

יזכור

**IN MEMORY
OF THE LOST COMMUNITY OF
VLAŠIM IN BOHEMIA**

**ON THE ANNIVERSARY
OF THEIR DEPORTATION FROM
TABOR TO TEREZIN**

The Synagogue in Vlašim



Original building



Before final demolition

Introduction

Jews have lived in the provinces of Bohemia and Moravia for many hundreds of years, with the largest communities in Prague and Bruno.

Czechoslovakia was formed in 1918 at the end of the First World War and included both provinces.

According to the 1930 census there were 117,551 Jews in Bohemia and Moravia although by 1943 some 26,000 had managed to emigrate. Approximately 81,000 Jews were deported to Terezin in Czechoslovakia and other camps, of whom 10,500 survived.

Prior to 1938 there were some 350 synagogues in Bohemia and Moravia, many of which such as the synagogue in Vlašim were very small. Between 1938 and 1945 the Nazis destroyed 60 synagogues. The contents of at least 50 synagogues that were attacked in the pogrom of November 1938 were lost. About 300 synagogues remained and most were abandoned and left to decay.

During the Communist regime over 80 of these, including the synagogue in Vlašim, were demolished.

Vlašim

It is a small town in Central Bohemia, approximately 70km south east of Prague in the Province of Benesov and is not heavily industrialised.

Jews in Vlašim

A minor Jewish settlement is documented in the 16th century and again from the 18th century, with varying numbers. Jewish houses were always dispersed (in the late 18th century, 5 houses, with a sixth house granted in 1801). The modern religious community was established before the mid-19th century and existed until World War II.

Year 1570 = 1 family, 1702 nobody, 1724 = 4 families (with a prayer/meeting house for the neighbourhood), 1747-57 = 1 family, 1783-99 c. 5 families, 1840 = 9 families, 1880 = 172 people (6.5% of all residents), 1900 = 152 people (4.9% of all residents), 1930 = 67 people (1.8% of all residents).

The first synagogue, or resemblance to a prayer/meeting house burned down in 1850. In 1858 it was replaced by a new synagogue, built on the site of a demolished barracks on the northwest side of Benesovska Street, north of Palacky Square. The neo-Gothic building (built by Franz Neubauer of Vlašim) with a vaulted hall on the plan measuring 12.5 x 6.5 m, had long pointed windows with 6 distinctive spires between the windows, protruding above the roof. At the same time a new house for the grounds man was build next to the New Synagogue. After the second World War, the Czechoslovak Hussite Church from the Domašinská district, unsuccessfully sought to take-over the then unused Synagogue. In 1953 it was bought by the city and later served as a warehouse until it was demolished in 1984.

The cemetery was established in 1890 near the communal cemetery, northeast of the city, near the road leading to Pavlovic. In 1982 the descendants of the Prague Jewish community sold off almost all of the tombstones.

The names of only six rabbis are known:

1893 - 1894	Siegmund Pollak
1894 - 1898	Isidor Mueller
1900 - 1902	Eduard Schulhof
1903 - 1905	Vilem Edvard Klauber
1906 - 1922	Zikmund Kohn
after 1926	Viktor Taussig (perished in Shoah)

The Vlašim Jewish community united with Jewish communities from Trhový Štěpánov and Načeradec. Trhový Štěpánov was one of the oldest Jewish communities in the district of Vlašim. According to Rabbi Taussig, there was a Chevra Kaddisha founded there in 1438. From the same year there is the purchase contract for the cemetery. Some tombstones in this cemetery are up to 300 years old.

In Načeradec the Jewish community was formed in 1850 but had ceased to exist by 1919, when it joined with the Jewish community of Vlašim. The Jewish school there was opened in 1855 but closed in 1890. Some prominent teachers that worked there were: Hynek Brod, Moses Neumann, Heřm. Neumann. The Jewish cemetery is - as Rabbi Viktor Taussig discovered - over 500 years old and was founded, according to legend, during the expulsion of Jews from Prague. The synagogue was founded in 1880 but was sold in 1929 to the public.

