

Brigitte Lenz

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# Fleeing from Sudetenland



A true story

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## Fleeing from Sudetenland in 1945

My mother told me the following story:

Because my hometown Linz was constantly being bombed, I stayed with my aunt and uncle in the village of Niedergrund near Warnsdorf from 1944 to 1945. It is now located in the Czech Republic.

My aunt and uncle had a family-owned inn there, called “Gasthof Zur Stadt Prag” (“City of Prague Inn”). I occupied a room together with my two-year-old daughter Brigitte, who had been born in Linz. Every day, I drove to Warnsdorf, where I was working as a clerk in the employment office.

I was glad to be in a safe place with my daughter. At that time, the allies were continually attacking Linz, a city that was strategically important for them because of the heavy industry there. The most important factory in Linz was the “Hermann Göring Steel Plant”, which is now the Voestalpine AG. Time and time again, the enemy launched devastating attacks, which resulted in many casualties. I was worried about my parents, who at the time lived in Linz.