boat and the boat trip took a month ...

**CLAIRE: It must have seemed like a big adventure at the time.**

MARIETTA: Yes, it seemed like an adventure, but I didn't want to leave my friends in New York and I had every intention of going back to live once I was old enough to go on my own but of course now, I'm very glad that I live in New Zealand and not in the United States.

**CLAIRE: So how old were you, exactly, when you left?**

MARIETTA: Fifteen.

**CLAIRE: Fifteen. Can you remember the arrival, in Auckland?**

MARIETTA: No. No, I can't. I remember when we got home to your parents' place and there was the new baby – namely, you, and we went to live in a boarding house in Middleton Road in Newmarket, and it was just about the time of the polio epidemic so I just had a few days at school and then the schools were closed because the polio epidemic and then after that was over, I

went back to Epsom Grammar. I was put into the 4th Form and stayed till the end of the 6th Form and then went on to University.

**CLAIRE: Because in those days, school only went to the 6th Form, didn't it?**

MARIETTA: No, no. A lot of my friends went on to second year 6th Form, but because I'd lost half a year when I came from the States, I decided that I didn't want to stay at school any longer so I went straight to University after 6th Form.

**CLAIRE: Marietta can you tell me something about the time that you spent at Epsom Girls'? Did you make friends easily?**

MARIETTA: Yes, I made friends fairly quickly and once I'd caught up I did all right. I did well at school. I did find a couple of instances of antisemitism from friends. One occasion was when we were pricing things for a school fete and I had just recently come from New York where flowers are very expensive and I was putting prices on these bunches of flowers, and a friend said to me "These prices are much too high - you can see you're Jewish". And another occasion was – I think – in the 5th Form. Now I used to go to morning prayers at school – I didn't give it a second thought – and this day, the history we had been studying was religious wars and in the playground afterwards, one of my friends said to me "What are you?" and I said "I'm Jewish" and she said "Well why have you come to prayers? Don't you want people to know you're Jewish?" So from then on, I stopped going to morning prayers and spent the extra time in the home economics room finishing my homework.

**Claire: So that was your choice? You didn't need permission or whatever?**

MARIETTA: Well I went home and discussed it with my parents and they said: "Do what you like."

**CLAIRE: And did they – were they part of the Jewish**

### **community here? Did they mix a lot?**

MARIETTA: Yes. Well a lot of their friends here were Jewish, and I went to a Jewish camp the summer after I came here, the camp at Clevedon. And one of my best friends, who I met at the tennis club lived at Mission Bay, Karen Salek, and she just happened to be Jewish and we used to go to dances and debates and things at the Goldstein Hall, behind the old synagogue, Princes Street. There were some Jewish friends among the people I met at university as well. Do you want names? [Oh yes]. Ruth Hersh was one, she went on to America and did a law degree I think. And Ruth Scher and as I say, most of my parents friends were Jewish. They didn't actually meet them through the synagogue – they just sort of met them through my aunt and uncle and . . .

### **CLAIRE: There was that refugee group of people who had come in the thirties...before the war... Because they would have had a lot of experiences in common, I guess. [Yes] And there were some people that they'd known previously in Czechoslovakia weren't there?**

MARIETTA: Yes, the Porsolt family – Imi Porsolt – my parents had known him and his wife Gerda in Czechoslovakia and also Ernst and Ilse Stein. Ernst Stein's older brother was one of my father's best friends in Teplitz. And also when my parents were in ... when my father was on holiday with his family in one of the seaside resorts when he was young, I suppose he was about 18 or 19 when he had met Anna Marie Schwarz, who later became Anna Marie Tretter. So there were a few people they had known ...

### **CLAIRE: It's amazing isn't it. You come to the end of the world and find quite a few people really that they had known before. Can you remember, apart from Adi coming from Europe, your family discovering what had happened to the rest the family? Because large numbers of them had been killed in the gas chambers, and perhaps died in the concentration camps.**

MARIETTA: I don't remember at what stage they found out, or how they found out.

### **CLAIRE: It must have been quite difficult for them not knowing for all those years what happened to the family and then actually finding out that their worst fears must have been realised.**

MARIETTA: I know. Adi told them quite a bit, but I don't know ... and my father's brother Georg who was still in Czechoslovakia, probably told him quite a bit about what had happened to their parents.

### **CLAIRE: So what had happened to him during the war?**

MARIETTA: He and his second wife who was Catholic, lived on a farm in some small village in Czechoslovakia with their two daughters, and escaped – well, avoided concentration camp and after the war, the youngest brother, who had gone to Brazil in about 1938 paid for Georg and his family to join him in Brazil. As for the other two sisters, the twins, Liesl and Gretl, one had married a Sicilian hotel keeper and was in Taormina during the war with her daughter, Sylvia and the other twin...[that was Gretl]. The other twin, Liesl, somehow made her way to England and drove ambulances during the blitz and after the war she worked for UNRA and her second marriage was to an English officer called Morton. Surnamed Morton. After the war, she and her daughter Lesley went to Sicily to join her sister and she lived by giving English lessons and after Gretl died, they went to Naples and Liesl went on giving English lessons.

### **CLAIRE: So did Gretl die fairly early?**

MARIETTA: During the war, I think, or just after the war.

### **CLAIRE: So she must have been quite young [Yes] And what happened to Liesl's husband Mr Morton?**

MARIETTA: They stayed in Brazil – they both died in Brazil. Fredy had some sort of tropical disease which he had picked up when he was working

in the jungle for a rubber factory. His wife, he married a woman named Marte who was 10 years older, and she had very bad rheumatism so they used to go to Austria for the spas quite often.

**CLAIRE: Did they have any children who are still in Brazil?**

MARIETTA: Yes. Georg had two daughters – and although his second wife was Catholic, both those daughters married into Jewish families. In fact, one of them into an orthodox Jewish family and the other met a Sabra in Israel and brought him back to Brazil.

**CLAIRE: Where in Brazil?**

MARIETTA: San Paolo.

**CLAIRE: So they're both now living there?**

MARIETTA: As far as I know. And as far as I know, Monica the elder daughter also has a daughter.

**CLAIRE: And Adi our grandmother, died in Auckland New Zealand in 1951 and is buried in the old part of the Jewish Cemetery at Waikumete. Her sisters, Therese and Gusti died in Oranienberg [which was a concentration camp] and they were both unmarried. Of the Briess family, Marianne and Frank's, first cousins Hans and his family went to England and Hans's sister's children Eva and Anita came to England at ages, I think, 8 and 13, at the beginning of the war, and they were looked after by Hans and Else in England.**

**Erich Briess's brother Willi, went to Israel in the 1920s and married and had a family there. He had three sons who are each married and have families of their own and Robert Briess who changed the spelling of his name to Breece, went with his wife to Sydney, where they lived, but have no children. So**

**all told there are over 60 members of the family who died in concentration camps. Getting back to your family's arrival, and their early days in New Zealand, Marietta, how long did you stay in the boarding house?**

MARIETTA: I don't remember exactly.

**CLAIRE: Where did you go from there?**

MARIETTA: We went to a flat in Kohimarama, and stayed there a year or so, and then moved to a flat in Speight Road and that was our home for many years.

**CLAIRE: Yes, that's where I remember your parents, and remember you. What number was it?**

MARIETTA: Forty seven.

**CLAIRE: Did they own that flat?**

MARIETTA: No. They rented it. It was built by the uncle of a friend of mine, Tom Fletcher, and built for his sister-in-law Ruth Fromm, whose daughter was a friend of mine and who later taught my son at St. Heliers school.

**CLAIRE: So what work did your parents do when they got here?**

MARIETTA: My father went to work for your father, Frank Briess. At first in the butcher's shop and then selling to various restaurants and so on, selling meat, sausages, cheese and so on, and after my mother stopped running the boarding house she got a job in a clothing factory, and I think she was the inspector at – it might have been Berlei. Berlei factory. And then for a while she worked as cashier and in charge of the grocery section at your father's shop in Karangahape Road, and then the lease became vacant for a shop further down Karangahape Road, nearer Grafton Bridge, and your father guaranteed the loan for my parents to buy that shop, in order to run it as a delicatessen.

## SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY: Bearing witness

This was the first Continental delicatessen – Stratton’s Continental Delicatessen. I think it was the first in Auckland.

**CLAIRE: That shop was opposite the old Jewish Cemetery?**

MARIETTA: Yes.

**CLAIRE: And the name Stratton - started off as Stransky - when did that change?**

MARIETTA: I think it was probably in 1947, shortly after we arrived in New Zealand. Because people here, just weren’t used to foreign names and my parents felt that it would be an advantage to have a name which didn’t sound foreign, especially for me, and my father used to tell the story that some people came into the shop and asked “are you Strattons from Whangarei?” and my father said “No, we’re the Strattons from the telephone book.” because they had just gone to the telephone book and looked for something that began with S-T-R-A and Stratton is the one they decided on.

**CLAIRE: That’s a good sort of refugee story isn’t it . That’s often the way refugee people adopted new names when they came to new countries. That must have been a bit strange for you, to suddenly change your name?**

MARIETTA: I didn’t like the idea at all – you know, I was quite proud of my family name and I wouldn’t have done it, and said that I objected and was told that “well it’s mainly for your benefit”. As soon as my parents opened their mouths anyone could tell that they were foreigners or refugees or whatever



you like to call it.

**CLAIRE: Were they very conscious of that?**

MARIETTA: I think they must have been conscious of it – or whether it was your father who made them conscious of it, I don’t know, but I know when Eva and Eric Winton came here from London – not Eric – Ken Winton, came here to work for your father and his name was Kurt Weinstein and your father said “Not any more it isn’t, you’re going to be Ken Winton.” [editorial note: Ken changed his name to Winton while still in England before coming to Auckland, according to his son, Eric.]

**CLAIRE: Did he?**

MARIETTA; Yup!

**CLAIRE: But my father never changed his name. So Ken worked for Dad also?**

MARIETTA; For a while .

**CLAIRE: I don’t remember that. I remember Ken and Eva had - well Eva had a hat shop in Symonds Street.**

MARIETTA: And Ken worked for some big firm – Fletchers – selling cranes.