The Synagogue

The synagogue burned down in 1850 but was soon and rebuilt with great sacrifices. In 1890 it was very tastefully decorated and renovated.



Deportation

The community of 62/64 were deported from Vlašim from the nearby town of Tabor to Terezin on 12th November where they perished or were deported to Auschwitz. There were no survivors.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF VLAŠIM

Transport to Terezin			Name	DOB	Transport to		DATE
From	Date	Number			to	Auschwitz	
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz 107	George Bruno Adler	15/02/1926	Ek	2010	28/09/1944
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz 105	Otto Adler	23/10/1897	Et	826	23/10/1944
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz 106	Ernestine Adler	12/12/1898	Et	827	23/10/1944
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz 108	Mary Adler	27/03/1930	Et	828	23/10/1944
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz 110	Charles Benedict	17/11/1881	Dr	123	15/12/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz 111	Ela Brumlikova	21/5/1891	Eq	564	12/10/1944
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz 228	Helen Ehrlich	03/02/1888	Di	285	06/09/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz 119	Maxmillian Gans	14/08/1875	Dr	614	15/12/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz 121	Julius Gold	11/03/1889	CQ	296	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz 120	Milada Gansova	06/06/1887	Dr	615	15/12/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz 122	Ernestine Goldova	18/12/1885	CQ	297	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz 626	Blanka Grunbaumova	14/01/1926	E	2021	16/05/1944
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz 123	Anna Hermann	05/08/1877	Dr	830	15/12/1943

Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	137	Ernst Otto Hoffman	10/08/1894	CQ	299	20/01/1943
				Amalie Hoffmannova	16/09/1865	Died Terezin		26/11/1942
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	136	Josef Hoffman	18/05/1862	Died Terezin		14/11/1942
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	127	Ida Horn	28/02/1885	CQ	298	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	151	Frans Kraus	19/05/1892	Cs	35	26/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	153	George Kraus	01/06/1922	Cs	36	26/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	152	Irma Kraus	27/04/1902	Cs	37	26/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	617	Anna Packovska	31/10/1887	Cr	453	23/01/1943
				George Pavkovsky	18/05/1918	Cr	454	23/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	616	Oscar Pavkovsky	26/06/1884	Cr	452	23/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	619	Otakar Pavkovsky	12/07/1915	El	153	29/09/1944
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	162	Isidor Pollak	11/12/1870	Died Terezin		09/12/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	164	Julie Pollokova	22/06/1903	CQ	306	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	163	Ruzena Pollokova	12/03/1876	DS	15/R	18/12/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	176	Paul Reich	20/10/1886	Died Terezin		15/04/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	186	Emil Roubicek	28/10/1894	Died Terezin		26/12/1942
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	191	Gustav Roubicek	29/12/1916	CQ	321	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	195	Hanus Roubicek	14/07/1913	CQ	325	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	201	George Roubicek	22/07/1938	Et	378	23/10/1944
				Charles Moskovitz	26/05/1943	CQ	316	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	185	Max Moskovitz	22/08/1885	CQ	323	20/01/1943
				Miroslav Roubicek	16/04/1925	CQ	326	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	196	Ota Roubicek	29/12/1882	CQ	319	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	189	Paul Roubicek	14/02/1938	Dr	1796	15/12/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	199	William Moskovitz	29/04/1899	CQ	314	20/01/1943
				Amelie Roubickova	29/12/1885	Died Terezin		07/11/1944
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	177	Eleanor Roubickova	20/08/1856	Died Terezin		02/02/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	182	Emilie Roubickova	23/10/1883	CQ	320	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	190	Hana Roubickova	25/05/1922	CQ	322	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	192	Hana Roubickova	14/03/1933	Et	379	23/10/1944
				Hermína Roubickova	16/05/1884	CQ	324	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	194	John Roubickova	10/12/1914	CQ	315	20/01/1943
				Ludmilla Roubickova	03/02/1887	CQ	312	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	178	Mary Roubickova	03/08/1881	CQ	313	20/01/1943
				Ruzena Roubickova	02/08/1897	Eq	1049	12/10/1944
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	180	Vera Roubickova	17/04/1914	Dr	1800	15/12/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	198	Vera Roubickova	14/03/1926	CQ	318	20/01/1943
				Zdenka Roubickova	11/10/1901	CQ	317	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	187	Frederick Sauer	16/01/1909	CQ	801	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	205	Vojtech Sauer	30/11/1874	Dr	1835	15/12/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	202	Anna Saueroval	20/03/1886	Dr	1837	15/12/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	203	Joseph Seidler	21/06/1861	Died Terezin		22/11/1942
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	208	Beatrix Seidleval	01/07/1892	CQ	330	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	210	Bert Seidleval	11/02/1868	Dr	1844	15/12/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	206	Marold Schiller	17/04/1890	Et	1327	23/10/1944
Tabor	12/11/1942	En	3	Gertrude Schiller	06/04/1922	CQ	329	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	207	George Vogel	11/06/1914	EV	1410	28/10/1944
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	216	Anna Weinerova	04/04/1888	CQ	338	20/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	223	Zeenka Pacovska	05/09/1920	Cr	455	23/01/1943
Tabor	12/11/1942	Bz	620					

