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Summary

Marie Kryštofová, born in Čehovice, Czechoslovakia to a Romani family. One brother (half-brother?) and 6 sisters. Father a horse dealer. Lived in Tvarovice (?). At some unnamed point, the Germans came and took father to Auschwitz. The rest of the family sent to Hodonínka [ph] along with other Romanies and Ukrainians. Others in town sent to Auschwitz. In Hodonínka, they were beaten and once had to stay overnight with corpses. Guards knocked food out of their hands with whips. She worked in the kitchen and one sister worked as a nurse. They were beaten by Czech “cop,” Vyroba, who also was a doctor. Czech guards “worse than the Germans.” At other times she dug rocks with a pickax. Everyone bathed together when allowed, men and women, which was “humiliating.” Prisoners stole food from one another. Dead prisoners buried in ditches. One pregnant woman ate the Commandants cat raw and was beaten. Commandant later given a life prison sentence. At another point, Vyroba and the Germans began selecting prisoners to be shipped to Auschwitz. Marie was spared when Vyroba told her sister to hide her. Germans always looking for Slovak Romanies. Dead also thrown in Romani wagons, left for days and then buried in the forest. She says girls were taken to nearby houses by the Germans and “abused.” Somehow, another sister living in Brno, brought them food. Her mother gave birth to sister Sona while in camp (early on, presumably as father taken away immediately). Later she, her mother and “some” sisters released to a prison in Brno. Other prisoners sent to Auschwitz in cattle cars. Postwar, Marie and sister Kveta worked in fields in Pivim. Mother remarried and returned to Tvarovice. Under Communist rule, Marie waited 8 years for her own apartment and lived there for 8 more years before moving to her current domicile. She worked for OP clothing factory in Prostejov until retirement.