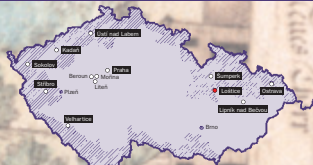


NEIGHBOURS WHO DISAPPEARED

Last Fates of the Jewish Community in Loštice



... Nobody wanted to be present so as not to be taken by mistake as well. One young Jewish woman asked me some time before to take a ring to her boyfriend in Ostrava. He was a sabbi but I did not get entangled much with the Jews. I knew that nothing nice was awaiting them. I was speaking to Mrs Fischer before the deportation transport. She was the only one together with her mother and her husband who returned from the concentration camp. She never wanted to speak about what she had experienced. When she happened to allude to it, she always said: 'Annie, you don't want to know it.'

... Anna Panzerová

František Kobza – teacher at Loštice Basic School

Among plenty of offers arriving at our school this one was different. Three girls in the highest class responded to it quite spontaneously. It made me very happy, as I myself would not dare to take part.

- We worked on the project together. Our goal was to find out as much information as possible about the fate of the Jewish community in our town. When we were carrying out the survey many people did not want to respond.
- First of all I built on the facts we were studied during history lessons, with experience of people who went through a concentration camp.
- I was interested in the Jewish identity before but I have learned about people's fates while doing my work ...
- When speaking to the people who were there it gave me shivers.

Veronika Náplavová, Nina Koudeľková, Terezie Taťounová

Alžběta Morgensternová was the eldest daughter of Morgenstern, a teacher. He married a Christian woman from Litovel and then they had one daughter and three boys.

... When the Germans arrived and father's family were taken into the deportation transports, we moved to Vlčice. There they burned our house to ashes around Easter of 1943. They took out my two-month brother wearing only a child's shirt from the burning house. I know who did this...

... We went to Loštice where they gave us only one room for seven people. There we remained till the autumn of 1944. One morning three men arrived and took away our father and five of us children separated from our mother as well. 'It will be better for them there' they told our mother who was speechless. I know that one of the men was from Zádlovice. He was sitting in a car as a driver. In Prague they separated us from our father and we probably went through some orphans' homes. Suddenly we found ourselves in the deportation transport. I had Pavel, who was slightly over one year, in my arms. Mary was leading our three-year-old brother, after him the others were following. They brought us to Terezin and snatched Pavel from my grip and separated us. I remained with Marie in the Kinderhaus. ... Then I had a girlfriend of my age called Běla there. She went mad as she was forced to observe her father's execution.

The end of Terezin was, for me and my sister, the most mysterious of all. It was 5 May and tanks were driving below the windows. The German women took to their heels and left us without food for two days. Mary and I escaped ... Our father, who was coming back from Germany then, found us. I still think it was a miracle. ... We reached Roudnice with a fever ... typhoid ... We arrived in Loštice in July. Our father started searching for our brothers. Three months later he found Petr in Česká Kamenice, then Jarek who was staying with some people in Olešnice. We did not see the youngest - Pavel - until 1947. That year our father also asked to change our surname. The Morgensterns, who had suffered so much, became the Malinas and they moved to Mohelnice.



The original appointments of the synagogue before its abolition by the Nazis.

The Jews had been living in Loštice since 1554. The cemetery, today partly overgrown with bushes, is among the oldest ones in the Czech Republic. "Originally there might have been about 300 - 400 graves here", says Ing. Miloš Drobny. "The oldest monuments are from the 17th century. There is a detached house standing just inside the gate, the morgue was pulled down, the orchard sprouts to some graves. The synagogue destroyed by the Nazis had a similar fate after 1949. The Jewish community in Olomouc had to sell it because of a shortage of money. After 1989 the town of Loštice offered us to re-buy the synagogue. We did not have the resources to do it. After the government foundation, which attends to dilapidated synagogues, was established, Loštice was chosen as a town with Jewish memorials. There is a hope that the synagogue will be restored one day. The town of Loštice has established the foundation "Synagogue" and asked voluntary donors for financial contributions to save this historic building. The Mayor of Loštice, Ing. Ladislav Škoda, adds: "The Federation of Jewish Communities of the Czech Republic wrote to us that its presidium had decided to transfer the synagogue in Loštice to its property free of charge. They notified us that they will welcome using the synagogue as a cultural place for exhibitions, concerts and similar events. ... If we bring it to a successful conclusion, it will at least symbolically pay the debt that Loštice owes to its Jewish fellow citizens. Unfortunately we do not know if at least some relatives have remained in the world. That is the other side of our work and of the same importance. The citizens who had their home in Loštice have disappeared. How to repay this after such a long period? Only through an act of humility that together we have to attempt."



In the publication on the history of Loštice published by the municipal authority in 1999 the report on the Morgensterns is missing. Five Morgenstern children and their father Richard Morgenstern belong to the saved Eckstein family, too. The children are alive and they are the only first-hand witnesses to the Loštice Holocaust.

Copy of the report of the Jewish community in Prague for Mrs Alžběta Dostálová (born Morgensternová, later Müllerová) in Mohelnice. We notify you that Mr Julius Morgenstern, b. 16.12.1865 and Mrs Luara Morgensternová, b. 10.7.1880, both last resident in Buzo - Křídlový pýle, Pukýřova 86, were on 1st March 1942 deported with deportation transport A1 - 141/142 to Terezín. Mr Morgenstern was deported on 25th April 1942, under number A1 - 382 from Terezín to Warsaw. Mrs Morgensternová was deported on 18th April 1942, under number A1 - 261 from Terezín to Opatowitz. Both of them did not come back. From 1st October 1941 they had to wear a Jewish badge. Mr Richard Morgenstern, b. 21.4.1910 and before the deportation resident in Loštice, was interned in the labour camp Hagberg in Prague at the end of 1944. He was deported to Terezín under number A1 - 1955 on 31st January 1945. After the end of the war he came back. From 1st October 1941 he had to wear a Jewish badge. His children: Alžběta, b. 11.10.1916, Jaroslav, b. 25.4.1940, Marie, b. 9.8.1918, Pavel, born 18.10.1943, Petr, b. 7.2.1942 all of them last resident in Loštice were on 7th March 1945 deported with deportation transport No. A1 - 7 - 11/32/33/34/35 to Terezín. After the end of the war they came back.



The map of Loštice from 1727 Emperor Charles VI ordered in the so-called translocation rescript of 1726 to move the Jewish dwelling houses to special separated areas. As the new houses were too expensive and the suggestion to build a new parish church somewhere else was rejected, the manorial nobility managed to exchange houses. The Jews exchanged the houses around the church for similar Christian ones at the opposite side of the town. On the map the exchange of the Christian and Jewish houses is marked.

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