

# Hans Ludwig Biography

Stories and Tales  
1934 October 26 to  
1958 November 1

Silesia Germany  
Through  
Emigration to USA and Marriage

by Helga von Schweinitz

## **Introduction**

This biography was written post-humous.

Hans Ludwig von Schweinitz was born on 16 October 1934 in Silesia Germany. The name Hans is used often in the Schweinitz family. To avoid too much confusion, he is referred to by his childhood name “Hans-Ludwig”, or “HansLu”. After Hans-Ludwig emigrated to USA in 1957, he was called just Hans. Except when he traveled back to his family in Germany, then he went by his childhood names again.

This compendium gives some background on how an estate operated in the 1940's and before. Then I have written down some tales, as Papa told us, about his life on the estate as a young boy. I have also included some historical events or effects through my research mostly with Wikipedia and Google search. As a young boy Papa would may not have known or understand the history that was unfolding around him in Germany.

In January 1945 the family had to leave Alt Raudten because of the advancement of the Russian Army. This began a new chapter in Hans-Ludwig's life.

On August 25th, 1945 Hans-Ludwig and his family became refugees and joined the 6 million German citizens in the “flight” or “Flucht”. This began the 3rd chapter of Hans-Ludwig's life.

Eventually the family settled in and around Wiesbaden Germany. There Hans-Ludwig began the 4th chapter.

Hans-Ludwig stayed in the Wiesbaden area until March of 1957. Hans emigrated to Chicago Illinois USA. There Hans began his 5th chapter, where he learned a new culture, was drafted, had to join the military (choose the Air Force) and then in November 1958 Hans-Ludwig married. This compendium end with his marriage on 1 November 1958 to Helga Hildegard Pörtner.

## Contents

Introduction .....	2
In the Beginning .....	6
Back Stories.....	6
Back Story of Family “Schweinitz” .....	6
Back Story of Estate Alt-Raudten .....	8
How the Estate Alt Raudten was Managed.....	11
Significant History Events before Hans-Ludwig’s birth October 1934.....	12
Alt Raudten when Hans-Ludwig was born.....	13
1934 to 1939: Hans-Ludwig’s Birth 26 October 1934 until 1939.....	14
The Birth 26 October 1934.....	14
The Baptism 31 October 1934.....	15
Toys.....	16
Playmates.....	18
Pets .....	20
Relationship with Adults .....	21
Tales by Hans-Ludwig between 1934 and 1939 .....	25
The Park .....	25
The Fields and Farming .....	29
Church .....	35
Fish Pond.....	36
Manor House .....	36
Other Photos from 1934 to 1940 .....	42
Historical Timeline between 26 October 1934 and 1938.....	46
1939.....	47
Historical Timeline 1939.....	49
1940.....	50
Appendicitis.....	50
Historical TimeLine in 1940 .....	51

1941 .....	51
Going to village school 1941 .....	52
1941 Fall and Christmas.....	56
Historical Time Line 1941 .....	58
1942.....	59
Nanny Ursula von Frankenberg-Lüttwitz.....	60
Mutti's Death 3 September 1942.....	61
Historical timeline 1942.....	65
1943-1944.....	67
Stuttering .....	68
Teacher's Trousers.....	68
Stone and Steam Train .....	69
Nazi SS Confiscating Weapons.....	70
Family beginning to Leave August 1944.....	71
Wedding 15 October 1944 Vati and Ursula.....	71
Family Historical 1943-1944 .....	73
Historical Timeline 1943-1944 .....	73
1945 Jan to 14 July 1945: The Flight .....	77
1945 January 11-22 Leaving Alt Raudten .....	78
1945 February 13-15 Dresden, Germany .....	83
1945 after 13 <sup>th</sup> February, Saalfeld Germany.....	85
1945 April to July 14 <sup>th</sup> Salzburg Austria .....	89
1945 May 09 World War II End in Central Europe .....	90
Family Time Line 1945 January to 1945 July .....	92
Historical Timeline 1945 January to 1945 July .....	92
1945 July 14 to 1945 August: The Expulsion.....	98
1945 July 15 to 1945 August München (Munich).....	102
Family Time Line 1945 July .....	103
Historical Timeline 1945 July .....	103
1945 August Niederseeon near Munich .....	103



