

Live to live

Based on the testimony of Tilda Galpert

Presented at www.centropa.org

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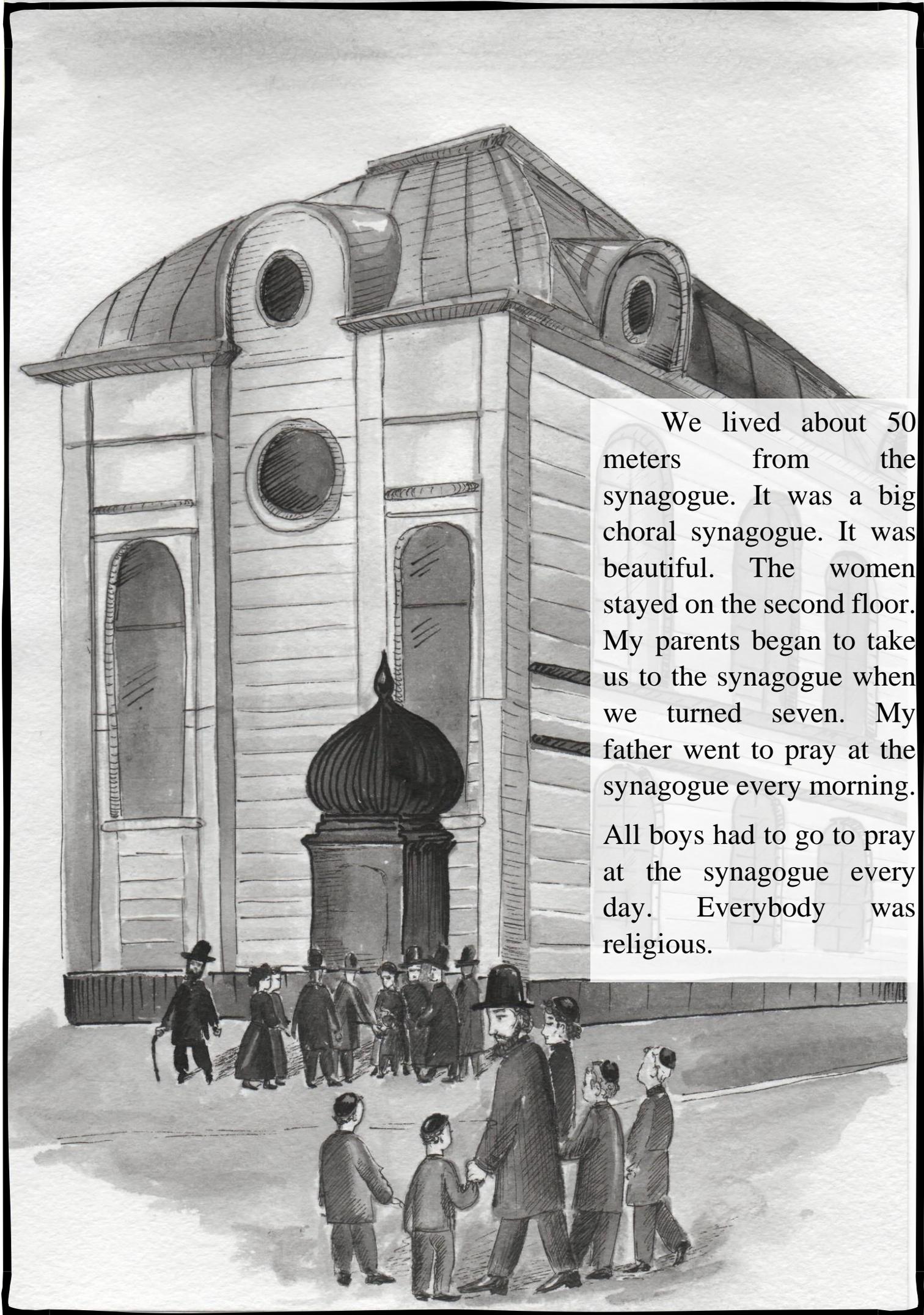
Svetlana Alkhovik, teacher of arts



