



Fritzie Fritzshall Timeline

August 1929 – Fritzie Weiss is born in Klucharky, Czechoslovakia

Mid-1930s – Fritzie’s father, Herman Weiss, immigrates to the United States for economic opportunities and to create a pathway for Fritzie, her mother, and her two brothers to follow him.

November 1938 – Klucharky comes under Hungarian control. Jews are persecuted and discriminated against, and Jewish men are conscripted for forced labor.

Fall 1939 – Herman sends for the family, but Fritzie’s mother fears wartime attacks on transatlantic shipping.

Spring 1944 – Klucharky is occupied by the Nazis. Fritzie and her family are deported to a ghetto, and two days later they are sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau, a concentration camp and killing center in occupied Poland. Fritzie’s grandfather did not survive the journey.

Spring 1944 – Upon arrival at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Fritzie and her family undergo *selektion*, the process of sorting concentration camp prisoners to determine those who would perform forced labor and those who would be killed immediately. Fritzie is selected to work. Her mother and younger brothers are sent to the gas chambers.

Spring 1944 – Fritzie’s aunt Bella, her mother’s younger sister, recognizes Fritzie in the barracks. Aunt Bella protects Fritzie and helps her to survive.

Summer 1944 – Fritzie and Aunt Bella are separated during a *selektion*. Fritzie is one of 600 women sent on a work detail to a factory; she never sees Aunt Bella again.

January 1945 – Fritzie and the other women from the factory are sent on a Death March to prevent capture by Allied forces. They are liberated by the Soviet Army.

Winter 1945 – Fritzie returns to Klucharky to search for surviving family members. She eventually moves in with a surviving uncle.

1946 – With her father’s help, Fritzie immigrates to the United States and reunites with her father. She later marries Norman Fritzshall, and they have one son.

Glossary Terms

Death March: The forced evacuation of concentration camp prisoners, primarily on foot but occasionally by train or boat, toward the German Reich. Prisoners were evacuated to prevent their capture by Allied forces.



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Deportation: The forced relocation of Jews to ghettos, concentration camps, killing centers, or other locations to be controlled or killed.

Gefilte fish: An appetizer of poached, minced fish, traditionally served in Jewish homes in Eastern Europe.

Kugel: A baked casserole usually made with egg noodles or potato, traditionally served in Jewish homes in Eastern Europe.

Liberation: Term used to describe the freeing of Jews and other persecuted peoples from Nazi control, usually by Allied armies.

SS: Schutzstaffel, or Protection Squads. Originally established as Adolf Hitler's personal bodyguard, the SS would be tasked with leading the "Final Solution," the murder of European Jews. In this role, members of the SS were responsible for operating the Killing Centers.