1945 August to 1956 June: Refugee.....	104
1945 August to 1946 November: Niederseeon near Munich .....	106
Family Timeline 1945 September to 1946 November .....	109
Historical Timeline 1945 September to 1946 November.....	109
1946 November to 1950 July in Wiesbaden: A new Life .....	110
1950 July to 1952 May: FotoLaboranten-Lehrling Apprenticeship .....	117
1952 May to 1956 June Fotolaborant .....	118
1956 July until March 1957: Not a refugee .....	122
1956 August Leipzig Sport Fest.....	122
Grünstadt .....	125
December 1956 Hamburg .....	126
1957 March to 1958 October Emigration to USA .....	128
1957 March to Summer Chicago.....	128
1957 Summer Florida.....	130
1957 September Chicago .....	130
1957 October to 1958 January Air Force Basic Training .....	131
1958 January to 1958 November Wisconsin .....	131
1958 March Helga .....	132
1958 November 1 Marriage .....	133
Family Dates.....	134
Excerpts from Stara Rudna with Translations .....	135
Time Lines Important Dates and Tales.....	163
Events and History Hans .....	163
Time Line Helga .....	179
Tales .....	182
Reference Material.....	219
Photos .....	223
The End .....	233

**In the Beginning**

Hans-Ludwig was born on October 26, 1934, in Liegnitz, Germany, in the province of Silesia (Schlesien). His father was „Hans“ Wilhelm von Schweinitz, his mother was neé „Sigrid“ Freiin von Zedlitz-und-Leipe. He had a happy childhood living on the ancestral estate Schloss Alt-Raudten. In Hans-Ludwig's own words “On October 26th 1934, joy went through the estate of a wealthy land baron in Silesia; because, his wife had given birth to her first son and the continuation of the family seemed to be secured. I was this boy, who was expected to carry on the tradition and take the responsibility to manage the estate which had been a family possession for over five centuries.”

**Back Stories****Back Story of Family “Schweinitz”**

Hans-Ludwig was born into the ‘Alt Raudten branch of the von Schweinitz’ family. There are at least six different variations of the Schweinitz family tree. The beginning or base of the trees are slightly different. The Schweinitz family either started in 1185 or 1350 or between or before. What is common to all six trees is that the family started with Hans (or Hanke, or Haucke or Hauke) in 1350. Through the years the family tree split into branches as more and more sons survived into adulthood and began their own families. More details of the family tree and pre 1900's history are included in “Schweinitz Family Trees Compendium”.

Early in the 1300's the family name was “Suentexas” as mentioned in documentation. Family members came into Silesia area around the 1300's as settlers. They probably came from the northern mountains of what is now Italy, or maybe even Asia Minor. In the 1300's the trifecta of the Black Plague was spreading north fast, and the family could have been looking for a safe heaven. The area which is now Silesia/Poland was spared the worst of the Black Plague. Eventually the family name became “Schweidnitz”, then “Schweinitz” and grew to over 160 estates in Silesia. Through the years the family tree split into branches as more and more sons survived into adulthood and began their own families. Over time the family built churches in Seifersdorf, Friedenskirche in Jauer, and in Schweidnitz. Silesia sometimes belonged to Prussia, sometimes Poland, sometimes to Bohemia and Austria, and sometimes to Germany. Many famous Germans came from Silesia, such as Wernher von Braun, Richard Wagner, and Johann Sebastian Bach. A brief history of Silesia is included in “Hans Alt Raudten Compendium.”

In 1841 a chart of the Coat of Arms was established that depicted 112 Silesian Nobles as of 14 September 1841 for Her Majesty the Queen Elisabeth of Prussia in



Breslau. The Schweinitz Coat of Arms is located on this chart with a banner “He is our help and shield” from bible Psalm 33:30-22. More information about the Alt Raudten family Coat of Arms and Crest is in “Coat of Arms von Schweinitz compendium”. The Alt Raudten signature ring as designed by Hans based on the family crest is in “Signature Ring von Schweinitz compendium”.