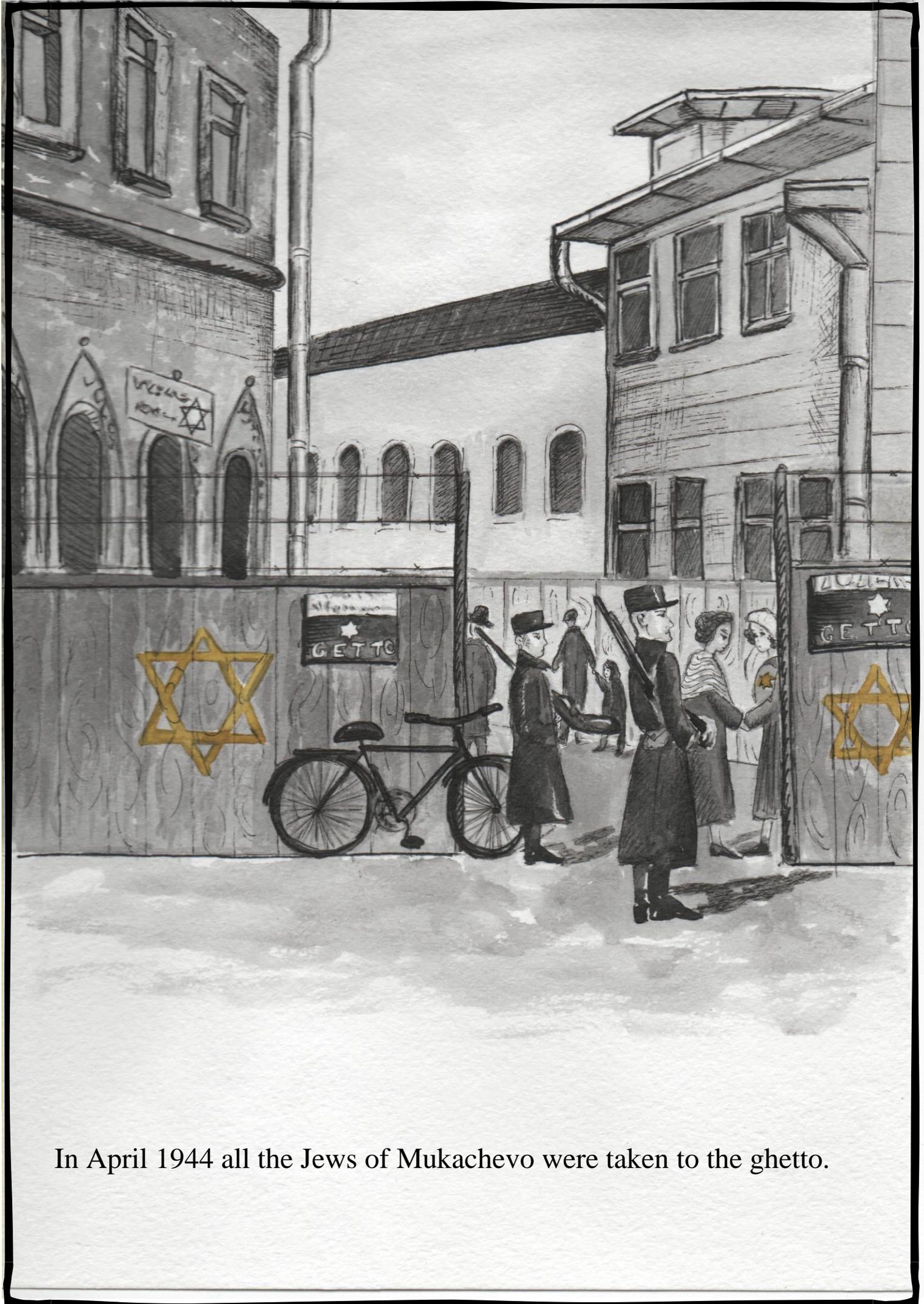
I was born in 1923. My Jewish name is Toby. I was the seventh child in the family. My parents were religious and celebrated Sabbath and all Jewish holidays at home. My father said a blessing over the food and we sat down for dinner.



