

Rudolf Krauskopf



This is a picture of my uncle Rudolf Krauskopf. The picture was taken in Prague right after World War II. Uncle Rudolf was born in 1898 in Prague. His wife was Jewish, Aunt Lilly, born Rubinova in 1905. They had two sons, Pavel and Jiri. Jiri was born in 1926 and Pavel nine years later. Jiri and Pavel were like brothers to me, and my aunt meant more to me than my own mother. I loved her very much. They were my main family. Uncle Rudolf used to say: 'Every normal person marries a woman and has as many children with her as he himself wants. Instead of two children I have three, and instead of one woman two.' And then he would explain it: 'When we buy something for my children, Ruth has to get the same. And when my wife is having something sewn for her, the same has to be sewn for Ruth as well.' Rudolf and his family lived in Prague. At first they lived with us in our house, but then they moved into a beautiful, large apartment, which was also in Vysehrad. They belonged to the wealthier part of society. Later Rudolf took over the factory from my grandfather, and proved to be very good at it. Rudolf would tell how Grandpa first sent him to some associate, who also owned a factory, so he could get himself some work experience. When Rudolf arrived for his first day of work, he was wearing a fancy suit and a hat. He came, introduced himself, and asked what it was that he was supposed to do. And the person told him: 'Well, in the

first place, take those clothes off, put on some coveralls, and then you're going to go sweep the courtyard.' Uncle Rudolf was imprisoned in Terezin in the Small Fortress. Then he was transported directly to Auschwitz, but he didn't get into the family camp as we did, but into the camp where normal prisoners were interned. In the confusion that ensued during the occupation of Auschwitz, my uncle Rudolf somehow got away and went over to Svoboda's army, with which he then returned home. Immediately after the war, my uncle was given an apartment on Jungmannova Street in Prague, and after a few years even got into his old apartment building in Vysehrad, when a free apartment came up in it.