The Czech Scrolls

In 1942, a group of members of Prague's Jewish Community devised a way to bring the religious treasures from the deserted provincial communities to the comparative safety of Prague. The Nazis were persuaded to accept this plan and more than 100,000 items were sent to the Museum. Among them were about 1,800 Torah Scrolls. Each was meticulously recorded on a



card index by the Museum's staff with a description of the Scroll and the place from which it came. In 1956-59 they were transferred to the synagogue in Michle, a Prague suburb, and remained there until they came to the Czech Scroll Trust at Westminster Synagogue in London.

Scrolls on arrival in London; some binders still visible.

The legend that there was a Nazi plan to create a 'museum to an extinct race' in Prague has never been proved. The saving of the Jewish treasures of Bohemia and Moravia should be credited instead to a devoted group of Jews from Prague's Jewish Community and to what had become the Central Jewish Museum in Prague. Working in desperate conditions, they nevertheless proposed to bring to the Museum the possessions of provincial Jewry, which lay at the mercy of vandals and plunderers. Without this Jewish initiative the plan would never have come into being.

The Jews working in the community hoped that these treasures would be protected and might one day be returned to their original homes. All the Museum's curators were eventually transported to Terezin and Auschwitz, with only two survivors. Their legacy and their gift to the Jewish world was the vast catalogued collection in what later again became the Jewish Museum in Prague.

The 1,564 Czech Memorial Scrolls which were purchased from the Czechoslovak Communist state and taken back into Jewish hands in 1964 by Westminster Synagogue symbolise the dedication, vision and courage of the initiators' plan and the teams of specialist curators who were recruited to implement it.

Where did the Scrolls come from?

When the Scrolls were received at Westminster Synagogue most had a number label attached. These numbers referred to the German Card Index that had been prepared by the Jewish curators at Prague's Central Jewish Museum.

By relating the number label to the information derived from the German Card Index, it can be established from which Czech collection point each Scroll had been received; some Scrolls also had the Czech number painted on the rollers.



Scroll 1176

Scroll 1176, is shown as coming from Vlašim and is one of 31 scrolls noted as being received from there, of which 24 are on permanent loan to various synagogues throughout the world.