**CLAIRE: Did you ever work in the delicatessen shop?**

MARIETTA: Yes, I did. For about 10 months in 1959.

**CLAIRE: So that must have been a very busy place. A lot of**

**people remember the shop and remember your parents and often mention it to me, so it must have been something unusual.**

MARIETTA: Yes, well it was at the time, because not many places sold Continental food and I know at one stage, Graham Kerr used to come to my mother and ask her for advice on spices and flavourings and so on.

**CLAIRE: So, all the refugees and Continentals in Auckland went there to do their deli shopping.**

MARIETTA: Well, I, don't know if it was all of them, but a lot did.

**CLAIRE: And a lot of the meat products that they sold would have been made by Metzlers which came from my father.**

MARIETTA: Yes, yes. I think that was partly the idea when your father supported the loan was to have a place where his products would be sold.

**CLAIRE: Do you know what year they started the delicatessen?**

MARIETTA: No, I don't.

**CLAIRE; Because dad leased the shop across the road as a butcher's shop for some time, but then subsequently sold it, I believe. And, after school, you went to university, and you studied mainly French and German ?**

MARIETTA: Yes, mainly French and German – Stage III French and German. I also did English, Philosophy, and Education, stage I. And I helped finance things by making morning and afternoon tea in the professors' common room. Then in my third year at varsity, the Sacred Heart Convent (as it was then) now Baradene asked Dr Asher to recommend someone to teach German in this school. So, I had a small German class a couple of days a week and the following year, I intended to do an MA and honours, but Sacred Heart

offered me a full time teaching position, teaching all the French plus some German in the school, and I accepted because I wanted to save my fare to Europe. My main aim at that stage was to get to France and I taught there for a year and then I got an assistant scholarship in France – that is teaching English part time in a school, in return for which being paid just enough to live on and also having spare time to study language and culture of the country. So I then spent two and a half years in France and around various countries in Europe and I came back here in 1956 and went to training college the following year.

**CLAIRE: What part of France were you in?**

MARIETTA: I had a year in Clermont-Ferrand.

**CLAIRE: What part of France is that?**

MARIETTA: South central France. And then the second year in Paris, and I hitch-hiked and travelled around in Spain and Austria, Italy, Greece. Did I say Switzerland? and saw quite a bit in that two-and-a-half years that I was away.

**CLAIRE: But you didn't go to Czechoslovakia?**

MARIETTA: No, I didn't. My mother had a friend who was a bank manager in ... first in Czechoslovakia and then in England and he was working for a Czech bank. And on a trip back from Czechoslovakia, he was more or less summoned and threatened that if he didn't co-operate and do exactly what he was told, he would be in trouble. He was very frightened and I'd heard this story and while Czechoslovakia was under Communist rule I didn't want to go back – aside from the fact that I no longer spoke the language and to my knowledge, had only one very distant cousin there... So, I never went back. I would love to go now, but I think for health reasons, I don't think I could manage.

**CLAIRE: So when you came back to New Zealand, you went to Training College?**

MARIETTA Yes, I went to training college.

**CLAIRE: That was in '56?**

MARIETTA: At one stage I had a year's teaching at Papatoetoe High School. Not sure if that was after Training College, or before. Yes, I think after Training College. I had a year at Training College and that would have been '57 and in '58, I started teaching at Papatoetoe High School and I just became more and more depressed – I hated it. It was compulsory for the children to learn French and most of them had absolutely no interest in it whatsoever. In the end I gave up after two terms. I got a medical certificate saying that I'd have a nervous breakdown if I didn't stop.

**CLAIRE: Was it very different from Baradene?**

MARIETTA: Yes. Yes, it was. Because at Baradene the nuns kept discipline, whereas at Papatoetoe, I had trouble with discipline, And I left there and I worked for a while at the Auckland Public Library, but then I ended up having the nervous breakdown and had several months – I think it was four months – at what was then known as Avondale and had shock treatment. I remember occasions which I still feel affected my memory to quite a considerable extent. And when I came out of hospital, I worked at my parents' shop for 10 months until the doctors felt that I was able to cope on my own. Then in April 1960, I went to Sydney, where my cousin, Anita Grätzer had gone to work and in Sydney I found a job as a librarian at the Sydney Teachers' College and started studying part time for my library exams. I joined a social club where I met a lot of very interesting and very nice people and several of my friends from the library also joined and we all also joined the Sydney Bush Music Club which collected and sang Australian folk songs. At one of the meetings, I met Roy Markham, whom I married in 1964. Roy worked for QANTAS the airline and we had several trips free or very cheap trips – to New Zealand and to England. Roy comes from England [from London] and also went to Austria a couple of times. I went on working in libraries – the Municipal Library and then back to

the Technical College libraries, and I set up the library at Randwick Technical College and worked there until my son was born in 1972. We bought a house in Maroubra. Paul went to a Jewish kindergarten because it was the best one around, and as a result he had a number of Jewish friends. Then he went to Maroubra Bay Primary until we came to New Zealand in 1979. Yes, 1979.

My mother had died in the meantime, and my father was here, and not very well, so we decided to move to New Zealand and bought a house in Glendowie. Paul went to St. Heliers school and then to Glendowie College.

**CLAIRE: He was born in 1972?**

MARIETTA: Yes, yes. Do you want the exact date? 28 November 1972.

**CLAIRE: Your father had gone to Shalom Court?**

MARIETTA: That's right, my father was the second person to move into Shalom Court. The first one being Dr Lewin. Until he became too ill to stay on there, and then we found a place where there was more nursing care available – we moved him to Te Mata in Mt Eden and he lived there until he died.

**CLAIRE: And Roy worked there?**

MARIETTA: Yes, Roy had worked as a telecommunications officer at QANTAS and when we came to Auckland he got a job at KRTA (that's Kingston, Reynolds, Thom and Allardice) a big firm of architects and engineers – again in communications, telex, fax and so on, until he retired .

**CLAIRE: Looking back on those early years, how do you think your experiences in those early years have affected your later life.**

MARIETTA: I think some of the insecurity of what was going on and what was happening around me and ... have caused me to, at times, get depressed and tense and ... psychologically I think, had an effect.

**CLAIRE: It must have made it difficult for you to be moving and making friends, and then moving again. I guess?**

MARIETTA: Yes. In some ways I think I'm lucky in that I have a lot of different experiences to look back on, which have made life interesting, yet on the other hand, it also meant being insecure and sometimes not knowing where I belonged.

**CLAIRE: Like, no sense of identity somehow? [yes] But it did give you a rich fund of experiences on which to draw for your writing – when you do some writing.**

MARIETTA: Well, I'm what used to be called a manic depressive. I think that's called bi-polar affective disorder and the last time that I was in hospital for a few weeks, it was decided to put me on – that was for depression – it was decided to put me on lithium, and now the doctors insist that I should stay on lithium to keep me on an even keel. I find that when I'm on lithium, I'm on an even keel, but I don't get any bursts of inspiration the way I used to sometimes. It's when I'm manic that I'm creative. But now, I just seem to go on, on a level without any great troughs or heights and there's just nothing there.

**CLAIRE: So that's what it's cost you basically – it's cost you that creative impulse...**

MARIETTA: Yes. Yes.

**CLAIRE: Which is a shame. Is there anything else that you would like to add about your experiences or your life which we haven't covered? Anything you'd like to mention?**

MARIETTA: Well, I think I owe it to my mother, my great love of books - she was always very keen on books and art and both my parents loved classical music and I think that those things which they offered me, and gave me, have helped enrich my life a great deal.

**CLAIRE: Your father played the piano very beautifully, didn't he?**

MARIETTA: He played ... The fact that we didn't have a piano meant that he didn't get much practice, but he could sit down and play by ear and was always very proud of the fact that he'd sung in the chorus of *Cavaliere Rusticana* when he was about 19. My husband is not Jewish, but he is a very kind and loving person and I'm very fortunate to have him, especially now, as my health is deteriorating.