In August 1919, at the beginning of the Weimar Republic (1919–1933), Germany's first democratic constitution officially abolished royalty and nobility, and the respective legal privileges and immunities appertaining to an individual, a family or any heirs, but most were able to keep at least some of their estates,

including castles, forests and large stretches of agricultural land. Former hereditary titles are permitted as part of the surname (e.g., the aristocratic particles von, graf, de and zu), and these surnames can then be inherited by a person's children. The Schweinitz families in Silesia were allowed to keep their estates and surname (including the Graf, de, and von).

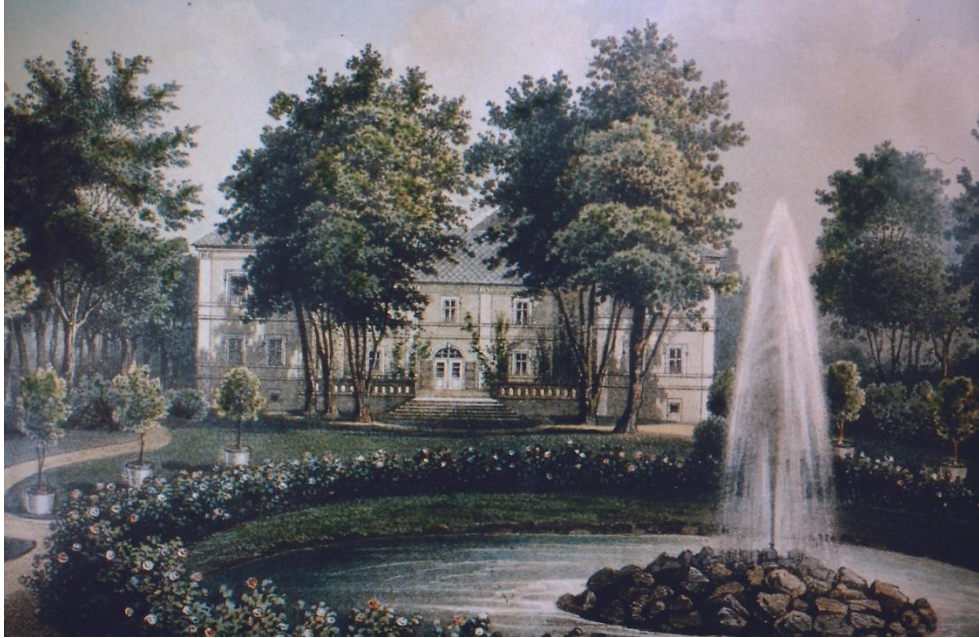
Also, in 1919 in the final version of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was required to give up all its colonies in the Pacific and in Africa. With the exception of German Southwest Africa, where some descendants of German settlers still live today (the German Namibians), all Germans were required to leave the colonies. Half the settlers in Namibia were required to also leave. Over the years, many of the Schweinitz family had migrated to the German colonies. Except for a few that had settled in Namibia (German Southwest), these families had to return to family estates in Silesia.

Before the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, the estates of Nobility had to live off the income of their land. The Treaty of Versailles allowed Nobility to mortgage their land. Eventually many of these estates couldn't make the mortgage payments and the property was foreclosed and the families lost the estate. Many of the Schweinitz estates were lost to the family between WWI (The Great War) and WWII because of mismanagement of the mortgages. This actually happened to Alt Raudten before Hans-Ludwig was born, tale to follow.