No	Location	Address
4	Mishkan Torah Synagogue	10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
13	JCCAD at the Soref Jewish Community	The Perlman Campus, 6501 W. Sunrise Blvd., Fort Lauderdale,
36	Emanuel Synagogue	160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford, CT 06117
46	Beth Am Temple	P.O. Box 1200, 60 East Madison Avenue, Pearl River, NY
63	Temple David	34 Clifton Crescent, Mount Lawley, WA 6050 Australia
102	Congregation Beth El	105 Hudson Rd, Sudbury, MA 01776
293	Congregation Beth Shalom	688 Clifton Park Center Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065
380	Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust Museum	Kent House, Rutland Gardens, London SW7 1BX
396	Temple B'rith Sholom	117 Madison St, Cortland, NY 13045
436	Congregation Beth Jacob	1550 Alameda de las Pulgas, Redwood City, CA 94061
487	Farmingdale Wantagh Jewish Center	3710 Woodbine Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793
598	Congregation Shearith Israel	1180 University Drive N.E., Atlanta, GA 30306
625	Temple Judea	4311 Hood Rd, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
636	Temple Sholom	P.O. Box 539, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
658	Beth El Congregation	1900 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220
670	Congregation Beth Shalom	815 38th Street, P.O.Box 2128 NS Station, Sioux City, IA
678	Temple Shearith Israel	Hackettstown NJ
790	Camp Ramah	65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60601
815	Temple Israel	2004 East 22nd Place, Tulsa, OK 74114
989	American Jewish University	1101 Peppertree Lane, Brandeis, CA 93064
1135	Hebrew Union College	Brookdale Center, 1 West 4th Street, New York, NY 10012
1176	Radlett and Bushey Reform Synagogue	118 Watling Street, Radlett, Herts, UK WD7 7AA
1183	Congregation Brothers of Israel	530 Washington Crossing Road, Newtown, PA 18940
1222	Belsize Square Synagogue	51 Belsize Square, London NW3 4HX
1461	Temple Beth Am	871 North Main Street, Randolph, MA 02368

Vlašim, although a small community, was a collection point for various local synagogues, including the larger community at Benesov, which explains the number of scrolls.

The Future

That the Scrolls have survived is little short of miraculous and they remain a potent symbol of the lost communities of Bohemia and Moravia. We, via the loan of scroll 1176, are the custodians of those communities, and especially the lost Jews of Vlašim, and we now have the ability to honour their memory.

אל God full of compassion
whose presence is over us,
may the souls of our brothers
and sisters who gave their
lives in war find safety and rest
with the holy and pure on high
who shine as the lights of
heaven, beneath the shelter of
Your presence, and there may
the souls of our brothers and
sisters of the lost community of
Vlasim also find the safety and
rest denied them on earth.
Source of mercy, cover them
all in the shelter of Your wings
forever, and bind their souls
into the gathering of life. It is
God who is their heritage. May
they be at peace in their place
of rest. Amen.

אל מלא רחמים שוכן במרומים.
המצא מנוחה נכונה תחת כנפי
השכינה. במעלות קדושים
וטהורים. כזהר הקיע מזהרים
את נשמות אחינו ואחיותינו
של קהלת ולסים שמתו על קדוש
השם. ינוחו בשלום ובשלום שלא ידעו
בחייהם. אנא בעל הרחמים הסתירם
בסתר כנפך לעולמים. וצור בצור
החיים את נשמותם. יהיה הוא נחלתם
וינוחו בשלום על משכבם ונאמר אמן:

אל *Eil malei rachamim, shochein ba-m'romim, hamtsei m'nuchah n'chonah tachat kanfei ha-sh'chinah, b'ma'alot k'doshim ut'horim, k'zohar ha-raki'a mazhirim et nishmot acheinu v'achyoteinu shel k'hil'lat v'asim shemeitu al kiddush ha-shem. Yanuchu va-shalvah uva-shalom, shelo yad'u b'chayyeihem. Anna ba'al ha-rachamim, hastireim b'seiter k'nafecha l'olamim, uts'ror bitsror ha-chayyim et nishmatam. Adonai hu nachalatam, v'yanuchu v'shalom al mishkavam, v'nomar amen.*