



Trude's Story, Chapter 6

Finding out about my father was reasonably easy because he was documented in the Auschwitz documents so I've got all the proof, when he arrived and when he died. As far as my mother is concerned she is one of the 2 million people who are still unaccounted for and although I have made some progress and I've found that she was still alive as late as December 1944 I haven't quite found out what happened at the end, it's quite hard work is that. Whether I shall achieve finding out I don't know but I'm still trying.

When my brother died we came across a letter which had come from a friend of my mother's who had actually put in a lot of information I'd not been aware of, that mother had divorced my father, I think I was vaguely aware of that, I did not realise that she had remarried, and while I was looking for her under my maiden name of Feldmann she of course had remarried and got a different name. So it's only when I got this different name, which was only about 2 or 3 years ago, that I started looking under that name. Her second husband was somebody who was 25 years older than she was, he must have known her all her life because they were both born in the same village and it was a well known fact that single people were much more readily picked up by the Nazis than people who were married so in essence he married her to give her protection. There were other complications because he had of course been a Jew who'd been baptised into the evangelical church, the Protestant church, and my mother also before she married him was baptised into the evangelical church. Unfortunately in Slovakia which is a very strongly Catholic country that was the wrong Christian arm they were baptised into so they were at quite a lot of danger. Now I have been able to follow what happened to him, I found information through Bad Arolsen in Germany that he was actually deported to Sachsenhausen and I have seen the announcement of the death in those documents. But I have no documentary evidence after the 17th of December of what happened to my mother. On that date she and her husband were taken to a transit camp called Sered in Slovakia near Bratislava. He then gets transported but I haven't been able to find her on any of the lists of either Theresienstadt, Auschwitz wasn't functioning at that time any more or at Ravensbruck which was a special women's camp. So I've still got to look.

This photograph shows my grandma sitting in the middle with her 9 children, my father was the eldest of the 9, and he died in Auschwitz, another brother Karl died in Auschwitz, another brother in Budapest, Frigyes, he survived, and another brother Sandor who was a doctor went to Russia and he came back fighting with the Russians and he survived although his wife and child were killed. Another sister who lived in Budapest, that was rather a sad story because her daughter worked for the Judenrat in other words she had to pick the people, or help pick the people who were transported, she had to pick her mother who then died in Auschwitz and also another cousin who died on one of the marches. Now one other sister the youngest sister of my brother married an American in 1927 and she did her utmost to get the family out. She succeeded in bringing two of her sisters both of whom had lived in Vienna with their families and they became refugees in America.