

BLOSGBROVÁ, Drahomíra
RG-50.675*0041

Abstract

Drahomíra Blosgebrová was born in 1934 in the small village of Zákřov, Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic). When she was 10 years old, German soldiers arrived in the village and set fire to the family's house. Drahomíra, her father, and one of her two brothers went to a neighbor's house filled with German soldiers. One took her father, and Drahomíra never saw him again. A soldier communicated to the captives that in the morning, they would either be killed or set free. They were set free and another neighbor took the captives to Lazníky.

Her father, Drahomíra's brother Vladimír, and 17 other men were arrested, beaten, taken to a cabin that the soldiers set on fire. All the arrested men burned to death.

The main cause of this incident was the mayor of Zákřov denounced people he believed were partisans or committed alleged offenses such as listening to the radio, Drahomíra says.

The soldiers explained later that their house had been burned by mistake. They had intended to burn the home of the neighbors, the Uherovís, suspected of harboring a Jewish family, the Volfovís. The Jewish girl they were hiding, Felicita Volfová, emigrated to America after the war, but the father and son died.

The aunt looked after Drahomíra and her brother Oto. Drahomíra had mental problems until age 16. She was always afraid and always alone. She and her brother were in their 80s at the time of this interview.

Oral History interviews, Drahomíra Blosgebrová

1-10 min.

Drahomíra Blosgebrová was born in 1934 in Zákřov, Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic) to Anna and František, who had sons Oto and Vladimír. Zákřov was a small village with few residents who were only Czech. Drahomíra heard no German as a child.

When she was 10 years old, Oto was 13 and Vladimír was 16, German military cars arrived in Zákřov one night and drove everyone home. The same thing had happened a year earlier, and their mother passed away, therefore the whole family was scared. The eldest brother was working at a farm at the time and the neighbor's daughter was engaged to marry. Drahomíra's house was on fire one night when she and Oto were in bed. Their father grabbed them and ran outside the burning house. Her grandfather wanted to go back and grab somethings, but her father would not let him. They went to a neighbor's house, where the Germans were waiting and watching. Immediately, one of the German soldiers pulled her out of her father's arms and gave her to the neighbor's daughter, her so-called aunt. Her brother was not there. The German soldier grabbed her father and Drahomíra never saw him again. After a while, her aunt took her to the kitchen, where she found her brother and some other village residents. A German soldier told them that in the morning, they would either be killed or set free, and he stood guard over them all night.

10-20 min.

In the morning, the people in the kitchen were set free. A neighbor arrived with a wagon, and took all of them to Lazníky. Drahomíra's father and other men were arrested. When she saw her house, it was in ruins. She found out that her grandfather had gone back inside the house, and a German soldier shot him in the legs. She still doesn't know whether he was sent to a hospital.

And what happened with her father and all the men?

Vladimír, the older brother, was going home from the movies when the incident occurred. From far away, he saw that Zákřov was on fire. The German soldiers arrested him and his friends on the village border and put them with other arrested men. Drahomíra's aunt asked the Germans what would happen to the arrested men. The German soldiers told her they had to re-educate the men. That meant torture. After the Germans beat them up, the men including Drahomíra's father and brother Vladimír were shoved into a small cabin that the

German soldiers set on fire. All 19 men were burned alive. And all was left of them were bones and ash, put together in one coffin. Drahomíra and Oto stayed with her aunt.

The main cause of this incident was the mayor of Zákřov denounced people he believed were partisans or committed alleged offenses such as listening to the radio. The names of denounced people were on a small paper.

When they asked the German soldiers why their house was burned down, the Germans said it was a mistake. The house that was supposed to be burned down was their neighbor's, named Uherovi, because they were hiding a Jewish family named Volfovi. The Volfovis had been hiding in the woods, but after a while they got scared and stayed with the Uherovis.

20-30min.

The Jewish girl was Felicita Volfová. Her brother, Oto, was once caught in their garden, but Drahomíra isn't sure. During the war she had no idea who the girl was. She knew that the Uherovis had two daughters, because they were friends with her. Whenever she had asked about Felicita, the Uherovis said she was family. Drahomíra had never discussed it with her parents. She does not remember much about Felicita. The Uherovis always told the German soldiers that she was family. After the war, Felicita went to America. Oto and his father died.

However, Drahomíra is not sure whether the soldiers were German or Russian. Her brother told her that the soldiers were from Russia, that they were Vlasovtsy (Russian Liberation Army). For Drahomíra, it was the same.

A traitor from Tršice, a man named Hodolík was sued, but they let him out shortly. They confiscated his house and it was offered to Drahomíra later, but she refused it. She didn't want the house in any case. The building was sold.

Drahomíra had mental problems until age 16. She was always afraid and always alone. She had no friends. This time was very hard for her.

Her aunt got a new house and the aunt's friend, Macháček, got a lodge, where Drahomíra went for four years.

30-37 min.

Her aunt looked after her and her brother Oto. Oto went to the military in Most, where he married and stayed there. He is now 84 years old, Drahomíra is 81.

What did the war mean to her?

There was little food. They didn't have access to the food that they normally ate, for example they loved pies, but there was no flour to make them. And they were always hungry.

Did she see any planes?

One plane crashed in the woods near her village, but they were too little to go there. Drahomíra was aware of the war, especially the things she heard about.

She has no idea when the Jewish family arrived, but she thinks they had been hiding in the village for about a year. After the war, she heard that they had been hiding in Tršicích. There were a lot of Jewish families also in Tršice, and a lot of people knew about them.

On the night of the attack, when they were in the kitchen with the soldier, how did they communicate?

They didn't know any German and the soldier couldn't speak Czech. They communicated through pointing and signing.