

Biography of Mrs. Alena Staňková

Mrs. Alena Staňková, back then Vyhnisová, was born on September 25, 1939. Little Alenka lived with her parents in Kaznějov. They lived a peaceful life until Gestapo found out that her parents were involved in the assassination of Heydrich. The Gestapo arrived for her father and after a short time they captured her mother as well. Alenka's Mom gave Alenka to Aunt Maria, Dad's sister.

Little Alice, knowing nothing, lost not only her parents, but also her little unborn brother. They all were killed in Mauthausen. For the three-year-old Alenka, the Gestapo came to take her to her aunt's place and took her to an internship camp called Jenerálka, where she stayed for 2 years. During these two years, she met here her new friend Nada, who was taking care of Alice. This camp was used mainly for the children of people who took part in the assassination of Heydrich. There were about forty in the camp, along with Alenka.



Here she earned the nickname "Angry Alenka", because when she arrived to Jenerálka she started crying and she wanted her mom because when she was taken away from her aunt in Kaznějov, Gestapo promised that she will see her mom there. Older children were not allowed to learn at all in Jenerálka, but they could receive from their loved ones packages that contained for example a toothbrush or a toy but Alice was the only one that didn't get packages because her family didn't know where she was. Thanks to Nada's aunt, Alenka's aunt found out where she is and started to send her packages. After two years at Jenerálka, in 1944, she was transferred with the other children to another camp called Svatobořice, where two more new girls joined them. It was divided into two parts: boy's and girl's. In this camp adult female prisoners started taking care of the kid, one of them was professor Marklová, she was teaching the kids even though there was a strict ban from the Gestapo. Professor Marklová read to small childrens such as Alenka fairy tales and borrowed them books. Thanks to that Alenka learned how to read. The kids were in Svatobořice for exactly a year. Before leaving to Prague they stayed in Turovec and Plané nad Lužnicí for a few days. When they arrived to Prague, the children's thought that they would meet their parents because no one told them that they were dead. Alenka's aunt took care of her, they wanted to adopt her but her grandpa said no.

Mrs. Staňková, despite everything she went through, graduated from high school with a high school diploma and then studied Faculty of Business at the University of Economics. She graduated from college in her third year. In these days Mrs. Staňková travels around schools and tells her story. She visits every year Mauthausen on the anniversary of the execution of her parents. She still meets her friends from the war. Mrs. Alena Staňková has a daughter, a son, grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Her motto is: "Children should not be harmed, children need to have parents, their own."

Translated by Julie Polášková on the base of the story prepared by Kateřina Zemánková.