**CLAIRE: Marietta, thank you very much for your time. ■**



*Marietta, Olomouc, 1938.*

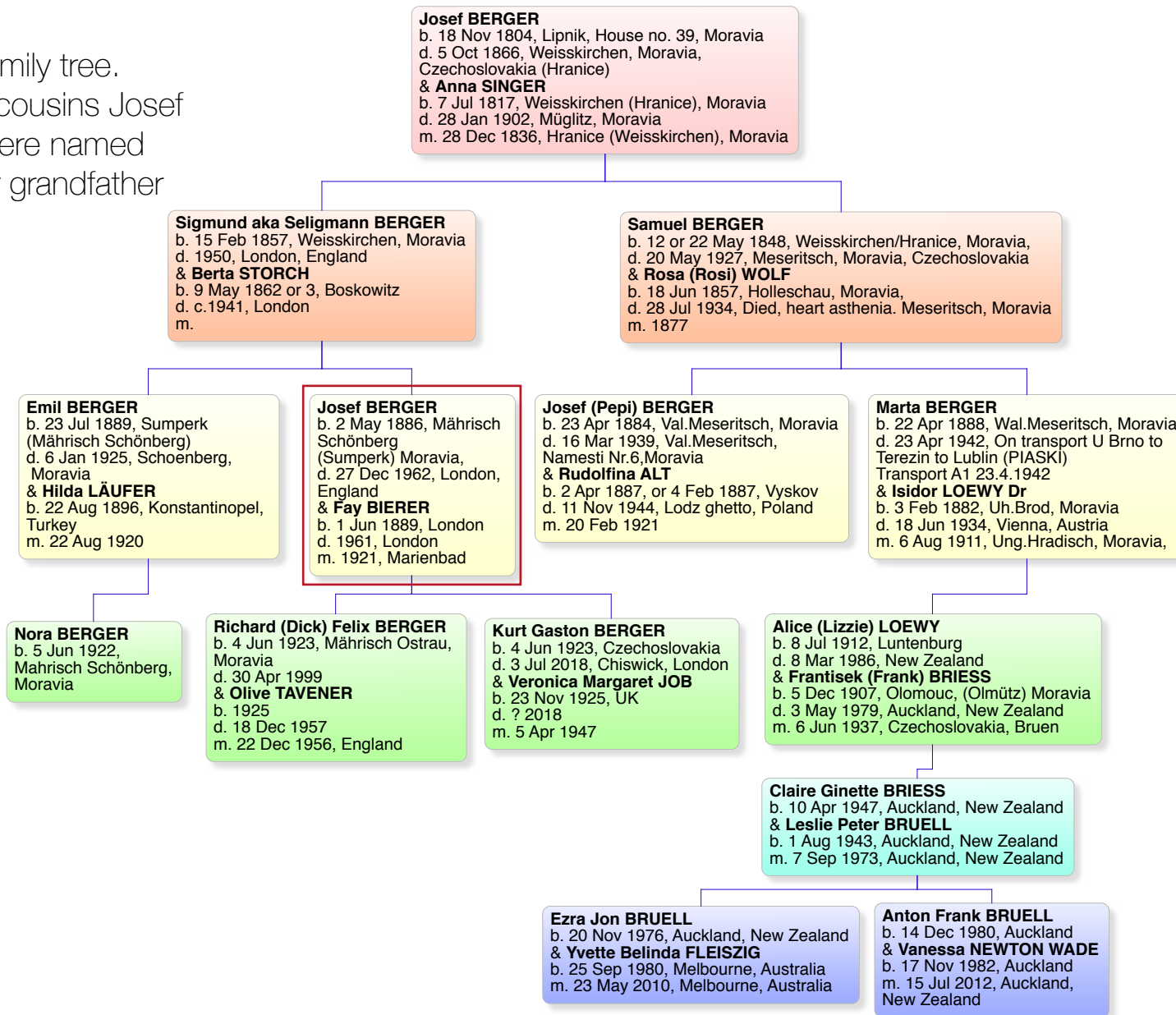




# Josef Berger

# SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY: Bearing witness

Berger family tree.  
The two cousins Josef Berger were named after their grandfather



# Josef Berger



AZI description of Josef Berger as found in their files from the town archive in Sumpperk, Moravia.

“Josef Berger is a person known as a crafty businessman of the worst type. He is a wily, arrogant, irritating Jew. Politically he is outspokenly against national socialism in government and he was given the middle name “Israel”.

Of Josef’s father Sigmund, a man of 80 years by 1937, the Gestapo file was no less complimentary stating that he is “an ingrained Orthodox Jew”.

Unknown to the Gestapo, Josef had married Fay, an English woman of German Jewish descent and they had fled to England, taking with them their two young sons Kurt and Dick and Josef’s elderly parents. Transplanted to England, the marriage did not last: Josef and Fay separated and Josef lost touch with his sons and never reconciled up to his death in December 1962.

Sigmund and his wife Berta, Josef’s parents lived in London, in unfamiliar surroundings, without friends, an orthodox foreign couple who were cut off from their grandchildren, physically saved but psychologically they had difficulty transplanting their lives to a new country. Sigmund died in 1950, Berta during the war in London and Josef in 1962.

Later their grandson Kurt recalled: “Berta was a stout lady, very kind, an excellent cook. She made vanilla biscuits, crescent shaped (vanille kipferl) and finger shaped biscuits with a hard glazed sugar crust”.

Berta did not approve of her daughter-in-law and the antagonism was mutual. ■

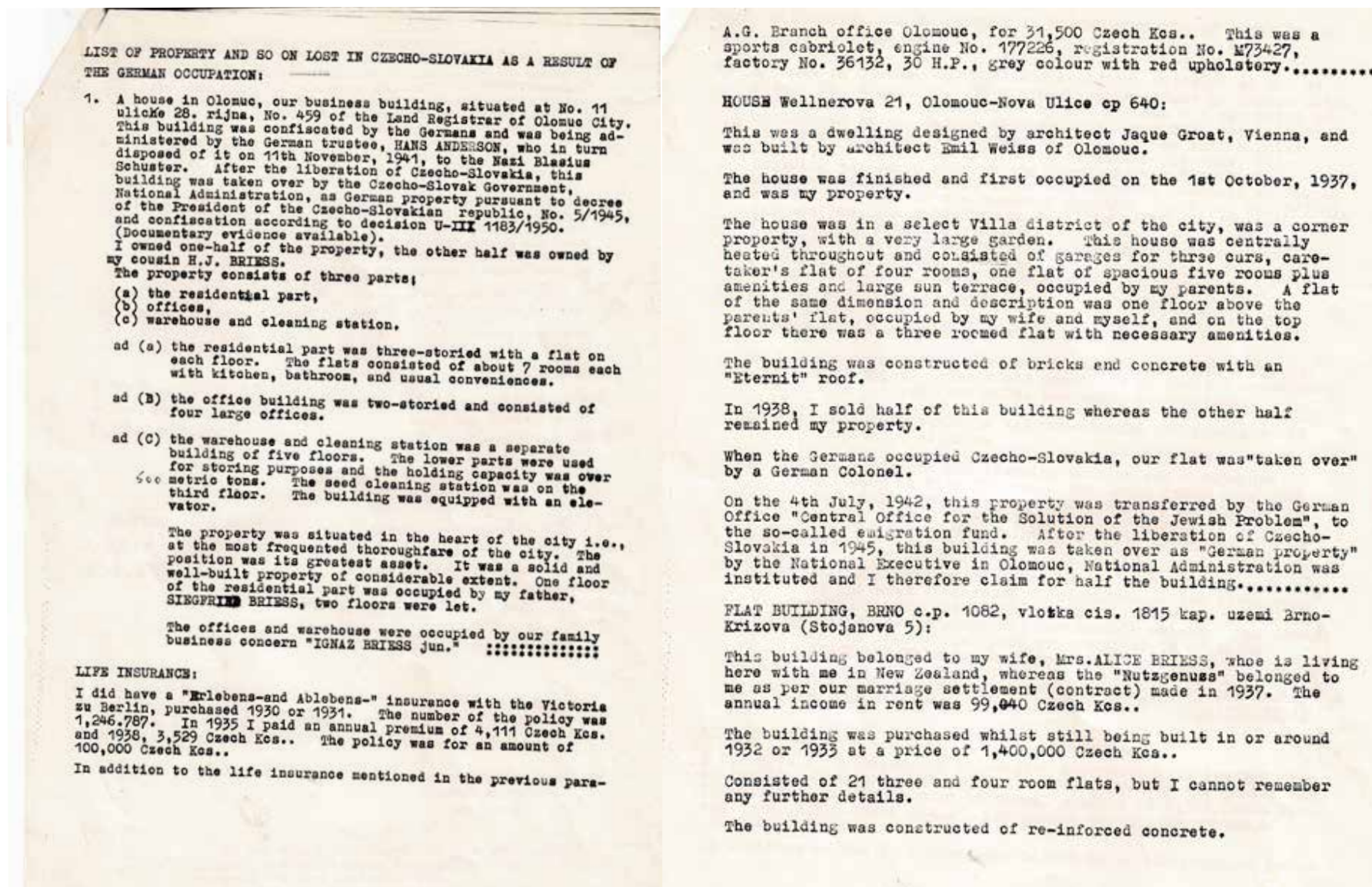


*Sigmund, Berta and Josef Berger.*





# Stolen assets



Frank Briess's list of property stolen by the German controlled government. The house referred to is at 11 rijna 28 and is pictured on the next page. (5)

# Stolen assets



ON April 26, 1938, the “Decree for the Reporting of Jewish-Owned Property” issued by Hitler’s government took effect, requiring all Jews in Germany and Austria to register any property or assets valued at more than 5,000 Reichsmarks (around \$2,000 in American currency of the period). From furniture and paintings to life insurance and stocks, nothing was immune from the registry. By July 31 of that year, German finance officials had collected paperwork from some 700,000 Jewish citizens – seven billion Reichsmarks’-worth of wealth ripe for state-sanctioned theft known as ‘aryanisation’. As Nazi occupied territory expanded to Czechoslovakia, then to Poland, so did the number of Jews the Nazis could steal from. This move was in preparation for the massive transfer of wealth to the Nazis and the removal of Jews from the German economy.

There are plenty of documents attesting to this.

(NB - note corresponding colours on captions)

**1.** The **security notice** from the finance office in the names of Maximilian Israel Brüll and Marie Sarah Brüll, stamped with the German eagle stamp and using the middle names of Israel and Sarah given to all Jews, dated 9 June 1941.



*11 rijna 28 (No.11, 28th October St).*

**2.** The asset return of **Maximilian Brüll**, retired bank employee in Vienna and Peter’s great uncle. I noted he had failed to mention his Swiss bank account. His descendants were to claim the balance many years later. He and his wife Marie were deported first to Theresienstadt, then to Treblinka and never returned. A gold tie pin, paintings, carpets and silverware are listed amongst their assets.

**3.** The notice issued by the Oberlandrat (District Land Office) in Brunn dated 23 September 1940 documents the **confiscation of the building** at Tivoligasse 2, owned by the Jew Marta Löwy transferred to the ownership of the trustee for the German administration.

**4.** From Czechoslovakia there is the **asset return list** given to me by the Olomouc Jewish community office, showing the returns by transport list with names in alphabetical order. Perhaps this was used to put together the list which appeared on a website many years later where I found the names of Frank and Alice Briess as Jews whose assets had been stolen by the Germans. This website (1990s, has long since disappeared).

**5.** The **title to the property** at Stojanova 5, Brunn was owned by Isidor Löwy and transferred to Alice Löwy on his death. On 1 July 1941 it was trans-

## SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY: Bearing witness

ferred to the German controlled state police.

**6. Frank's list:** Frank, having effectively escaped by the skin of his teeth, made a list of property once he was in London of all he had left behind in Olomouc, taken over later by the German controlled government:

### ADDITIONALLY:

The building at 11 rijna 28 (page 123) was confiscated by the German trustee who disposed of it on 28 October Street to the Nazi Blasius Schuster. In turn it was taken over by the Czechoslovak government in 1950 as German property and confiscated once again by the president of the Czechoslovak republic in 1950. It was half owned by Frank's cousin Theodore Briess.

