



in Czechoslovakia, where I truly belong, even without a travel passport, as I am already in poor health due to being constantly called to the police headquarters in Plzeň." She was granted permission until 1939.

In February 1939, the bureaucratic process started again, but this time, it was not just a matter of red tape—Czechoslovakia was becoming a fascist-leaning Second Republic. Mrs. Sternová submitted a detailed request for permission to stay (by then, she was 70 years old and had spent a total of six years outside western Bohemia). The police director found it necessary to comment on the request, noting her German-Jewish nationality and stating that "due to changed political circumstances, there is (emphasis added) no special reason to grant the requested permission."

The occupation came, and the process dragged on for two more years. Subsequent letters from other Czech officials (those after March 15, 1939) began to support her request, and the Nazi authorities were still dealing with it as late as November 1941.

Anyway, Valeska was included in a transport to Terezín on January 18, 1942, and on October 19 of the same year, she was deported to Treblinka, where she was murdered.