My father made and sold wine. He made kosher wine. His clients were Jews that bought wine for Sabbath. He had quite a few clients that knew that he made good wine and came to buy it from him.



We lived about 50 meters from the synagogue. It was a big choral synagogue. It was beautiful. The women stayed on the second floor. My parents began to take us to the synagogue when we turned seven. My father went to pray at the synagogue every morning. All boys had to go to pray at the synagogue every day. Everybody was religious.



In April 1944 all the Jews of Mukachevo were taken to the ghetto.

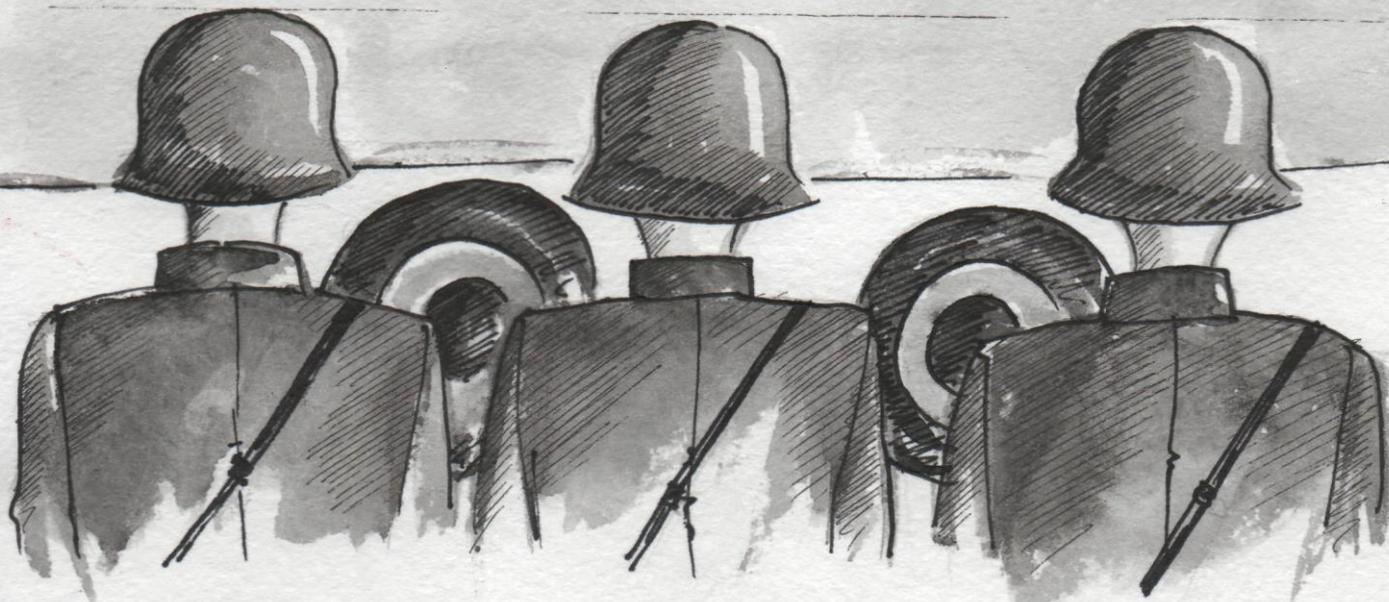


We didn't have to move since our street formed the center of the two ghettos organized in Mukachevo. My mother, my younger brother Shmil and I stayed in our house. We weren't allowed to leave the ghetto. We starved. We had no food in the ghetto.



