

**RG-50.407.0255**

**Summary**

**Livia (Lilli) Milman** – Born February 29, 1928 in Puchow, Czechoslovakia (now Púchov, Slovakia). Father – Leopold Buchler ; Mother – Paula Deutchenbaum from Breznitz ( ? ). Brothers Ferdinand (six years older) and Otto (3 years older) Family on transport in May 1942. None survived.

**Before the War** – Father served in WWI for three years. Then came back to Puchow, started successful butcher shop. Mother more religious than father; lit candles, celebrated major holidays; father worked on Sat. Older brothers went to Gymnasium in Trencin until 1938-39 when Jews expelled from schools. Lilli in primary school until Jews not allowed then Jewish school was started. After 1938, house often raided by police; father imprisoned for short time.

**During the War** - Father's store taken over; he had to work for the manager. Parents were rounded up for transport and Lilli went to stay with her aunt. Hid on the roof eaves for 10 days, but then was reported. Hid in cemetery till police left; then uncle took her to another village, Neetera ( ? ) Stayed (paid money) with wife of a border policeman since those homes never raided. Then went to Evangelic boarding school (Internot?) in Madra. Many Jewish children in school though they all converted. Priest let her into school but no room in boarding school, so director of school helped her find a house next to school. Lilli let her uncle know and he gave money and brought his daughter Eva there too. Finished one-year 1942-43, then repeated year 43-44, then director let Lilli into her home to take care of her ailing husband. Eva told Lilli about Germans surrounding school, but Lilli stayed and Eva went back to school and was caught and shot. Using her false papers (Marienka), Lilli took train to Bratislava where she found her cousin and became a maid in Bratislava. From there went to Piercegeni ( ? ) as a maid and then went to mountains to be with cousin. Stayed in bunkers during day and partisans let them out at night to stay in homes of villagers. Bunker collapsed so ran to mountains. Took 7 days to fix, so stayed in hollowed out haystack during day. Bunker rebuilt and stayed there to end of war. Got money that parents left from a distant cousin who was married to a non-Jewish woman. When war ended, Lilli went back to Puchow, then to Bratislava.

**After the War** – Stayed in Bratislava from 1945-49; completed HS and stayed with the director of the school she was in during the war (in Madra). Graduated, took 4 semesters of college and then went to Australia in November 1949. Had all the property that had been her parents; sold some for money, but had to sign it over rest to Communist government when she left. Traveled to Vienna, then Genoa, then reached Australia. Met her husband (from Poland) on ship and married him in 1950. Worked first in factory, but worked her way to different jobs – did payroll, owned a deli, realtor. Husband (died in 1978) became a builder.

Lilli's Message - Live modestly; respect each other and don't spoil children.