

Hana Weinerova At School



In this picture from sometime in the 1930s, is my cousin Hana Weinerova from Pacov. She's sitting in the first row at the far left - the photograph is evidently from Pacov, where Hana had her picture taken with her class at school. As a child, I used to like going to visit Uncle Viktor, Aunt Marie and the girls during the holidays, and I used to play with Hanicka, whom I liked very much. Hana also had an older sister, Elsa, who also used to play with us occasionally. Uncle Viktor had a leather goods factory; they used to make purses and suitcases. The factory burned down, and my uncle had to take out a large mortgage. We later lived with my aunt and cousins in Terezin during the war, where my uncle died. Everyone in the family perished in Auschwitz during the war, as they were included in the first so-called family transport. For six months prisoners in the family camp had so-called "Sonderbehandlung" or "special treatment" - families weren't split up, they for example didn't shave our hair off, and they isolated us in camp BIIb. However, "Sonderbehandlung" was planned for only six months, followed by death in the gas chambers. The first transport was gassed without prior selection in the night from 8th to 9th of March 1944, on President Masaryk's birthday.