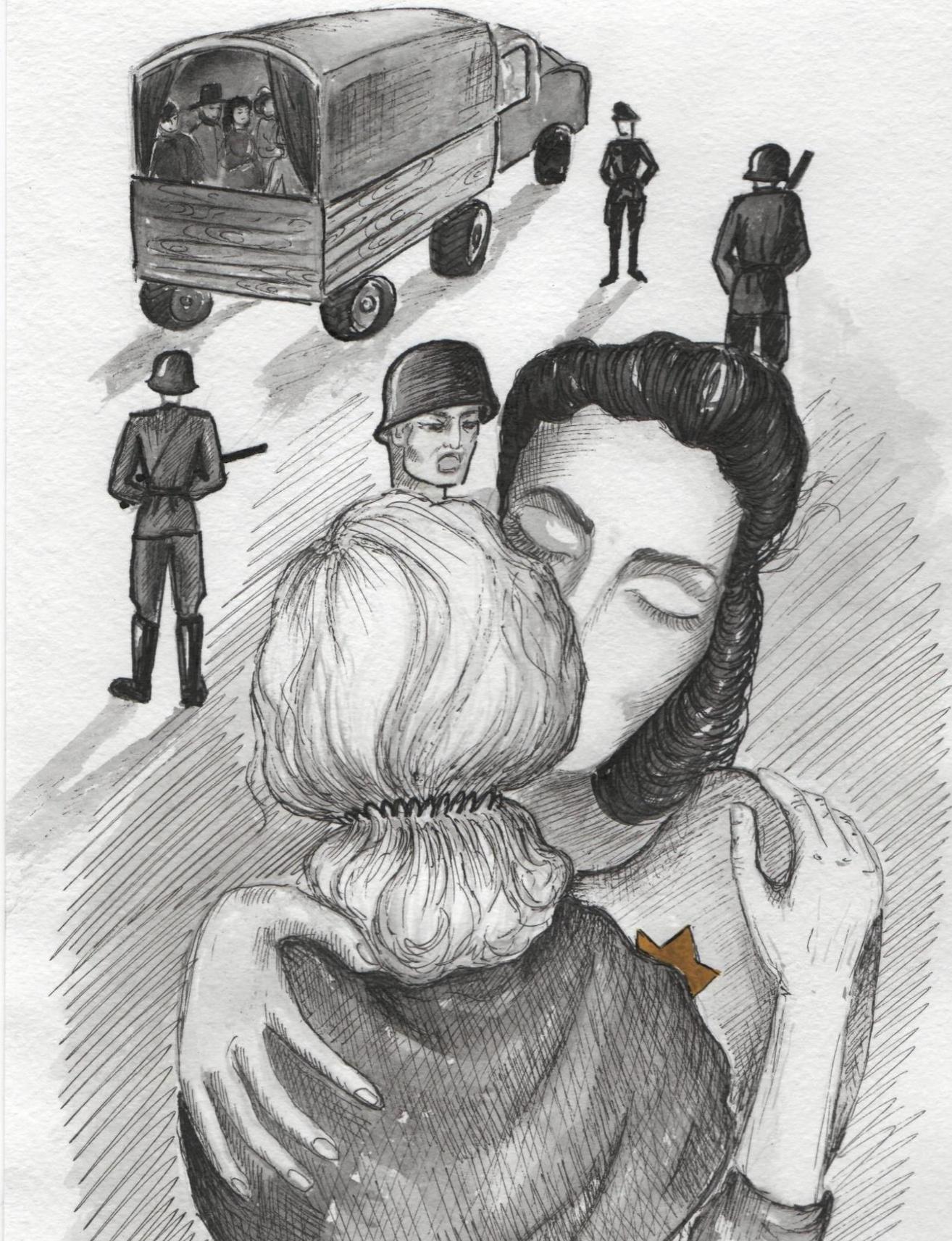
In 1943 I met my future husband Ernest Galpert at the factory. We call him Ari. We were 20. This was the time of the German occupation. Ari and I met after work every day. We went for a walk. At that time we were required to wear yellow stars on our clothes. We decided to be together, but this was no time to think about life arrangements.

We were ordered to come to the territory of the brick factory. We spent many days in the open air on the factory territory. From there we were taken to the railway station and went to Auschwitz by train.