Hans-Ludwig Biography

**Back Story of Estate Alt-Raudten**

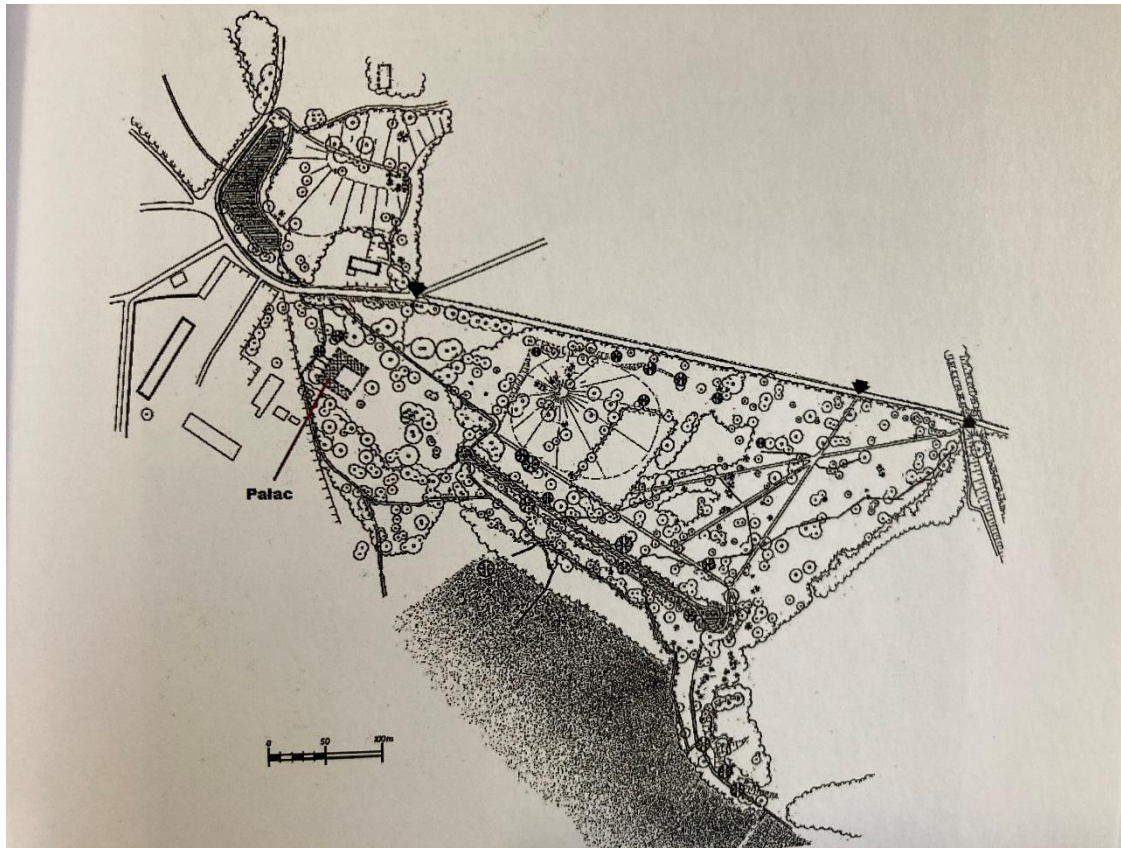
Hans-Ludwig's birth certificate states that he was born in Liegnitz (now Legnica in Poland) in the hospital. In prior generations, children were born by Mid-wife in a room in the manor house on Alt Raudten estate. But both Hans-Ludwig and his older sister Ingrid were born in the nearest hospital, which was a Liegnitz. Hans-Ludwig and his mother, Sigrid, soon returned to the manor house on Alt Raudten estate.



At the location of Alt Raudten, the first documented settlement took place here around 1210. Land was in the middle of a jungle swamp area that was fallow and had to be cleared. The original manor house was built on a grid of huge oak piles by the provincial governor Count von Nostitz around 1210. Later the estate passed to a Baron von Sack. The estate stayed with the von Sack family until late 1600's.

The estate stayed with the von Sack family until late 1600's. During that time a 56 acre area to one side of the manor house was laid out as a park and garden according to the French pattern, it was hewn out of the swamp and contained a more than 1000-year-old grandmother's oak. Favored by the marshy jungle soil, a tree growth thrived here, as seldom; an avenue of spruce trees over 40 meters high, some of 11 solid meters, gave the impression of being in a cathedral. The park paths were designed in a geese foot pattern (3 paths crossing each other). A kind of Sybille pavilion on Ionic columns was built on a hill. The 56-acre park was famous and its venerable, old trees, cascades and fountains were to be carefully cared for and preserved by the subsequent owners at all times.

