

Labor Camp In Vyhne



This is a photograph of me and several of my fellow participants in Vyhne. The photo is from 1943, and what's interesting, we were photographed directly there in the Vyhne camp. An interesting thing was when we came from the collection camp, from Zilina, to the Vyhne labor camp. The head of the Jewish camp had us line up, and said in German: 'You were all converted before 1938.' To this one voice: 'Not me, not me!' Everyone stood in shock, wondering who was shouting that. It was a proletarian from Bratislava, Willy Kohn. A notorious Bratislava character. He also got into the Vyhne camp, but not because he'd been converted, but because he had an Aryan wife. Because they were also sending people from mixed marriages there. 'I got Aryan wife! I got Aryan wife!' You see, Willy didn't speak Slovak well. He was a Presporer [Presporok, or Pressburg - the German name for Bratislava - Editor's note] and didn't speak Slovak. To that was this first funny incident, gallows humor.