The building had three parts – offices, warehouse and cleaning station and the residential parts.

The office building was two storeys and contained four large offices.

The residential part was three storeys with a flat on each floor. Each flat containing about seven rooms each with kitchen, bathroom and the usual conveniences.

The warehouse and cleaning station was a separate building of five floors.

The family occupied the building at the heart of the city.

Frank also listed two life insurance policies – one with Generali, the other with Viktoria zu Berlin – a sports cabriolet, grey with red upholstery. He mentioned the building at 5 Stojanova in Brno (page 127) had been transferred to the German Central Office for the solution of the Jewish problem. Frank had been entitled to the rents from this building of 21 three and four bedroom flats.

The house at Wellnerova 21, Olomouc (pages 128/129) was designed by architect Jacques Groag, and was sited on a corner with a large garden was built in 1937. The house was centrally heated with garages for three cars, a caretakers flat of four rooms, one flat of five spacious rooms with amenities and a large sun

Finanzamt Innerer Stadt-Of  
Reichsfluchtsteuerstelle

Wien I., 9. Juni 1941  
Riemergasse 2  
Telefonnummer: R-22-5-96, Hausanschluss  
Bürozeiten: Montag, Dienstag, Donnerstag und  
Freitag von 11 bis 13 Uhr.  
Sicherheiten nimmt die Vollstreckungsstelle entgegen,  
Einzahlungen nur im Wege der Postanweisung auf  
Kontennummer A 43.167

Nr. 11 — Zimmer 512  
Streu, ohne Anschlag

an Herrn Maximilian Israel Brüll und  
Frau Maria Dora geb. Husslerl  
Wien III.,  
Brnauergasse 5

Abdruck! Nummer Ihres Kontos:  
38.792  
Herrn D

Tritt an die Stelle des  
Sicherheitsbescheids v.  
23. I. 1940

Gen. 24 ds. 1 Nr. 2 20  
berichtigt

**Sicherheitsbescheid**  
A. Festsetzung der Sicherheit

Meine Feststellungen lassen das auf schließen, Sie den Wohnsitz — gewöhnlichen Aufenthalt  
im Land Österreich oder im übrigen Reichsbereich zu verlassen werden. Auf Grund des § 7 des Reichs-  
fluchtsteuergesetzes\*) erlaube ich Ihnen, die Sicherheit in Höhe von 290.— R.S.  
Sicherheiten zu leisten. — Dieses Erlassen ergibt sich auch an Ihre Angehörigen (Chefrau, Kinder),  
soweit sie mit Ihnen zur Einkommensteuer und Vermögenssteuer zusammen veranlagt worden sind  
oder zusammen zu veranlagten sind. — Die Sicherheit kann zum Beispiel durch Hinterlegung von  
Geld, durch Hinterlegung oder Verpfändung von Wertpapieren oder Hypotheken oder durch Bürgschaft  
geleistet werden (§§ 132 bis 141 der Reichsabgabenordnung).

Dieser Bescheid ist sofort vollstreckbar.

Die Sicherheit ist wie folgt errechnet worden:  
Reichsfluchtsteuer, die mit der Auswanderung fällig wird: Nach meinen  
ermittlungen betrug das Ihnen und Ihrer Chefrau sowie Ihre...  
Kinder...  
sowie die Hinzurechnungen gemäß § 3 Absatz 3 des Reichsflucht-  
steuergesetzes und § 2 Absatz 1 zu b der Verordnung zur Durchführung  
der Reichsfluchtsteuer im Land Österreich vom 14. April 1938 —:  
1162.— R.S., davon ein Viertel 290.— R.S.

Sonstige Ansprüche: .....

ergibt zusammen 290.— R.S.  
Aufgerundet 300.— R.S.

**B. Rechtsmittelbelehrung**

Gegen diesen Sicherheitsbescheid steht Ihnen die Beschwerde an den Oberfinanzpräsidenten Wien  
zu, dessen Entscheidung endgültig ist. Die Beschwerde kann bei mir schriftlich eingereicht oder zu  
Protokoll erklärt werden. Dies kann nur bis zum Ablauf eines Monats nach der Zustellung des  
Bescheids, d. h. nach dem Tage, an dem der Bescheid zur Post gegeben ist, geschehen. Die Kosten  
einer erfolglosen Beschwerde haben Sie zu tragen.

Durch die Einlegung der Beschwerde wird die Vollstreckung des Sicherheitsbescheids nicht  
gehemmt, insbesondere die Vollstreckung nicht aufgehalten.

\*) Siehe Anlage.

gez. Unterschrift

Berteiler:

W.S. N. (Stempel des Sicherheitsbescheids) — 12. 10. — 1941. — Staatsdruckerei Wien. 12.617 19

**1. Security Notice from the Finance Office issued to Maximilian Israel Brüll and his wife Maria, born Husslerl, dated 9 June 1941 - complete with an eagle stamp.**

**Vor Ausfüllung des Vermögensverzeichnis III die beigefügte Anleitung genau durchzulesen!**

- Zur Beachtung!**
1. **Wer hat das Vermögensverzeichnis einzureichen?**  
Sicher sämtlichpflichtig, alle auch jeder Ehegatte und jedes Kind für sich. Für jedes minderjährige Kind ist das Vermögensverzeichnis vom Vater oder der elterlichen Gewalt oder von dem Vormund einzureichen.
  2. **Wann ist das Vermögensverzeichnis einzureichen?**  
Bis zum 30. Juni 1938. Wer anmelde- und bewertungspflichtig ist, aber die Anmelde- und Bewertungsfrist nicht oder nicht rechtzeitig oder nicht vollständig erfüllt, legt sich schwerer Strafe (Geldstrafe, Gefängnis, Zuchthaus, Einschränkung des Vermögens) aus.
  3. **Wie ist das Vermögensverzeichnis auszufüllen?**  
Es müssen sämtliche Fragen beantwortet werden. Nichtzutreffendes ist zu verzeichnen. Beacht der in dem Vermögensverzeichnis für die Ausfüllung vorgegebene Raum nicht aus, so sind die geforderten Angaben auf einer Anlage zu machen.
  4. **Wenn Zweifel bestehen, ob diese oder jene Werte in dem Vermögensverzeichnis aufgeführt werden müssen, sind die Werte aufzuführen.**
- 38792

**Verzeichnis über das Vermögen von Juden nach dem Stand vom 27. April 1938**

des *Brüell Maximilian* *Bankbeamter*  
der *Wien III, Hansalgasse* (Wohnort oder gewöhnlicher Aufenthalt)

**Angaben zur Person**

Ich bin geboren am *27/IX 1868 in Linnaim*  
Ich bin Jude (§ 5 der Ersten Verordnung zum Reichsbürgergesetz vom 14. November 1935, Reichsgesetzl. I S. 1333) und — deutscher — — Staatsangehörigkeit) — *österreichischer* —

Da ich — Jude deutscher Staatsangehörigkeit) — *österreichischer* — bin, habe ich in dem nachstehenden Vermögensverzeichnis mein gesamtes inländisches und ausländisches Vermögen angegeben und bewertet.)

Da ich Jude deutscher Staatsangehörigkeit bin, habe ich in dem nachstehenden Vermögensverzeichnis mein inländisches Vermögen angegeben und bewertet.)

Ich bin verheiratet mit *Maria Brüell* geb. *Husserl* (Wohnort der Ehefrau)

Mein Ehegatte ist der Rasse nach — *arischer* — und gehört der *österreichischen* Religionsgemeinschaft an.

**Angaben über das Vermögen**

**I. Land- und forstwirtschaftliches Vermögen** (vgl. Anleitung Ziff. 9):  
Wenn Sie am 27. April 1938 land- und forstwirtschaftliches Vermögen beahen (gepachtete Ländereien u. dgl. sind nur aufzuführen, wenn das der Bewirtschaftung dienende Inventar Ihnen gehört).

Vorge des eigenen oder gepachteten Betriebs und seine Größe in Hektar? (Gemeinde- und Katastrals- und Reformamt, auch Grundbuch- und katastralmäßige Zeichnung)	Art des eigenen oder gepachteten Betriebs? (z. B. landwirtschaftlicher, forstwirtschaftlicher, gärtnerischer Betrieb, Weinbau, Obstbau, Züchterbetrieb)	Handelt es sich um einen eigenen Betrieb oder um eine Pachtung	Wert des Betriebs RM	Der eigene Betrieb: Wenn der Betrieb sich Zählung gehört: Wie hoch sind die Steuern? (z. B. „a“)
1	2	3	4	5

**II. Grundvermögen (Grund und Boden, Gebäude)** (vgl. Anleitung Ziff. 10):  
Wenn Sie am 27. April 1938 Grundvermögen beahen (Grundstücke, die nicht zu dem vorstehend unter I und nachstehend unter III bezeichneten Vermögen gehören).

Vorge des Grundstücks? (Gemeinde- und Katastrals- und Reformamt, auch Grundbuch- und katastralmäßige Zeichnung)	Art des Grundstücks? (z. B. Einfamilienhaus, Mietwohngrundstück, Zehnten)	Wert des Grundstücks RM	Wenn das Grundstück sich Zählung gehört: Wie hoch sind die Steuern? (z. B. „a“)
1	2	3	4

<sup>1)</sup> Nichtzutreffendes ist zu durchstreichen.

2. (Above and right) The asset return of Maximilian Brüell. Omitted was his Swiss bank account, the proceeds of which were claimed by his surprised and pleased descendants many years later along with claims for the balance.

- 3 -

b) **Darlehens- und unergänzliche Kapitalverbindungen** jeder Art an Inländer oder Ausländer? (z. B. Anleihen, Darlehensforderungen, Darlehen, Darlehen an Vater, Schwäger, leihweise Halter, Leih-, Pfand- und andere Darlehen, bis am 27. April 1938 bereits tilgt, jedoch noch nicht vollständig waren, Einzahlungen, die zugunsten des Darlehensnehmers gemacht sind u. dgl.), — (vgl. Anleitung Ziff. 13 — (Sparanleihen, Kontokorrenten, Postcheckbuch und sonstige laufende Darlehen sind nicht hier, sondern nachstehend zu c anzugeben.)