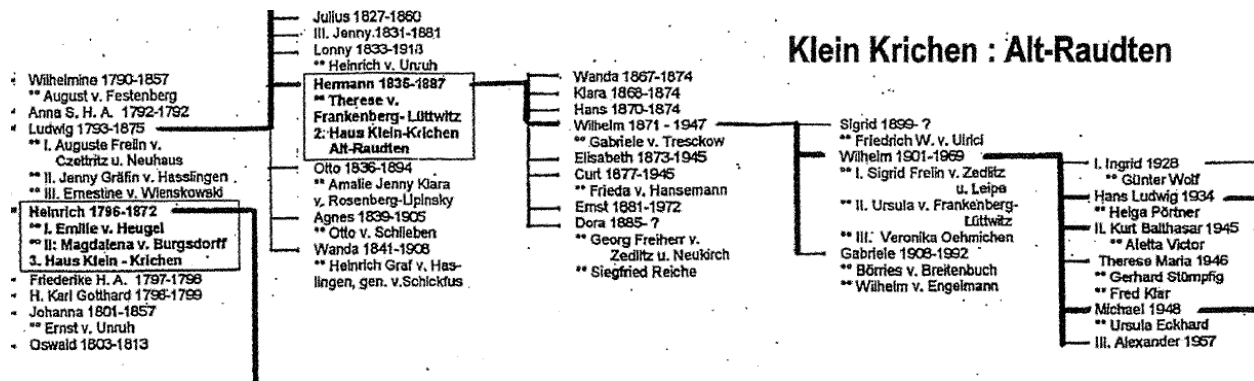




Layout of park as it is being restored in 1997

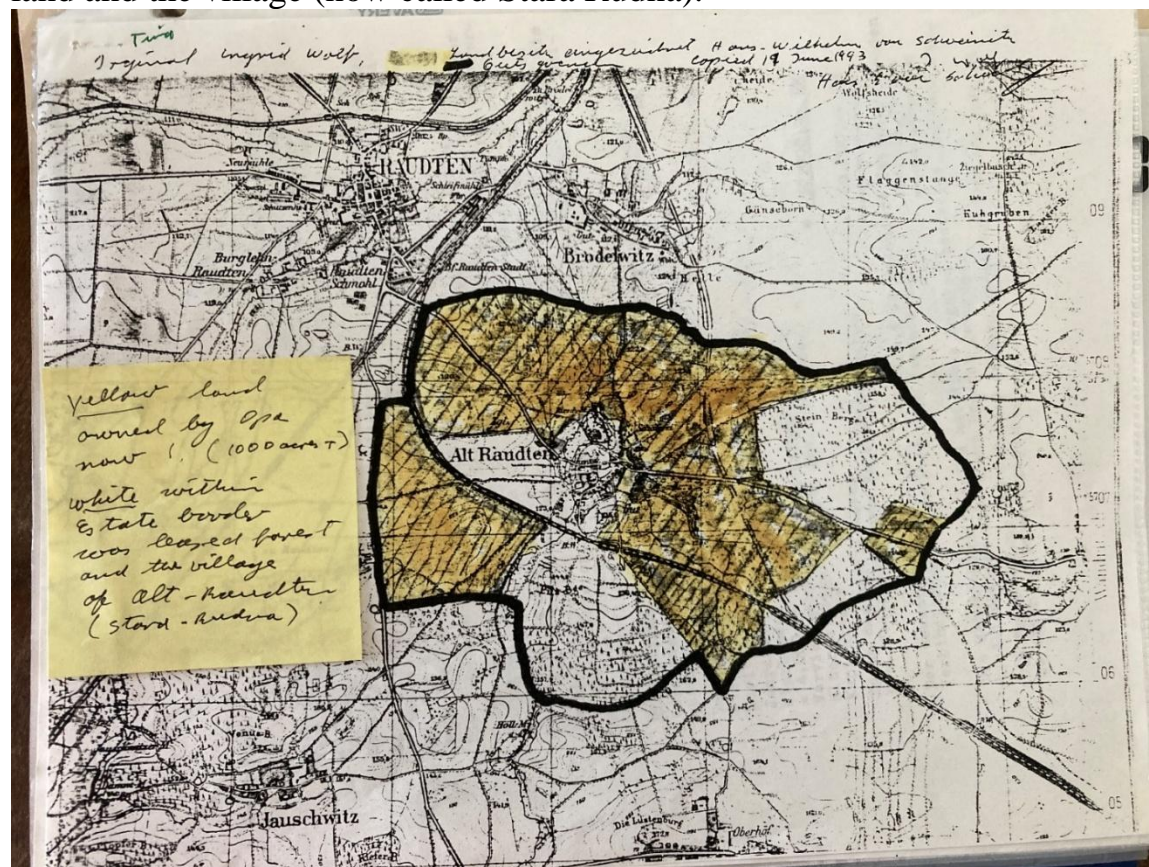
In 1688, Anna Maria von Sack married “Ludwig” von Schweinitz, and through this marriage Alt Raudten went from the von Sack family into the Klein Krichen branch of the von Schweinitz Family. Alt Raudten became part of the von Schweinitz family by inheritance to son Ludwig “Rath” von Schweinitz (1723-1786). Alt Raudten estate stayed in the von Schweinitz family until 1945.

