How to trace surviving family members in the Czech vital records

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This talk to dedicated to the memory of Celia Male (z''l), Croydon, UK

Invaluable section of testimonies at Yad Vashem can bring us information not only about the family members who were murdered in shoa but also about the survivor who then submitted the testimony on his/her relatives. However not all survivors were able to do that, for various reasons.

As often in family history research we have other resources where to look for missing (=surviving) family members. Quite a few of Jewish death records of former Czechoslovakia were supplemented after the war with a smaller or larger section of people from particular town who were killed during shoa and someone of the family wanted this to be recorded.

The records are today available online at badatelna.eu. The books containing that section have heading Z (zemreli=death) going up to 1945, 1946, 1947. The inscriptions which were made after WWII in the pre-war books show the name of survivor who is declaring the death of family member(s).

The typical record read: The district court in (place) in (date) due to request of (name and recent adress) declares (person, incl. maiden name, last adress before deportation) dead. It sometimes read the possible cause of death and the place.

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The other resource can be the notes made in the birth record of particular person; those notes refer to the declared-dead protocols made by Czech district court within 1945-1950.

The pre-war birth record was supplemented after the war (if this is the case) by a note in the last column: reading that the person was declared dead at such and such date by such and such district court under such and such file number.

The collection of declared-dead protocols covering period 1945-1950 is stored today at the Archives of Capital Prague (Archiv hlavniho města Prahy). The collection is similar to the one at Stadt Archiv in Vienna (Todeserklarung Protokol) which was extensively used by Celia Male (z´´l) and generously introduced by her to many of us.

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Moje příbuzná Hanna v eli l o v á, nar. dne 26. června
1926 v Chomutově, židovského v znění, tantéž příslušná posledně
bytem v Praze III., Bělehradská tř. č. 2324 z rodišů Dr. Ri-
charda Weila a Zdeny Weilové roz. Stádlerové byla odtrenspor-
tována transportem dne 21. října 1941 z Frahy přímo do Lodže
a od té doby není o ní žádná zpráva.
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It usually starts: My relative (name, birth date, birth place, last address before deportation) was deported with her parents (names) to (date and place) - in this case Lodz.

Another source of information on surviving member of the family can be found thanks to project *Missing neighbours* launched by Prague Jewish community for junior and senior high school students all over the country. The studenst were supposed to find out what hapenned to Jewish classmates of their own grandparents. In some cases the studenst were able to find and talk to surviving family members; the resuts incl. the names and sometimes adresses can be found online.

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