



Vera's home city



**Vera as a baby
with her father**

“I was born on 29th January 1930 in Prague and grew up in a small town called Klatovy. We lived in a large flat in the main street and employed a nanny and a cook. My father was a lawyer and also the head of the Jewish community in the town. My mother was a doctor. When I was born my mother was still finishing her studies in Prague so I was brought up by my father and nanny.”





Vera's school in Klatovy
(Vera is the girl under the x)

“I was an only child but had lots of school friends. I went to an all girls’ primary school and walked to school every day. I spoke Czech but had to learn German when my grandmother came to live with us in 1934.”





Vera's gym class
(Vera is the girl under the x)



**Vera visiting the
mountains**

“I had a happy childhood and remember going to dance and gym classes and having French lessons. I also remember wonderful holidays visiting the Tatra mountains and another time when we went on a boat to Lapland and Scandinavia.

I was quite a naughty child and on one occasion I remember taking some large scissors and cutting up my mother's dress because I didn't want her going out for the evening with my father without me.”



Osobní popis

Signalement - Personbeschreibung

Zaměstnání } *studující*
Profession } *étudiant*
Beschäftigung }

Rodiště a datum } *Praha*
narození } *29 / I 1930*
Lieu et date de nais-
sance }
Geburtsort und Da-
tum der Geburt }

Bydliště } *v Klatovech*
Domicile }
Wohnort }

Obličej } *obličej - ovale*
Visage }
Gesicht }

Barva očí } *šedá - grise*
Couleur des yeux }
Farbe der Augen }

Barva vlasů } *hnědá - brune*
Couleur des cheveux }
Farbe der Haare }

Zvláštní znamení } */*
Signes particuliers }
Besondere Kennzeichen }

Děti - Enfants - Kinder
Iméno Stáří Pohlaví
Nom - Name Age - Alter Sexe - Geschlecht

Manželka
Femme - Ehegattin



Podpis majitele

Signature du titulaire - Unterschrift
des Inhabers

Věra - Helga Lohmeyerová

a jeho manželky

et de sa femme - und seiner Ehegattin

Okresní hejtmán:
chef de district:



Podpis úředníka vydávajícího cestovní pas:
Signature de l'agent délivrant le passeport:
Unterschrift des den Paß ausstellenden Beamten:

J. Jurek

Vera's passport

“One day my mother met me after school and she took me to a little park across the road and told me that as a Jewish family we were in danger and it wasn’t safe for us to be in Czechoslovakia anymore. She said that the rest of the family couldn’t get permission to leave but that I could go to England on a Kindertransport.”





Gifts given to Vera

“When I found out that I was coming to England, I went to the village where my nanny lived and she gave me some rosary beads to take with me. My boyfriend Arnošt gave me a little wooden heart with two love birds on it. I had never heard of England. I thought it was very exciting but I also felt a bit scared; I had mixed feelings.”





Prague train station

“I remember very clearly the gloom of the station. It was horrible that my parents weren’t allowed on the platform. I didn’t know anybody else and had to go onto the train by myself. My last sight of my parents was them stood behind the barrier, waving white handkerchiefs, while I looked out of the train window.”





Vera with Dutch friends of her parents

“When we got out of Czechoslovakia into Germany, my uncle and auntie got on the train and stayed with me until they had to leave at the Dutch border. Dutch friends of my parents met the train at the Hook of Holland and they took a photograph of me holding a doll that they’d given me.”





Liverpool Street train station, London

“My first memory of England was sitting on Liverpool Street station hearing announcements in a language I couldn’t understand and seeing children being collected and thinking that nobody was going to take me. Finally, a lady came and took me and two other children. She spoke German which I was pleased about because I had to ask her to stop the car so that I could be sick.”





Vera after her arrival in Britain

“First of all I went to a vicarage because the people who had said they would take me were on holiday. Life in England was very different from home and a lot of British customs and habits were strange, which I had to get used to. I couldn’t speak English and I had to communicate with just signs. Then I found that the food was different – I’d never tasted white bread before. Everything was just strange – the language, the food, and the way people were expected to behave wasn’t exactly the same as I’d been used to. All sorts of things which at home had been normal suddenly were different and often I felt that I wasn’t being correct anymore. All of this was pretty bewildering.”





Vera's foster parents



Vera with her foster sister Betty

“After a few weeks, my foster family returned from their holiday and I went to live with them in Bury St Edmunds. It was so different to be part of a family that wasn’t one’s own but they were kind and they had a daughter who was a few years older than me. They only expected to look after me for a short while but I stayed with them until I left school.”





A postcard from Vera's parents
(The writing reads 'Our darling!')

“Nearly every day I got letters from home and I kept receiving these until the war started. I felt hopeful that my parents would escape and I would join them.”





Vera's wedding



Vera with her husband Avram

“When the war ended I thought I would see my parents again but I received a letter from the Red Cross telling me that none of my family had survived. I had to rebuild my life on my own and later became a teacher and married. I now have two children and four grandchildren.”