Between 1790-1875, the Klein Krichen branch had three surviving sons and it was divided into three branches, one being Alt Raudten. The Alt Raudten branch of the Klein Krichen branch began with the second born son of ‘Ludwig’ von Schweinitz (1790-1875), ‘Hermann’ Hans von Schweinitz (1835-1887). ‘Hermann’s older brother inherited the Klein Krichen main estate and ‘Hermann’ inherited the smaller Alt Raudten estate. Estates being split between sons was unusual, but would sometimes occur if the original estate was large enough. The split was up to family discretion.



Hermann's first born son, Hans Hermann Heinrich "Wilhelm" von Schweinitz (born 17 March 1871 in Bielwiese and died on 22 June 1947 in Wiesbaden) inherited Alt Raudten estate. On 1 October 1897, "Wilhelm" married "Gabriele" von Tresckow (Born 4 March 1875, died 11 November 1962).

"Wilhelm" and "Gabriele" both were member of the court and like to lavishly entertain. They began to lease out the land and used the money to pay for their life style. After the 1919, the Treaty of Versailles allowed them to mortgage the estate, they also used that money for more parties. They also sold land which significantly reduced the size of the estate. In 1934 Alt Raudten estate was reduced to 377 Hectars (about 932 acres) with another 300 Hectars of leased forest land and the village (now called Stara Rudna).





By the mid 1920's they were about to lose what remained of estate of Alt Raudten due to debts. Luckily their first born son "Hans" Wilhelm Hermann Egon Tassilo von Schweinitz (born 21 December 1901 in Alt Raudten and died 18 January 1969 in Wiesbaden) was studying Agricultural Management at University. And they found a suitable wife that came from a family still with money. On 7 July 1927 their son "Hans" married "Sigrid" Freiin von Zedlitz und Leipe (born 12 February 1902, died 3 September 1942). With "Sigrid's" money, the debts could be paid off and the estate was saved and stayed in the von Schweinitz family. With the marriage, their son "Hans" took over the finances and management of the estate. "Hans" severely curtailed his parents spending towards lavish entertainment. Eleven months after the marriage on 3 April 1928, 'Hans' and 'Sigrid' had their first child, daughter "Ingrid" Sigrid von Schweinitz. "Wilhelm" and "Gabriele" were now Grandparents. But for Alt Raudten to stay with the 'von Schweinitz' family there needed to be a son to inherit. A son did not arrive for another six years, on 26 October 1934, Hans-Ludwig von Schweinitz was born. The estate was now securely in the 'von Schweinitz' family.

### **How the Estate Alt Raudten was Managed**

The land in the estate of Alt Raudten is predominately swamp with plenty of iron in the soil. The estate was established in the 1200's, and at that time, the land was considered worthless and there were very few inhabitants, farms, or trade routes. Canal and ditches were dug to drain the land. The water ran bright red with iron and the soil was black with nutrients.

Every estate developed with a different purpose, but there were several similarities such as being multi-generational, inheritance, workers, and security.

The estates were multi-generational. Any family member had the right to live in that estate. Family members would move away because of marriage, career pursuits, or 'wanderlust'. And many would move back in because of death, retirement, career changes, or a multitude of reasons.

Also the first born son usually inherited the estate. Families at that time had 10 or more children. And, the other members of the family, usually the sons, when they were not part of the estate they would become officers in the military. Or they go and they became politically active. Another practice was for one son to become a member of the church as a safe heaven.