Art der Forderung (z. B. Anleihe, Darlehen)	Name und Wohnort des Schuldners	Nennbetrag der Forderung	Zins- fuß <sup>1)</sup>	Verfalltag (Ausfall bis)	Bemerkungen (z. B. über Einzahlung oder vollständigen Tilgung)
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Darlehen</i>	<i>Karl Brüell Wien XII. Koflergasse 3. R. 46</i>	<i>23.000</i>	<i>6 1/2</i>		

c) **Zahlungsmittel, Guthabens-, Bankguthaben, Depositen, Sparkassen- und sonstige laufende Guthaben?** (vgl. Anleitung Ziff. 14) *2.754 RM*  
Die Guthaben in ausländischer Währung und die angelegten Guthaben sind in einzelnen ggf. auf einer Anlage anzugeben.

d) **Geldguthaben bei Erwerbs- und Wirtschaftsinstituten?** (vgl. Anleitung Ziff. 17) *RM*

Name der Gesellschaft, Ort der Geschäftsleitung: \_\_\_\_\_

e) **Nicht tilgbare Ansprüche aus Lebens-, Kapital- oder Rentenversicherungen, zu berechnen mit 1/2 der eingezahlten Prämien oder Kapitalbeiträge oder mit dem Rückzahlbetrag?** (vgl. Anleitung Ziff. 18) *RM*

Somit der Versicherungsbeitrag: \_\_\_\_\_

f) **Im Verfallstadium:**

1) **Wohnungsrecht, Nießbrauchrecht und sonstige Realrechte?** (vgl. Anleitung Ziff. 19): Welchen Wert hatte die einjährige Pachtung? *3353 -RM*. Seit wann haben Ihnen die Pachtungen zu? *1/1 1930*. Wie wann haben Ihnen die Pachtungen zu? *2. absterben*  
(Bitte mit Wert des Grundes oder Pachtens ansetzen, bis zum Tag, Monat und Jahr der Einzahlung des Wertes anzugeben.)  
Welchen Kapitalwert hatte das Recht? *23.471 RM*

g) **Gegenstände aus edlen Metallen, Edelmetallen und Schmuckgegenständen, Kunstgegenständen und Sammlungen?** (vgl. Anleitung Ziff. 20) *275 RM*

h) **Edelmetalle, Edelsteine und Perlen?** *RM*

i) **Anderes nicht unter a bis h fallendes wertvolles Vermögen?** (vgl. Anleitung Ziff. 21) *RM*  
(z. B. Wertpapiere, gezeichnete und einzahlbare Schuldscheine, leihweise Bausparungen, die nicht von Zehnten sind aus, etc.)

Art der Gegenstände und Errechnung ihres Wertes sind hier anzugeben.  
*ad g. Gold Uhr: Krawattenmadeln 40 700.-  
Bildern 75  
Tasche, Silbergegenst. etc. 700.-*

<sup>1)</sup> Einmal jährlich oder eine entsprechende Verzinsungsfrequenz. — <sup>2)</sup> Bei Realrechten ist der Zeitpunkt anzugeben, an dem die Pachtungen vollständig werden kann, im Rückzahlungsfall (bisher keine Rückzahlung) ist der Rückzahlungstermin anzugeben.

## SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY: Bearing witness

terrace with an identical flat above. The top floor had three rooms with amenities. On 4 July 1942 the house was transferred by the “German Office for the Solution of the Jewish Problem” to the “emigration fund”. With the liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1945 the house was again taken over as “German Property” by the National Executive in Olomouc.

There is an extensive list of chattels, carpets, linen and kitchenware left behind. ■



3. Notice issued by the District Land Office, Brunn to the effect that the property at Tivoligasse 2, owned by the Jew Marta Löwy, has been confiscated and transferred to the trustee for the German administration – 23 September 1940.

4. (right) An asset returns list given to Claire by the Olomouc Jewish community. The people are listed alphabetically along with their assets held in various asset classes.

Name	Liegen- schaften	Bargeld	Bank- guthaben	Forderungen
J. Kallusperle	785.000.-	52.726.-	1,822.720.-	477.770.-
Borger Paula, H. Bahnhofsstr. 8		400.-	10.000.-	
Borger Rosa, H. "		500.-	57.870.-	
Braud Emanuel, Birkowitz 9		400.-		
Braud Regina, H. Edisong. 5		600.-	17.130.-	
Braum Jola, H. Tafelfeldg. 4			341.800.-	
Braum Josefa, H. Augasse 9		500.-		
Braum Julius, H. Tafelfeldg. 4		500.-	534.500.-	90.600.-
Braum Salomon, H. Augasse 9		100.-		
Breitbach Jean, Holič	40.000.-	2350.-	60.720.-	
Breitenfeld Kamilla				
Brenner Ludw. H. Vltav. 9				
Březina Luise, H. Mannsg. 22				
Brief Felix, H. Sporang. 4				
Brief Marie, H. "		100.-	4.300.-	
Brief Dr. Otto, H. 2.				
Brief Yana, H. "				
Briess Edela, H. H. 17/11		450.-	45.500.-	50.000.-
Briess Ludwig, H. Andrasg. 7		300.-		67.640.-
Briess Paul, Holič		220.-	24.050.-	
Briess Paula, Holič	210.000.-	50.-		
Briess Tof. H. H. d. 17/11	250.000.-	1.200.-	1,287.890.-	270.000.-
Brien Theodor, H. Holič	625.000.-	140.-	1,088.910.-	320.000.-
Brosch Berth. H. Pererung. 33		400.-		
Brosch Feida, H. H. Kuzel III/6		430.-		
Brosch Felia, H. Pererung. 33				
Brosch Otto, H. "		300.-	6.000.-	55.620.-
Brosch Peter, H. "				
Brosch Nana (Kornstein Homenuh)	200.000.-	90.-	380.290.-	150.000.-
Brosch Anna, H. Mersig. 9		500.-		
Brosch Emil, H. "		1.500.-	3.500.-	



Běžné číslo Pořadčíslo	Zápis - Eintragung
1	Podle 27 článku 1931, § 4386. Ešte k tomu přílohou ze dne 25. června 1931. Vkládá se vlastnické právo <i>Beti Schöferové.</i>
2	Podle 30 článku 1932, § 4387. K této kauce přílohou ze dne 30. listopadu 1931 vkládá se vlastnické právo <i>M. H. J. Jindrov-Löwy-ovi</i>
3	Podle 26. článku 1936, § 4388. Podle ustanovení lidiny ze dne 15. srpna 1914 § 247/14 v ustanovení ze dne 28. srpna 1931 § 247/14 vkladá se vlastnické právo <i>Alice Löwy-ové</i>
4	Podle 26. článku 1936, § 4388. Podle ustanovení lidiny ze dne 15. srpna 1914 § 247/14 v ustanovení ze dne 28. srpna 1931 § 247/14 vkladá se vlastnické právo <i>Alice Löwy-ové</i>
5	Podle 26. článku 1936, § 4388. Podle ustanovení lidiny ze dne 15. srpna 1914 § 247/14 v ustanovení ze dne 28. srpna 1931 § 247/14 vkladá se vlastnické právo <i>Alice Löwy-ové</i>
6	Podle 26. článku 1936, § 4388. Podle ustanovení lidiny ze dne 15. srpna 1914 § 247/14 v ustanovení ze dne 28. srpna 1931 § 247/14 vkladá se vlastnické právo <i>Alice Löwy-ové</i>
7	Podle 26. článku 1936, § 4388. Podle ustanovení lidiny ze dne 15. srpna 1914 § 247/14 v ustanovení ze dne 28. srpna 1931 § 247/14 vkladá se vlastnické právo <i>Alice Löwy-ové</i>
8	Podle 26. článku 1936, § 4388. Podle ustanovení lidiny ze dne 15. srpna 1914 § 247/14 v ustanovení ze dne 28. srpna 1931 § 247/14 vkladá se vlastnické právo <i>Alice Löwy-ové</i>
9	Podle 26. článku 1936, § 4388. Podle ustanovení lidiny ze dne 15. srpna 1914 § 247/14 v ustanovení ze dne 28. srpna 1931 § 247/14 vkladá se vlastnické právo <i>Alice Löwy-ové</i>
10	Podle 26. článku 1936, § 4388. Podle ustanovení lidiny ze dne 15. srpna 1914 § 247/14 v ustanovení ze dne 28. srpna 1931 § 247/14 vkladá se vlastnické právo <i>Alice Löwy-ové</i>
11	Podle 10. března 1954 č. 1.1606. Podle ustanovení řady ÚVY v Brně ze dne 10. února 1955, zn. V.111/3-153-7/1-1955-KP/D v č. 4. 503/54 a ustanovení § 7 odst. 2 zák. č. 167/50 Sb., vkladá se právo vlastnické pro Československý stát - bytový podnik města Brna a pozemku národní správy se vyměná.
12	Podle 10. března 1954 č. 1.1606. Podle ustanovení řady ÚVY v Brně ze dne 10. února 1955, zn. V.111/3-153-7/1-1955-KP/D v č. 4. 503/54 a ustanovení § 7 odst. 2 zák. č. 167/50 Sb., vkladá se právo vlastnické pro Československý stát - bytový podnik města Brna a pozemku národní správy se vyměná.

5. Title to property at Stojanova Ulice 5 owned by Alice Löwy and confiscated by the Germans. As part of her dowry, income from this property was to go to Frank.

(l) The front doors to the apartment building.



