

**Irena Kirkland**

**RG-50.106\*0029**

August 8, 1925 - born Irena Neumann in Prague, Czechoslovakia

no religious education, did not know she was Jewish

father was an architect and builder, mother died in 1926

Women and children evacuated from Prague before the Munich pact. After the pact was signed, she and twin sister Alena and step-mother returned to Prague. Then told she was Jewish not allowed to go to school, had private teachers, movies forbidden

1941 - wore Jewish star which was very frightening, worked in office of the Jewish community center

May/ June 1943 - 5000 people, including her family, told to report to a collection center

train to Theresienstadt, lived in barracks, worked in the fields, then in factory making wooden beds for the barracks, got encephalitis

October 1943 - father got her and her sister's name removed from transport list to

Auschwitz - those people were gassed

November 1944 - she and Alena ordered to go on an transport to Auschwitz

they were stripped, shaved, stood in the cold for appels, smelled burning flesh

Sent to munitions factory near Sachsen Chemnitz, part of Flossenburg

stood in appels, watery soup, Russians were getting near,

put in open cattle cars, strafed by American planes

May 1945 - taken to Theresienstadt, found parents, Russian soldiers took them to Prague, moved into old apartment, first bath in 2 years

October 1945 - started at university, jailed by Communists as she was secretary of the Social Democrat Student Association

Released after refusing to sign paper saying that she would be a spy

1949 - family went to Israel

1956 - came to US