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Summary

Hanus Weber, born 1931 in Moravska Ostrava in Czechoslovakia, discusses his father Wilhelm Weber, his mother Ilse Weber and three-years-younger brother Tommy; his father having a collection agency; his mother being a radio journalist and having published three children's books; his mother having TBC in her joints; not being aware he was Jewish before the war; his parents fasting on Yom Kippur; being impressed by the uniforms of the German occupation force and their music; in 1939, his parents sending him to England on the last of four train transports of children from Prague, organized by Nicholas Winton; living with his uncle in London; his mother's Swedish pen pal Lilian Löwenadler organizing his travel to Sweden; staying in a summer house north of Halmstad, Sweden; the Swedish poet Karin Boye sometimes staying with them; in 1942, her parents and brother were sent to Theresienstadt; his mother working at the children's hospital in the camp; his father working as a gardener; his parents being optimistic about the future when there were theater plays and food packages; his father smuggling in weapons to the camp, storing them in the fire stations; his mother volunteering to go to Auschwitz, where she was told she could meet her relatives; his mother and brother dying in the gas chambers; after the war, meeting a prisoner who was a corpse carrier in the camp and said he had met his mother before she went into the gas chamber; his father working in the Gleiwitz labor camp in Poland; when the Russians approached, hiding under rotten potatoes in a labor camp for three days; his father waking up, the guards being gone and the prisoners dead; his father hiding in the forest, hearing Czech voices and being liberated by Red Army soldiers led by his father's brother; his father contacting him in Stockholm; in 1945, returning to Prague, having forgotten how to speak Czech; his father later marrying a woman he met in Theresienstadt.