

Dear Friends,

June 22,2004

We just returned from Austria where a memorial of many people shot on the death march in 1945 was unveiled. Judita was one of the few survivals of this mass murder and was therefore invited to speak and to unveil this memorial. The killing happened in Eisenerz in the Austrian Alps. The unveiling of the memorial, however was not the main event: the students the local gymnasium saw the television movie "Alles schweigen" which was made several years ago about the death march of the Hungarian Jews and Judita was the main participant in this movie. The students took a prominent role in the work around the memorial and wrote a theater scenario about Judita's life. She had to answer multiple questions about her life to make it accurate and they put it all together with her writing about these events . The whole event in Eisenerz was visited by about 1,000 people according to the newspapers which is a lot because of the small size of the surrounding villages. The theater performance took place at the site of the memorial on the top of the fateful hill and there were approx.150 pupils – actors from 2 local schools. The theater ended so that the actors brought about 20 large pictures of Judita (from the year 1945) which covered the whole scene. Many politicians were also present and they had speeches, of course. There were also many newspaper and television people and the event was described next day in the paper. The Eisenerz mayor gave a celebration lunch and also paid our transport to Austria. It was very good that this activity was initiated and performed spontaneously by young people so that the next generations will have better immediate knowledge about the Nazi monstrosities. Everybody was extremely friendly, we lived in the house of people who remembered the death march. Judita was extremely popular, everybody wanted to talk to her and have her picture. Everything was extremely successful so that even we were surprised. It looked like that they wanted to build a memorial for her personally. The situation in Eisenerz was similar after she wrote a thank-you article to the veteran paper of the 71st US infantry division which liberated her concentration camp in Gunstkirchen: everybody wrote to her and she became a honorary member of this division and their mascot.

Best regards Zdenek