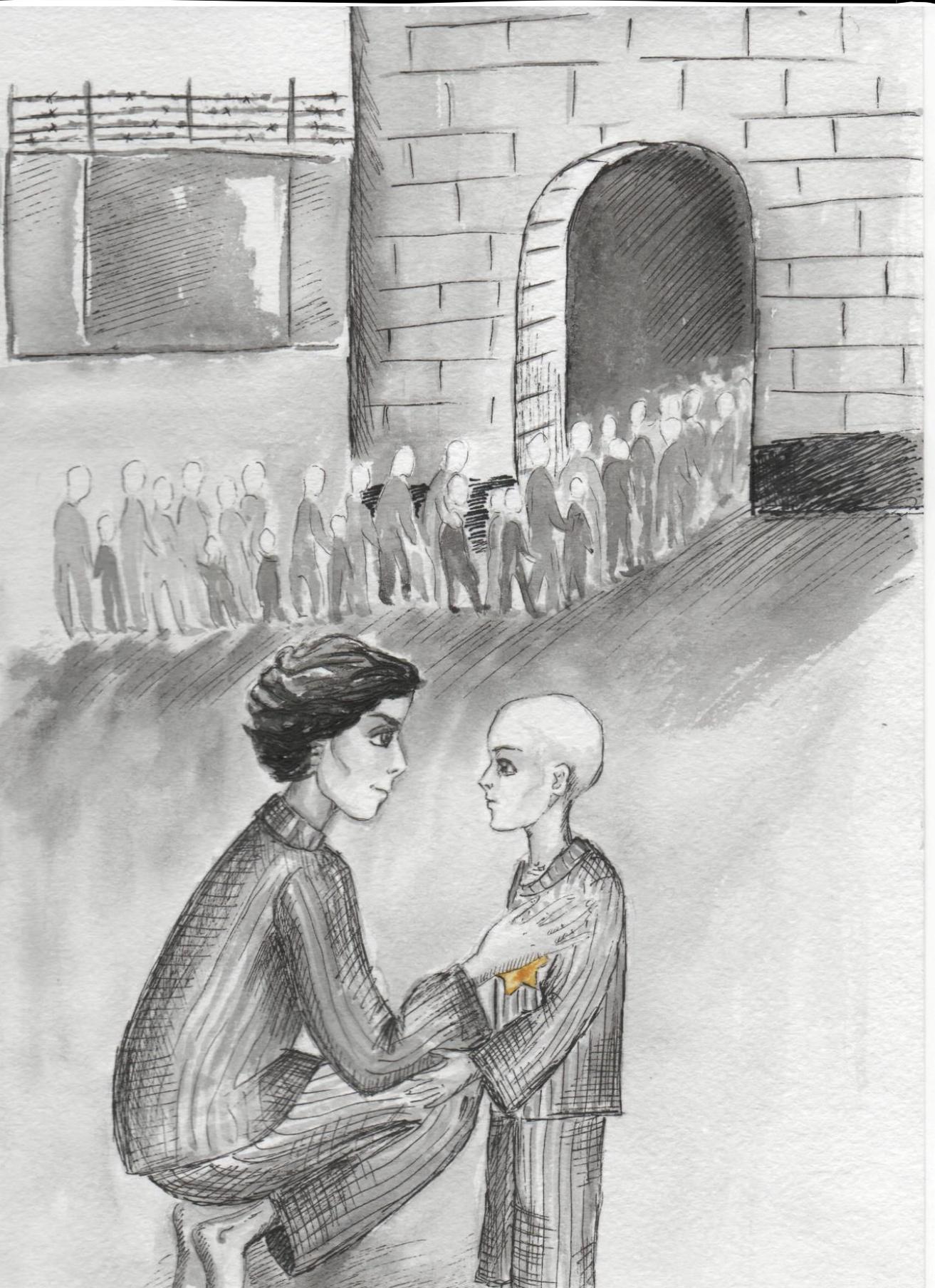




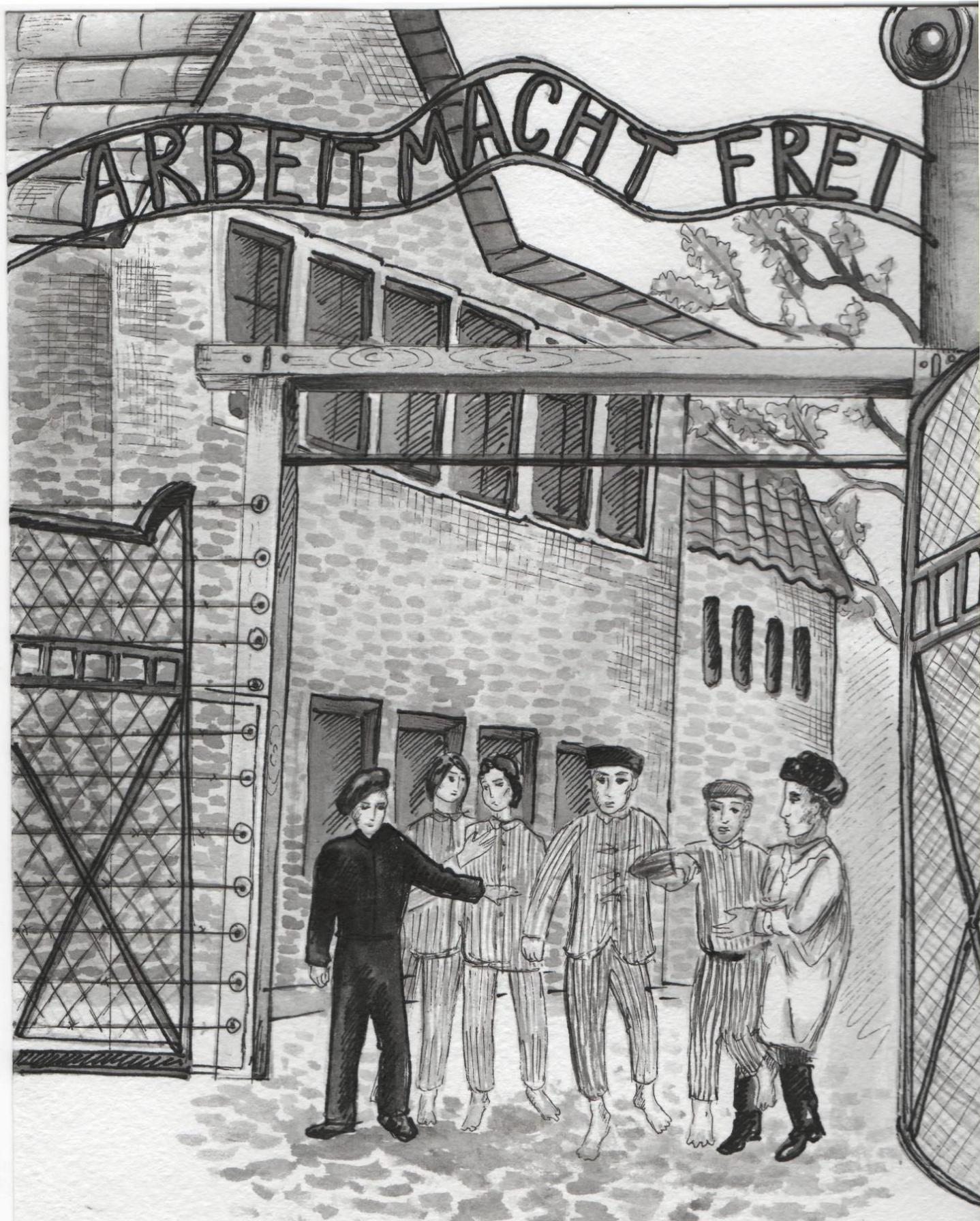
When we came to the concentration camp, we didn't know what kind of place it was. We did not know it was a death camp. Later I got to know that this was Auschwitz.



