



Vera Schaufeld



When Vera Schaufeld was a little girl she lived with her mother and father. Vera's mother was a doctor and her father was a lawyer. Vera had lots of friends.

The Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia, the country Vera lived in. The Nazis arrested Vera's father. He had not done anything bad. The Nazis arrested him for being Jewish and they would not let Vera's mother be a doctor.

Vera remembers that the teacher stopped seeing her as Vera, and instead they just

saw a Jew.

Vera's mother and father wanted her to escape from the Nazis on a train. They took her to the railway station but they were not allowed to go inside with her.

Vera went on the train without her mother and father. Vera's mother and father used their handkerchiefs to wave goodbye to Vera.

Vera arrived in England with lots of other children who had also escaped the Nazis by train. Vera did not think anyone would come and get her from the railway station.

Leonard and Nancy Faires were Christians who took Vera home from the railway station and cared for her.

Vera's mother and father sent her letters and presents, and sometimes they talked on the telephone. When the Second World War began Vera stopped hearing from her mother and father.

When the war ended Vera thought that she would see her mother and father again. But Vera's mother and father and all the other people in her family had been killed by the Nazis.

Watching her mother and father wave their handkerchiefs to say goodbye to her was the last time Vera ever saw them.

When Vera was older she wanted to meet other Jewish people. She went to Israel where she met her husband Avram. Here is a photo of Vera and Avram today:



Glossary:

Christian – ‘Christians’ are a group of people who share a religion called Christianity.

Czechoslovakia – ‘Czechoslovakia’ was a small country in the middle of Europe. Today the area of land that was ‘Czechoslovakia’ is two countries: Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Escape – When you ‘escape’ something you get away from it. When we use the word ‘escape’ we are usually talking about getting away from a bad thing.

Handkerchiefs – A ‘handkerchief’ is a square of material that people use to blow their noses on, or wipe their eyes.

Jewish – Jews are a group of people who share an ethnicity called Judaism. Judaism is also a religion, which most Jews follow. If you are a Jew people will call you ‘Jewish’.

Nazis – The ‘Nazis’ were a group of people in Germany who believed that they were better than everyone else. The ‘Nazis’ were racist, they wanted to kill people who were Jewish for being ‘different’ to them.