

# NEIGHBOURS WHO DISAPPEARED

## Stříbro



### Jewish Small Gate

A ghetto in the true sense of the word was not created in Stříbro. In this context only the so-called Jewish Small Gate is mentioned which was in the southeast part of the town, in the inner city compounds. It is a simple barrel vaulted small gate from times of the second half of the 18th century.

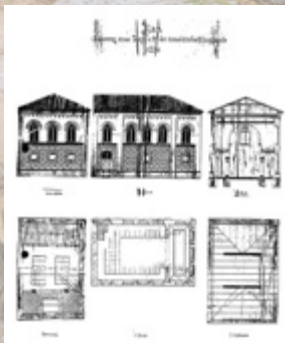
*"And furthermore, it must be said, that according to the existing order it is not desirable that one people would be submitted to another people, that this would subjugate the other as God created every people for its own self ... for submitting one people to another is not in accordance with the order of things existing, which is necessary. Because there is a need for any people to be free ..."*

**Rabbi Low: Necach Jisrael (Eternity of Israel)  
Chapter 1, Prague 1599**



You cannot find this photograph in my work. It appeared just after finishing the project. Eva is in the middle and my grandmother is second from the left.

*I do not have any ancestors of Jewish origin. But my grandmother told me she had had a Jewish girlfriend. Her name was Eva. They attended the same class and were inseparable friends. When according to the law Eva had to leave the school my grandmother risked her life and visited her secretly. She taught her what Eva missed at school and at night they used to go for walks. Then Eva was transported to Terezin and was killed together with her mother. When my grandmother had a baby girl she did not think twice about naming the child after her friend... Eva. What is more, most of my grandmother's classmates have daughters of the same name. All of them named their daughters in honour of her so that she could live on with them.*



*My goal was to understand better the antipathy and distrust of a considerable majority of Christians to Jews. I had planned that after having traced a Jewish citizen I would speak to him and this way I would learn if people tell lies when they say that Jews are simply Jews and they do not belong with us. I have never believed this, after all they are the same as we are—of flesh and blood, they came from and will go to exactly the same place as us. We have the same and everything in common. I wanted to prove that A. Hitler and many others were not right. But my enthusiasm for the work was dampened by the reality. Not a single Jew lives in Stříbro and its vicinity any more. The only weak connection is the one with the Weil family. The grandfather, who is now dead, was Jewish. But he married a Christian woman so their descendants (grandchildren) are not of Jewish origin any more. What is more I live in the region of Western Bohemia. After Hitler's rise to power and his approaching entry into Czechoslovakia, the Jews were the first who moved from this area. When the war was over only a few people came back. In fact there was only one - Mr Artur Weil. What has been left is dilapidated synagogues, came-teries... sometimes only documents saying that at certain spots "something" used to stand.*



The construction plan of the synagogue from the year 1878 according to the design of master-builder in Stříbro, Andreas Dauting.

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