The guard shouted that older and younger people should stand in separate lines. He said that they were going to take the older ones on a truck. I hugged my mother and said, 'I'll see you soon!'. We were not meant to see each other ever again. My mother perished in the gas chamber in Auschwitz on the day of our arrival.



My sister Margarita also perished. She was young and strong and could have survived. The Germans didn't exterminate those that could work, but she was there with her son, and the children were sent to the gas chamber immediately. She probably didn't want to leave her son behind – of course she didn't, she was his mother and she went there with him.



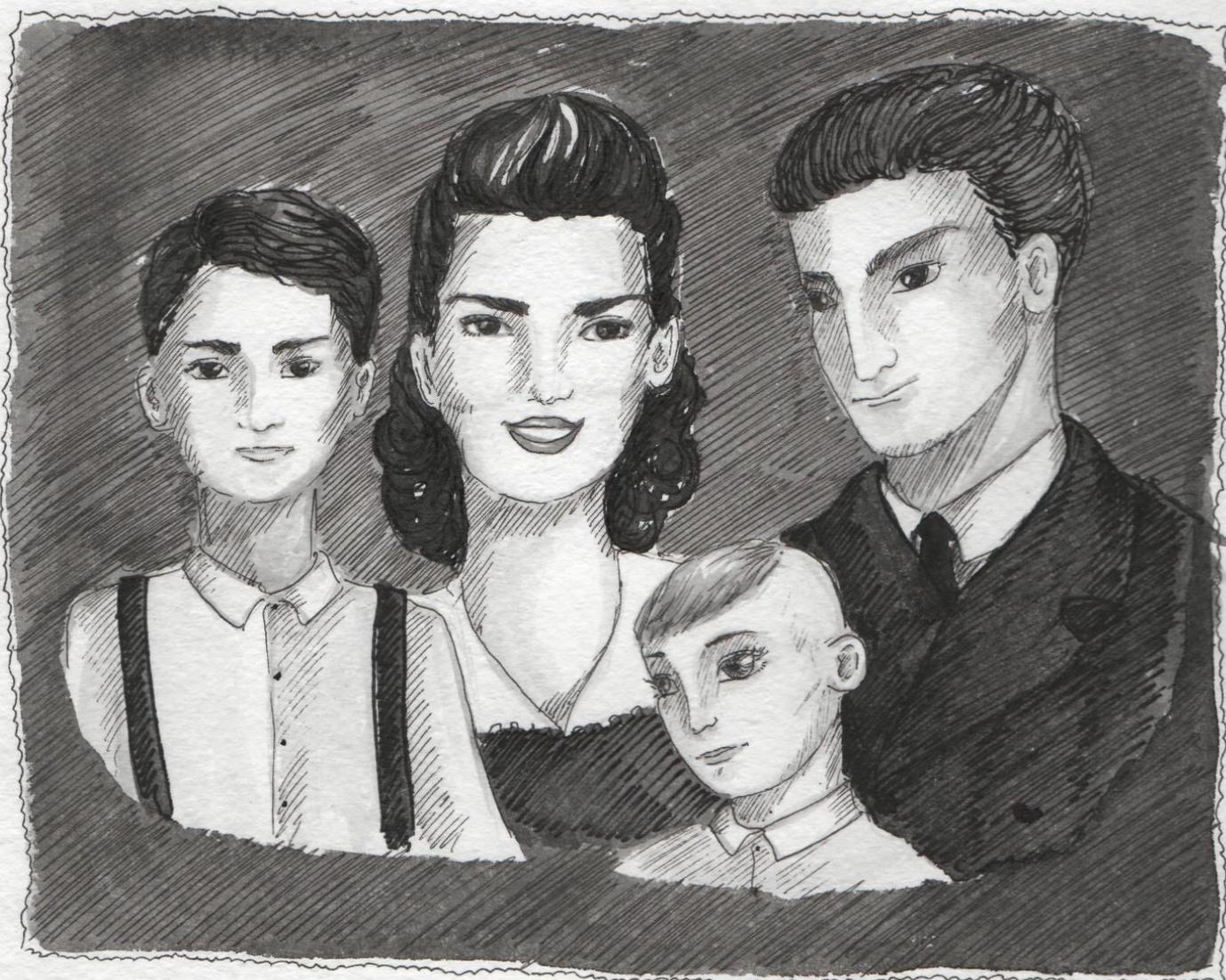
On 8th May 1945 we saw that the guards of the camp were gone. Soviet tanks moved along the streets of the town and we got to know that the war was over. It's hard to find words to describe how happy we were.



