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White Rose Society Essay Contest

15 March 2024

This is the story of a child of the Holocaust. The Holocaust was the time when the Germans killed Jews because of their faith and nationality. Eva Beem was a young girl during the Holocaust who struggled profoundly with her family.

Eva was born on May 21, 1932, in Leeuwarden, Holland, which is part of the Netherlands. Eva had a small family: her mother Rosetta, her father Hartog, and her younger brother Abraham. Her father was a high school teacher in Leeuwarden. "The Jews of the Netherlands were well integrated into the general population and were active in all aspects of the country." (Museum of Tolerance) The family were practicing Jews who cared deeply for their faith.

The Nazis arrived and took control of the Netherlands. Eva was only eight years old when the Nazis invaded her hometown. On arrival, the Germans separated the Jews, and sent them to the ghetto. Eva and her family were relocated to these ghetto areas. The Germans began to send people away to be killed. The family chose to go into hiding. The children went to live with a Christian family in the countryside. They were given new names and identities and were enrolled in a new school.

The Nazis' sent the children to the concentration camps. The Nazis increased the reward for turning in the hidden Jewish children. The family the Beem children were hiding with betrayed them for the money. After the children denied being Jewish, the Nazis soldiers unclothed Abraham to find his circumcision, revealing that they were Jews. Eva was officially named a Jew in February of 1944, and was sent to Auschwitz concentration camp immediately after. At eleven

years old, Eva was killed for her faith upon arrival at Auschwitz. "Eva was only one out of 1.5 million Jewish children killed during the time of the Holocaust." (Song for Israel)

The Holocaust was a gruesome time. Personally, I didn't realize how awful it was until learning more about the era in class. I used to think these were just stories made up a long time ago. Now I grasp that it wasn't all that long ago, and there are still survivors in the world. The things these children went through were horrendous and I wouldn't wish them on my worst enemy. They were experimented on, tortured, and starved. Many people will never understand the pains these children went through. The kids were killed for their religious beliefs without a full understanding of the faith. I have chosen to grow from these awful times and be the best person I can be. All life matters regardless what religion, race, or beliefs the person possesses. I hope to grow even more as I learn through life experience.

Eva had many challenges with her family in her childhood. She remained strong even though she had a sorrowful ending. Eva was young when she died, but has impacted many, myself included, through her story.