*Wellnerova 21.*

*The house (opposite) was in an exclusive villa district of the city, a corner property with a large garden. It was centrally heated throughout and consisted of garages for three cars, a caretaker's flat of four rooms, one flat of five large rooms as well as amenities and a large deck. It was occupied by Siegfried Briess and his wife Adele. On the next floor, was a flat of the same dimensions and description which was occupied by Frank and Alice Briess. On the top floor there was a three bedroomed flat with amenities.*

*In the 1990s Claire claimed ownership as the heir to Frank's estate. The court ruled in her favour, however, the current owners, a cooperative of several people objected and the Court reversed its decision, granting her a useless piece of the garden, too small to either build on or sell.*

Haus- und Grundbesitz des <u>Briess Franz (Frank)</u> in Olmütz, Katastralgobiet Olmütz - Neugasse nächst der Deutschen Turnhalle in der Wellner -, Ecke Adolf-Kaspar-Gasse.	
Bauparzelle 712, Wohnhaus Cons.Nr. 040 und anschließend Grundparzelle 832/3 . . . . .	Gr.B.E.1221, Gesamtmaß 2160 qm
Wohnhaus, Eckgrundstück, Wellnergasse, Front 40 m, Gr.Nr.21, Ad.-Kaspar-Gasse, Front 27 m, Baujahr 1935, <u>1080 qm</u>	
Souterrain : Hauswartwohnung Küche, Zimmer, W.C. Waschküche, Trockenraum, Heisanlage, Garage	
Erdgesch. : Vorzimmer, Küche, 5 Zimmer, Bad, W.C.	
1.Obergesch: dasselbe	
Dachgesch. : Vorzimmer, 2 Zimmer, Bad, W.C., Terrasse, Bodenraum	
<u>Baulücke</u> daneben in der Adolf-Kaspar-Gasse, Front 27 m ( 27 x 40 = <u>1080 qm</u> )	
	1080 1080 <u>2160</u>



*A legal description for the house at Wellnerova was attached previously to a plan long disappeared but described it as: "House and land of Franz Briess (Frank) in Olmütz, cadastral area map Olmütz, Neugasse near the German Turnhalle on the corner of Wellner and Adolf Kaspar Street". Various floors are also described with details of the rooms on each floor.*

(1)

*This document is a description of the property at Wellnerova 21.*

*Heading: "Reichsanzeiger and Preussischer Staatsanzeiger German Reich Gazette and Prussian State Gazette announcement. Based on the regulation on the confiscation of assets in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia of 4 October 1939 (Reichsbesetzbl. l p.1998), the assets of the persons listed below are hereby confiscated for the benefit of the Reich - represented by the Reich Protektor in Bohemia. and Moravia)." Franz and Alice Briess were listed.*





# Transport cards



*Some of the millions of cards and records housed at the Arolsen Archives.*

---

# An extensive collection of Nazi documentation opens its doors



THE Arolsen Archives are an international centre on Nazi persecution with the world's most extensive collection of documents about the victims and survivors of National Socialism. The documents relate to the various groups persecuted by the Nazi regime and contain references to around 17.5 million people, not only Jews, making them an important source of knowledge for society today. For many years there was no public access to the archives, then it was just a "document centre".

Bad Arolsen was the place where the allies met, at the end of the war: the Russians from the East, the French and British from the west and south. The collection comprised the documents taken from the Germans by the allies at the end of the Second World War.

The centre was run by the International Committee of the Red Cross and for decades these records were not available to the public as the 11 member states of the Committee could not agree on allowing access to the records.

At last this changed and in 2006 the first group of genealogy researchers was permitted access to the records. Of course none of the records was available online at that time and researchers had to physically visit the centre in Bad Arolsen in order to search the records. What was originally a document centre, eventually developed into a fully fledged archive, funded by the German government.

In May 2007 a further group of researchers was permitted access to the records and I joined with a group of seven Israeli researchers, having first requested confirmation that the records held information on at least some of over 100 members of my family and Peter's family who died in the Holocaust.

We sent a list of people we were interested in researching ahead of time as requested and spent five days in the archive. I was greeted with files for 120 of "my" names. We were each assigned a computer and an assistant and we methodically went through each file in our piles.

Later on arrival back home, I received a scanned copy of the contents of each file. The files held between five and 65 documents each.

One document was common to many of the files and that was the transport cards which included some records of censuses taken in the camps such as Theresienstadt where most of my family had been. They documented each person's date of birth, last address and details of each transport – transport number, the date and the destination.

Today the records of the Arolsen Archives can be researched online and accessed physically in places like Yad Vashem and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC.

But the mixed feelings of receiving this weight of information about our families in person at Bad Arolsen was unforgettable. ■

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

č. z. 103414

Zweigová Anna

Roční data: 2.2.1846

Adresa před deportací: Plomou (Prácheňská 1)

1. transport	2. transport
dne: -8 VII 1942	dne: 15.10.1942
AAO 587	3V 1179
	do: Treblinky

Anna Zweigová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

č. z. 102211

Fischelová Berta

Roční data: 11.11.1807

Adresa před deportací: Plomou, Křižanova 6

1. transport	2. transport
dne: -8 VII 1942	dne: 15.12.1943
AAO 141	JR 443
	do: Osvětim

Berta Fischelová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

č. z. 4382

Briessová Blanka

Roční data: 11.7.1887

Adresa před deportací: Praha VI, Balbínova 16

1. transport	2. transport
dne: 21 X 1941	dne: _____
B 407	do: LODŽ

Blanka Briessová née Schwartz

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

č. z. 106310

Kandl.ová Eliška

Roční data: 11.3.1887

Adresa před deportací: Prácheň, ul. Slavínská 104

1. transport	2. transport
dne: 4 VII 1942	dne: 6.9.1943
AAm 624	DM 4432
	do: Osvětim

Eliška Mandlová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

č. z. 05.411

Drexler Emil

Roční data: 13.7.1887

Adresa před deportací: Brno, Na Ponávce 38

1. transport	2. transport
dne: 5 VII 1941	dne: 6.9.1943
K 370	DI -266
	do: Osvětim

Emil Drexler

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

č. z. 103109

Schulhof Erich

Roční data: 4.10.1917

Adresa před deportací: Plomou (Prácheňská 5)

1. transport	2. transport
dne: -8 VII 1942	dne: 18.7.1942
AAO 500	AAg 439
	do: _____

Erich Schulhof

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

č. z. 49494

Benešová Františka

Roční data: 30.9.1911

Adresa před deportací: Praha I U ob. dvora 2

1. transport	2. transport
dne: 15 VII 1943	dne: 19.10.1944
DK 16	ES 1320
	do: Osvětim

Františka Benesová née Briess

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

č. z. 10210

Schulhof Ida

Roční data: 24.5.1885

Adresa před deportací: Plomou (Prácheňská 10)

1. transport	2. transport
dne: 4 VII 1942	dne: 18.12.1943
AAm 448	IS 1710
	do: Osvětim

Ida Schulhof

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

č. z. 12.570

Grätzer Otto

Roční data: 21.5.1894

Adresa před deportací: Praha VI, Palackého 43

1. transport	2. transport
dne: 21 X 1941	dne: _____
B 784	do: LODŽ

Otto Grätzer

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

č. 85419

Drexlerová Paula

rodná data: 7. 12. 1894

adresní před. depozit: BRNO 14 Vloněbládk 5

1. transport	2. transport
dob.: 22. III. 1942	dob.: 6. 10. 1944
číslo: Ad 718	číslo: 90-1357
do: 718	do: Úsvětím

Paula Drexlerová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

č. 15485

Fischer Arnold

rodná data: 30. 1. 1886

adresní před. depozit: Káňová, Klášter č. 92

1. transport	2. transport
dob.: 17. XII. 1942	dob.: 23. 6. 1943
číslo: Ch 137	číslo: 18 143
do: 137	do: Úsvětím

Arnold Fischer

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

č. 49495

Benetová Hana

rodná data: 7. 9. 1937

adresní před. depozit: Praha I U ob. dvoře 2

1. transport	2. transport
dob.: 11. VII. 1943	dob.: 19. 10. 1944
číslo: DK 17	číslo: 85 1321
do: 17	do: Úsvětím

Hana Benetová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

č. 85165

Brollová Helena

rodná data: 30. 7. 1890

adresní před. depozit: Brno

1. transport	2. transport
dob.: 2. XII. 1941	dob.: 9. 9. 1942
číslo: W/6 378	číslo: U-88
do: 378	do: Riga

Helena Brollová née Löwy

9.7.48 Mauthausen 2,37 Jude.

Name: BENES Hugo Israel Mlad, 00.15/30 b

BD 20. 3. 10 BP Kynasobin Nat

Next of Kin

Source of Information: Mauthausen Totenbuch 1941, No. 1093.

Last kn. Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CC/Place: Mauthausen Arr. \_\_\_\_\_ Eb. 0.72

Transf. on \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ S. 44

Died on 5. 12. 41-0805 h in Mauthausen

Cause of death: Fretted durch Einwirkung v. Starkstrom.

Buried on \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Grave: \_\_\_\_\_ D. C. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Hugo Benes

ÚMRTÍ — podle matričních záznamů.

Berger Josef

rodná data: 22. 4. 1884

posled. bydliště: \_\_\_\_\_

datum a místo úmrtí: Val. Mezifíř, náb. 6., 16. 3. 1939

Zápis v matrice: obec: Val. Mezifíř 1879

Grave: \_\_\_\_\_ řadové číslo: 3/-

Další záznamy: Společně v Mor. Ostravě v krematoriu.

*Ve v. knize pražských m. - úmrtí pod čísl. 246*

Josef Berger (suicide 16.3.1939)

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

č. 85167

Broll Ludvík

rodná data: 2. 12. 1884

adresní před. depozit: Brno

1. transport	2. transport
dob.: 2. XII. 1941	dob.: 9. 9. 1942
číslo: W/6 377	číslo: U-87
do: 377	do: Riga

Ludvík Broll

ÚMRTÍ — podle matričních záznamů.