At home I heard that my sister Szerena lived in Uzhhorod. In June 1945 my sister took me to Uzhhorod. She had a six-bedroom apartment. Szerena worked at the regional party committee where she was head of department for work with women. She was wealthy and had plenty of food. This was the first time in many years that I had enough food.



In March 1947 Ari demobilized from the army. He came to meet me in Uzhhorod. On 30th April he and I went for a walk to watch how they decorated the town for 1st May. We were walking when it suddenly occurred to us to go register our marriage at the registry office. We had our passports with us and the director of the office registered our marriage.



Our son Pyotr was born in 1951. Our second son Yuri was born in 1955. We weren't religious people. But our children knew about Jewish traditions. We always remembered about Jewish holidays. I also cooked traditional Jewish food. Pyotr and his wife live in Frankfurt am Main. Yuri and his family live in Ukraine. Our sons have non-Jewish wives, but they have happy marriages and that's what matters for a mother.



Perestroika brought many changes into Jewish life in Uzhhorod. In 1988 we visited Israel for the first time. The whole family got together and we said our first toast to Gorbachev for getting this opportunity. We've been in Israel four times. It's a wonderful country. I wish the people of Israel peace and prosperity.

Now we live in independent Ukraine. May there be peace in Ukraine and may there be peace in Israel. I hope so that nobody on earth has to live through the horrors of war again.

Tilda Galpert

Methodical development

An excerpt from the lesson on "The Holocaust on the Territory of Ukraine", History of Ukraine, Grade 11.

The classroom takes place in a class where computers are connected to the Internet.

Task for students.

1. To find an information on "Zakarpattya in the twentieth century: milestones in history", using various sources (Internet, literature, atlases, photos, etc.).
2. To mark on the time line the main events of the history of Zakarpattya in the twentieth century.

Discussion.

1. What events do you consider are the most important in the life of Zakarpattya population?
2. Why?
3. How was the population affected by such changes? How did it affect their lives?

Task for students.

1. Read Tilda Galpert's interview on her life (www.centropa.org).

The key question: How did the most important events of the history of Zakarpattya affect Tilda Galpert?

After reading the material, students exchange impression and answer the questions:

1. What did you learn about Tilda's family?
2. What did her parents do?
3. What was her childhood like?
4. Was she aware that she was a Jew?
5. What holidays were celebrated in the family?
6. Where and what kind of education she got?
7. How did the life of the Jewish population change after the start of the Second World War?
8. What was the life in the ghetto?
9. How did Osvenets affect Tilda and her family? Why do you think she does not want to mention those times in her interview?
10. How did she survive?
11. Where did she return after release?

12. What was her future fate?

13. Did Tilda always remember she's Jewish? How did it affect her life?

14. How did she respond to the changes that took place in the Soviet Union?

15. How do you think is Tilda is satisfied with his life?

The answer to the key question: How were the major events of the history of Zakarpattya influenced on Tilda Galpert?

2. Work with graphic drawings.

1. What episodes from Tilda's life are shown in each picture? Think of the name for them.

2. How do you think, does the artist succeeded in the psychological state of the heroine in different periods of her life?

3. What struck you most in the history of Tilda Galpert?

Homework.

Make the genealogy tree based on the interview. Show the fate of her relatives.

Ask questions for an imaginary interview with Tilda about her staying in Auschwitz.