

Frieda Soury

Ostrava, Czechoslovakia
1929 -



1942 - 1943:

Frieda grew up in Ostrava, Czechoslovakia, a community that was almost all Jewish. When the Nazis began deporting Jewish children of all ages, Frieda was spared at first because she was a "mischling," only half-Jewish. Mischlings were not deported until they turned 14. On her birthday in 1943, despite her non-Jewish mother's begging for her to be spared, she was sent to Theresienstadt, a concentration camp in Czechoslovakia.

1943 - 1945:

In Theresienstadt, Frieda was assigned to a room with more than 20 other girls. She remembers that the Jewish girls in her room came and went. She later learned that the Jewish girls were deported to Auschwitz or other camps while she and the other mischling remained in Theresienstadt. Frieda worked as a slave laborer, slept in over-crowded, bug-infested barracks, and may have starved to death if she hadn't risked her life to steal potatoes. Despite the unimaginable cruelty and harsh conditions, Frieda made friends and even had her first kiss.

1945:

Theresienstadt was liberated by the Russians in May 1945. After liberation, Frieda returned to Ostrava. Almost none of her Jewish classmates had survived the Holocaust. Family members returned with nothing left of their loved ones. Frieda had one precious class photo. She cut out images to give to the family members of her classmates.

Frieda moved to Israel and later came to the United States, settling in Seattle in 2005.



5th grade class. Frieda is standing just to the left of the teacher, second row from the top, 1941.

The artifacts on display were donated by local survivors and their families.

Explore the Holocaust Center for Humanity's artifact collection to learn more about Frieda's experience.

- Frieda's class photo
- Star of David
- Money from Theresienstadt

Learn more about Frieda and other survivors who came to the Pacific Northwest at:

HolocaustCenterSeattle.org/Survivor-Encyclopedia

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