Briessová rozn. Hellerová Matylda

rodná data: 15. 8. 1875

posled. bydliště: Olomouc, ul. prince Štěpána 42

datum a místo úmrtí: 5. 1. 1941, Olomouc

Zápis v matrice: obec: Olomouc 1941

Další záznamy: řadové číslo: 1A-

Matylda Briess née Hellerová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

Ověry dělá do Terzina z ríšských území

Lachs Melanie

rodná data: 31. 5. 1882

adresní před. depozit: \_\_\_\_\_

Depozit na vyžádání: číslo Er 1166

dob.: 18. X. 1944

(přesná transportní číslo: IX-IX/3)

Melanie Lachs née Berger

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 2455

Bergerová Rudolfa

Roční data: 4. 2. 1887

Adresa před deportací: Praha III, Štěrba, Jiráka 20

1. transport	2. transport
dně: 26. X. 1941	dně: 12. 10. 1942
C	3X 1572
294	Trutnovy
LODZ	

Rudolfa Bergerová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 10920

Freitová Tuzja

Roční data: 24. 6. 1868

Adresa před deportací: Olomouc, Šarátova 9

1. transport	2. transport
dně: 4. VII. 1942	dně: 12. 10. 1942
AAM	3X 1572
107	Trutnovy

Terezie Friedlová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 119107

Wolff Ilhva

Roční data: 31. 10. 1837

Adresa před deportací: Val. Meziříčí 439

1. transport	2. transport
dně: 7. V. 1942	dně: 9. 5. 1942
A	3X - 911
911	V

Alfred Wolf

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 109181

Schönová Ella Lota

Roční data: 26. 9. 1928

Adresa před deportací: U h. B. r. d. č. J. 804

1. transport	2. transport
dně: 30. I. 1942	dně: 1. 2. 1943
Cp	CU - 870
667	Osvětim

Ella Lota Schönová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 91.491

Subáková Gertruda

Roční data: 30. 3. 1903

Adresa před deportací: Brno, Smetanova 30

1. transport	2. transport
dně: 31. III. 1942	dně: 25. 5. 1942
A	AX - 869
438	V

Gertrude Subáková

The Arolsen Archives contain more than 13 million documents as part of the UNESCO Memory of the World covering victims of the Nazi regime and their crimes. They include:

- Card index of forced labourers, registration cards, questionnaires and correspondence.

- Transport and deportation cards such as those illustrated in this article about millions of people deported to concentration camps and ghettos.

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 12. 167

Vogelová Jany

Roční data: 6. 11. 1893

Adresa před deportací: BRNO, Smetanova 30

1. transport	2. transport
dně: 27. III. 1942	dně: 18. 9. 1942
Ac	CX - 105
934	Batouva

Jany Vogelová née Subak

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 119189

Wolfová Loulína

Roční data: 15. 11. 1889

Adresa před deportací: Val. Meziříčí 439

1. transport	2. transport
dně: 7. V. 1942	dně: 9. 5. 1942
AI	CX - 910
910	V

Josefina Wolfová née Alt

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 109203

Schön Lev

Roční data: 10. 1. 1886

Adresa před deportací: U h. B. r. d. č. J. 804

1. transport	2. transport
dně: 30. I. 1942	dně: 1. 2. 1943
Cp	CU - 872
659	Osvětim

Lev Schön

Stepan Berg

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 108533

Berg Štěpán

Podat. dne: 18.4. 1894

Adresa přísl. depart.: U N. B r o d č. 798

1. transport	2. transport
dne: 30. 1. 1943	dne: 1. 2. 1943
Cp	CU - 508
749	Osvětim

Ruth Schönowá

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 91.177

Schönowá Ruth

Podat. dne: 3. 10. 1924

Adresa přísl. depart.: Lehovec Pál - Poutníkova 8

1. transport	2. transport
dne: 31. III. 1943	dne: 11. 4. 42
Af	Ap - 312
514	Osvětim

Marianna Subáková

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 93.497

Subáková Marianna

Podat. dne: 9. 12. 1896

Adresa přísl. depart.: Brno, Smetanova 30

1. transport	2. transport
dne: 31. III. 1942	dne: 25. 5. 1942
Af	AS - 670
439	t

Artur Brill

BRILL Artur

AD/424

Ad - 424

\* 12. 3. 1892 Znojmo

+ 2. 5. 7. 1943

105

26.006

Arnost Storch

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 104508

Storch Arnost

Podat. dne: 20. 12. 1911

Adresa přísl. depart.: Torátor, Limburska 81

1. transport	2. transport
dne: 20. VI. 1942	dne: 28. 9. 1944
AA	EK 1170
545	Osvětim

Anita Storchová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 104506

Storchová Anita

Podat. dne: 19. 3. 1939

Adresa přísl. depart.: Torátor, Limburska 81

1. transport	2. transport
dne: 20. VI. 1942	dne: 6. 10. 1944
AA	EO 169
547	Osvětim

Jiri Vald. Berg

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 108530

Berg Jiri Vald.

Podat. dne: 21. 3. 1926

Adresa přísl. depart.: U N. B r o d - J 798

1. transport	2. transport
dne: 30. 1. 1943	dne: 1. 2. 1943
Cp	CU - 580
751	Osvětim

Eva Bergová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 108529

Bergová Eva

Podat. dne: 3. 9. 1931

Adresa přísl. depart.: U N. B r o d č. 798

1. transport	2. transport
dne: 30. 1. 1943	dne: 1. 2. 1943
Cp	CU - 580
750	Osvětim

Elly Storchová née Fleischmann

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

K.č. 104507

Storchová Elly

Podat. dne: 21. 10. 1916

Adresa přísl. depart.: Torátor, Limburska 342

1. transport	2. transport
dne: 20. VI. 1942	dne: 6. 10. 1944
AA	EO 168
546	Osvětim

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTEKA — TRANSPORTY.

n.č. 104434

*Fleischmann Kurt*

rodilá data: 10.4.1915

adresa před deportací: *Toronto (příjemci 9)*

1. transport	2. transport
date: 22. VI. 1942	date: 18. 9. 1944
číslo: AA	číslo: EK 2264
do: 550	do: Osmičim

Kurt Fleischmann



ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTEKA — TRANSPORTY.

Osoby žijící do Teresína z různých zemí

*Brill Maximilian*

rodilá data: 17. 9. 1862

adresa před deportací: *BP - 237*

Deportace na východ: Číslo dne: 21. IX. 1942

(přední transportní číslo: *760-II/4*)

Maximilian Brill

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTEKA — TRANSPORTY.

n.č. 10443

*Fleischmannová Paula*

rodilá data: 17. 1. 1873

adresa před deportací: *Toronto, Beinhornova 142*

1. transport	2. transport
date: 2. 8. 48	date: 6. 10. 1944
číslo: 2. 8. 48	číslo: EO 12
do: 2. 8. 48	do: Osmičim

Paula Fleischmannová née Briess

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTEKA — TRANSPORTY.

n.č. 103416

*Zweigová Anna*

rodilá data: 24. 5. 1916

adresa před deportací: *Olomouc, Vodní 12.*

PREŽIL podle knihy "TERESÍN"

1. transport	2. transport
date: - 8. VII. 1942	date: /
číslo: AAO 9.	číslo: /
do: AAO 9.	do: /

Anna Zweigová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTEKA — TRANSPORTY.

*Trexlerová Gertruda*

rodilá data: 4. 4. 1897

adresa před deportací: *Bruno*

HLAŠEN OPĚT EVIDENCE

1. transport	2. transport
date: 12. XII. 1941	date: 18. 12. 1943
číslo: W/G 497	číslo: 20 - 443
do: W/G 497	do: Osmičim

Gertruda Trexlerová née Briess

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTEKA — TRANSPORTY.

n.č. 102361

*Grätzerová Herta*

rodilá data: 16. 1903

adresa před deportací: *Olomouc (příjemci 2)*

1. transport	2. transport
date: - 8. VII. 1942	date: 12. 7. 1942
číslo: AAO 694	číslo: AA 9 666
do: AAO 694	do: 2.

Herta Grätzerová née Briess

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTEKA — TRANSPORTY.

n.č. 85415

*Trexlerová Ilse*

rodilá data: 15. 5. 1922

adresa před deportací: *Bruno*

HLAŠEN OPĚT EVIDENCE

1. transport	2. transport
date: /	date: 9. 10. 1944
číslo: W/G 498	číslo: 20 - 994
do: W/G 498	do: Osmičim

Ilse Trexlerová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTEKA — TRANSPORTY.

n.č. 102504

*Hochwald Herman*

rodilá data: 8. 10. 1893

adresa před deportací: *Olomouc, Bojovjova 15.*

1. transport	2. transport
date: - 8. VII. 1942	date: 12. 7. 1942
číslo: AAO 89	číslo: AA 9 486
do: AAO 89	do: 2.

Jud. Herman Hochwald

Zu- und Vorname des Kindes: *Egon Egon I.* 929  
 Geburtsort: *Berlin* Zu- und Vorname (bei Frauen nach Geburtort): *Egon*  
 Religion: *jüd.* des Vaters: *Rachmann I.*  
 Impfung: *kein 2. Wiederimpfung* der Mutter: *Charlotte L. geb. Kuhn*  
 Erste Einschulung, Ort: *Berlin* des Pflegers: *Kuhn*  
 Tag: *1. Oktober 28.* Schule: *8. jüd. Schloß*  
 Schulsystem: *I* Klasse: *1. II* Staatsangehörigkeit: *dtisch*  
 Zugehörigkeit aus:  Beruf:   
 Schule:  Klasse:  Wohnung: *Stadtnell, Postamt 27. 20.*  
 Eingetretten am: *1. 1. 39.* Straße, Hausnummer: *Sambergerstr. 57*  
 In Klasse: *I* Tag des Austritts aus der Schule:  Telefon: *146303*  
 Neue Schule:

This is Egon's school enrolment form.

Egon Levi. Disappeared from Berlin aged 5 and never traced despite desperate search by father post war.

USTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA - TRANSPORTY.  
 n. e. *102858*  
*Rachmann Egon*  
 Datum narození: *23. 5. 1877*  
 Adresa před deportací: *Plomouc, Nádraží 12.*  
 1. transport: *- 8 VII 1942*  
 2. transport: *28. 7. 1942*  
 AAo *16.*

Erich Rachmann

USTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA - TRANSPORTY.  
 n. e. *102859*  
*Rachmannová Jean*  
 Datum narození: *28. 9. 1901*  
 Adresa před deportací: *Plomouc, Nádraží 12.*  
 1. transport: *- 8 VII 1942*  
 2. transport: *28. 7. 1942*  
 AAo *16.*

Irena Rachmannová nee Grützer

USTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA - TRANSPORTY.  
 n. e. *103419*  
*Zweig Otto*  
 Datum narození: *11. 4. 1894*  
 Adresa před deportací: *Plomouc (Bismarkova)*  
 1. transport: *- 8 VII 1942*  
 2. transport: *15. 9. 1942*  
 AAo *580.*  
 BV 1878  
 Trostky

Otto Zweig

EVIDENČNÍ LÍSTEK, vyepsaný podle záznamů Ž. R. S.  
 (pouze pro interní potřebu)  
 1. Příjmení a jméno: *Zweig Rudolf*  
 2. Datum narození: *22. 6. 1900* 3. Pohlaví:  4. Národnost:   
 5. Původní adresa před deportací: *Plomouc Bismarkova 1*  
 6. Původní seznam v Bělehradě č. a. n.: *+ 23. 6. 1942.*  
 7. Vypraveno podle adresy: *Plomouc*  
 8. Adresa: *33*  
 9. Datum: *14*

Rudolf Zweig

USTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA - TRANSPORTY.  
 n. e. *1111*  
*Briess Alfred*  
 Datum narození: *15. 1. 1907*  
 Adresa před deportací: *Praha 10, Kalská 32*  
 1. transport: *18. 11. 1942*  
 2. transport: *11. 9. 1944*  
 W *921*  
 Ep - 157  
 Orelim

Alfred Briess

USTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA - TRANSPORTY.  
 n. e. *102104*  
*Briess Pavel*  
 Datum narození: *15. 1. 1899*  
 Adresa před deportací: *Holice, Siedlens 438*  
 1. transport: *4. VII 1942*  
 2. transport: *28. 7. 1942*  
 AAam *249*  
 AAy 20  
 2

Pavel Briess

USTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA - TRANSPORTY.  
 n. e. *102105*  
*Briessová Paula*  
 Datum narození: *6. 1. 1881*  
 Adresa před deportací: *Holice, Přerovská 6.*  
 1. transport: *- 8 VII 1942*  
 2. transport: *28. 7. 1942*  
 AAo *169.*  
 AAy 539  
 2

Paula Briessová nee Bünnl

USTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA - TRANSPORTY.  
 n. e. *102563*  
*Gräter Leopold*  
 Datum narození: *2. 1. 1868*  
 Adresa před deportací: *Plomouc, Želivská 2.*  
 1. transport: *4. VII 1942*  
 2. transport: *22. 10. 1942*  
 AAam *110*  
 30. 153  
 Trostky

Leopold Grützer

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

n. z. 102103

*Brüss-ová Hedvika*

rodná data: 7.12.1879

Adresa před deportací: *Plomouc, Ondřípkova 7.*

1. transport	2. transport
date: - 8. VII. 1942	date: 22.7.1942
AAO	AA 7 573
do: <i>645</i>	do: ?

Hedvika Brüssová née Deutsch

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

n. z. 85.977

*Moxlerová Markéta*

rodná data: 5.12.1922

Adresa před deportací: *BRNO 14, Vláckova 5*

HLÁSEN OPĚT DO EVIDENCE

1. transport	2. transport
date: 22. III. 1942	date: 1.10.1944
Ad	6 km - 1285
do: 714	do: <i>Časimír</i>

Markéta Moxlerová née Drexlerová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

n. z. 89.280

*Löfflerová Adela*

rodná data: 17.7.1880

Adresa před deportací: *BRNO 11, Táborská 193a*

1. transport	2. transport
date: <i>1942</i>	date: 23.4.1942
do: <i>1942</i>	do: <i>Al-177</i>
do: <i>1942</i>	do: <i>Čáslav</i>

Adela Löfflerová née Berger

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

n. z. 89.415

*Löwyová Marta*

rodná data: 22.4.1888

Adresa před deportací: *BRNO 18, Táborská 193a*

1. transport	2. transport
date: 28. I. 1942	date: 23.4.1942
do: <i>757</i>	do: <i>Čáslav</i>
do: <i>757</i>	do: <i>Čáslav</i>

Marta Löwyová née Berger



ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

n. z. 102359

*Gräberová Kamilla*

rodná data: 8.1.1873

Adresa před deportací: *Plomouc, Běnovická 6*

1. transport	2. transport
date: 4. VII. 1942	date: 22.10.1942
AAm	B1 104
do: <i>141</i>	do: <i>Třeboměř</i>

Kamilla Gräberová

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

n. z. 102102

*Brüss-ová Adela*

rodná data: 11.5.1876

Adresa před deportací: *Plomouc (ul. č. 6, bývalá 5.11)*

PŘEŽIL podle knihy "TEREZÍN"

1. transport	2. transport
date: 4. VII. 1942	date: /
AAm	do: /
do: 254	do: /

Adela Brüssová née Fried

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

n. z. 4382

*Brüss Dr. Bedřich*

rodná data: 22.3.1879

Adresa před deportací: *Kolař. II, Palatinova 16*

ZEMŘEL v LODŽI dne: 25.1.1942 poř. čís. sez.: 579 matr. čís.: 14653/42

1. transport	2. transport
date: 21. X. 1941	date: 21. srpna 42
B	do: <i>de Matičky</i>
do: 406	do: LODŽ

Dr. Bedřich Brüss

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

Číslo dle do Terezína z různých ústí

Schindler Julie

rodná data: 27.5.1878.

Adresa před deportací: *Dejvice na východě*

Číslo: *Bc* 908

date: 25. VIII. 1942

(převzaté transportní číslo: 217/IV-2)

Julie Schindler

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

a. z. 15.411

Drexler Emil

rodinná data: 13.7.1887

adresa před deportací: Brno, Na Ponávce 38.

1. transport	2. transport
dat.: 8 XII 1941	dat.: 6.9.1943
K	DI - 266
a. z. 370	dat.: Osvětim

Emil Drexler

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

a. z. 19415

Maier František

rodinná data: 17.5.1922

adresa před deportací: Brno, Na Ponávce 38

HLASET GPEJ  
EVIDENCE

1. transport	2. transport
dat.: 18 III 1942	dat.: 28.9.1944
Ac	Ek - 505
a. z. 105	dat.: Osvětim

František Maier Karteikarte  
Ghetto Theresienstadt

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

a. z. 119688

Wolf Jan

rodinná data: 6.5.1917

adresa před deportací: Nové Pázkov, u Brna

1. transport	2. transport
dat.: 4 7 V. 1942	dat.: 9.5.42
At	AX - 209
a. z. 1099	dat.: 4

Jan Wolf

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

a. z. 16288P

B. Mandl Bruno

rodinná data: 19.9.1912

adresa před deportací: Prostějov, ul. Fenišova 106/10

1. transport	2. transport
dat.: 4 VII 1942	dat.: 1.10.1944
AAM	EM 279
a. z. 627	dat.: Osvětim

Bruno Mandl

Date: 16.1.50 Bu. No. 7713 Stl.Jd. G O O 2/137

Name: JURMANN, Mendel File I O/21

BD 5.6.92 BP Buczacz Nat:statal.Jew

Next of Kin \_\_\_\_\_

Source of information "Verzeichnis der Wiener Juden"

Last kn. Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

CC: RECHT Buchenwald Arr. lib.

Transf. on \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Died on 6.11.39 in Buchenwald

Cause of death \_\_\_\_\_ 0.205

Buried on \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ 9.8

Grave \_\_\_\_\_ D.C.No. (71)

Remarks Ild.No. 399 page: 15

Mendel Jurmann

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

Osvětim dle data Teresina a odtahů osam.

Brill Marie

rodinná data: 11.3.1881

adresa před deportací: \_\_\_\_\_

Deportace na vychod: Císlo Bp - 270

dat.: 21. IX 1942

(převod transportní číslo: 267 - II/4)

Marie Brill née Hassler

Name: LÖWY, Ernst

geb. am: 17.8.94 in: \_\_\_\_\_ Nat: \_\_\_\_\_

Eingelief. in Gh. Theresienstadt am: 31.1.43 734 /Cp

von: Uhersky Brod

überstellt am: 6.9.43 (DI/Dm)

zum KL-Auschwitz

Beruf: Arbeiter

Transportlisten des Ghettos Theresienstadt

Ordner Nr. 16 Seite 43

Ernst Löwy

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

a. z. 109194

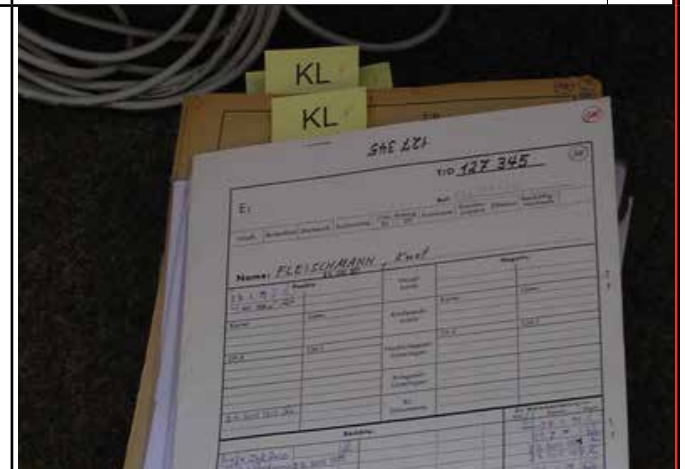
Schönová Helena

rodinná data: 17.10.1902

adresa před deportací: Uh. Březová 2. J. 804

1. transport	2. transport
dat.: 30 I 1943	dat.: 1.8.1943
Cp	OU - 869
a. z. 666	dat.: Osvětim

Helena Schönová







*Many thanks to Mike Regan for the beautiful, atmospheric black and white photographs taken at Auschwitz/Birkenau.*





**Design Production**

Mike Regan  
WELLINGTON

**ISBN 978-1-0670423-2-5**