

## **RG-50.285.0032**

### **Summary**

Friederike Maria Lorenz-Hartl was born on December 6, 1929, in Mattersburg. As one of four children, her childhood is full of fond memories. Her family was generally artistically inclined; her father played several instruments and founded a music school. Her mother played the piano, the violin, and the guitar. Everyone in her family played at least one instrument. Her father earned a living by working as the headmaster of the local vocational school. Her mother was the executive assistant of the district commissioner.

As a child, Lorenz-Hartl did not have contact with other Jewish children. Not because she didn't want to, but because there weren't many girls her age who were interested in playing with her. There was one Jewish boy in her grade. Everything that the family needed as of food, textiles, or household items, they bought in the Jewish stores that were all located in the Judengasse, a lively and friendly place to go to and buy fresh vegetables, bread, and fruit. Lorenz-Hartl and her father used to go to visit the teachers in the Talmud school to talk and spend a few moments together. Everyone liked her father, for he was amiable and always trustworthy. She remembers sometimes looking through the windows of the Synagogue and marveling at the altar and the beautiful inside. She feels saddened that the Nazis blasted it to pieces. After that, the town's people were quick to come and carry away the bricks to use for their own houses.

The mayor, Gifi (sp), was steadfast to make the town Judenfrei (free of Jew) as quickly as possible. Hence, right after the Anschluss, all Jews were expelled from the town. Lorenz-Hartl remembers seeing men kneeling in front of the circuit court and being forced by the Nazis to scrub the pavement. Those men were not Jewish, but politicians.

Roma and Sinti were living in Mattersburg also. They lived on the outskirts of town. Generally, everyone was getting along with them.

After all of the Jews were forced to leave, their homes and businesses were either destroyed or occupied by some of the people of Mattersburg.

To attend the Bund Deutscher Mädchen (BDM) was mandatory. Lorenz-Hartl did not want to go. She begged her parents not to send her there. All they did at the BDM was to march and sing. In the evenings, they marched through the streets while singing songs. Most importantly, at 6 AM, everyone had to greet the flag with the Hitler salute.

After the Anschluss, German soldiers moved in with Lorenz-Hartl's family. One of them was a teacher. Her brothers often tried to receive some of the English language radio stations, which was dangerous. The Nazis used to drive by the houses with detector antennas with which they were able to catch anyone who would illegally tap into foreign radio programming. Her older brother served as a radio operator in Stalingrad. After the end of the war, he came back home unharmed. Lorenz-Hartl's war-years were marked by hiding in catacombs or basements during bomb-raids, and by fearing the Russians who came into town and raped the women. She and her mother fled to Munich to hide and live with her sister.

Lorenz-Hartl's father died in 1946 in the hands of the Russians.

Some of the Jews came back to Mattersburg but ended up leaving again. There are two Jewish houses and the cemetery left in Mattersburg.

Translated & Summarized by Maria F. Baker