The estates also needed workers. These workers were not slaves or servants, or in servitude. The manager (heir) of the estate may establish how many workers and what type of workers are required in the estate, but the manager did not own the

workers. Most workers were craftsman or tradesman or had skills who worked for the estate and also ran their own business. Once a worker was part of the estate, they were there for life, they could raise their own families, expand their business, and take on apprentices, and leave their business to their children as inheritance. The work that was done for the estate was often paid with a mixture of allotment and goods, food, and supplies. Payment for services was done more through the bartering system than through monetary paper.

The estate family felt an obligation to take care of their own family members, and to take care of all the worker's families. There was no retirement system or health care system before 1890's (Bismark Germany Unification). Therefor the village would also have workers that could provide for the health care of everybody and also support the infrastructure. Once a worker was part of the estate, they would always be useful, even if they had to change careers due to their circumstances. The workers were always free to leave for another estate or adventure, but like everywhere in Europe, it was best if they left with Letters of reference, Certificates of good standing (no unpaid debts both monetary and criminal) and if under the age of ascension (21 in Germany) then a letter of approval from a parent/guardian.

The estates were run like a business, and each estate was different. Some estate ran resorts, spa's, health institutions, conference centers, farms, retail trades (ceramics), and many other ventures that created money. By 1934, Hans-Ludwig's father "Hans" was managing the estate of Alt Raudten as a self sufficient agricultural estate. The land consisted of rich black soil that was meters thick. This soil was ideal for potatoes and sugar beets. The land was rich in iron and the acres of forests produced fast growing timber trees. While growing these trees provided ideal habitat for wildlife that could be harvested (hunted) for consumption or sold at market. There were several ponds on the estate and a thriving fishing farming industry was developed. Near the manor house there were barns full of breeding pigs which could be consumed on the estate or sold to market. Several acres around the village (Stara Rudna today) were cultivated by the workers as their own gardens. Other acres were used to raise crops such as wheat, rye, and corn (for animals).

### **Significant History Events before Hans-Ludwig's birth October 1934**

Before Hans-Ludwig was born there were several significant historical events that would influence his life at Alt Raudten. Since Hans-Ludwig was so young, he may not have been aware of why certain decisions were being made by the adults and why his world was changing. Other events will be explained later. The effects these events will be made clearer during each of Hans-Ludwig's tales.



On 1919 June 28, in the final version of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was required to give up all its colonies. With the exception of German Southwest Africa, where some descendants of German settlers still live today (the German Namibians), all Germans were required to leave the colonies.

On 1932 February 25 Adolf Hitler became a German Citizen. He had been born in Austria and immigrated to Germany in 1913 but did not renounce his Austrian citizenship until 1925.

On 1933 January 30 Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor in the Weimar Republic.

On 1933 March 23 the Weimar Republic (1919-1933) was replaced by German Reich.

On 1934 January 26 A 10-year German–Polish declaration of non-aggression is signed by Nazi Germany and the Second Polish Republic

On 1934 January 30. In Nazi Germany, the political power of federal states such as Prussia is substantially abolished by the "Law on the Reconstruction of the Reich" (Gesetz über den Neuaufbaudes Reiches). This is important because all power is now only in the federal government.

On 1934 June 30–July 2 – Night of the Long Knives in Germany: Nazis purge the Sturmabteilung (SA), the left-wing Strasserist faction of the Nazi Party, and prominent conservative anti-Nazis, in a series of political murders. Many of those murdered were from Noble families which had ties to the von Schweinitz families or were members of the von Schweinitz family.

On 1934 August 2 – Adolf Hitler becomes *Führer* of Germany, or head of state combined with that of Chancellor, following the death of President Paul von Hindenburg. All officers of the Army had to take an oath of allegiance and bind loyalty to Adolf Hitler himself. The difference is important: The officers were swearing allegiance to Hitler instead of the people, country, or constitution. If any officer made a statement in opposition to Hitler, that statement was treason. Any act that could be construed by Hitler as against his wishes, was treason.

### **Alt Raudten when Hans-Ludwig was born**

On 1934 October 26, Hans-Ludwig von Schweinitz was born into this world of privilege and upper class social standing of Alt Raudten. He lived with his family in a Manor house big enough to be considered a castle (Schloss), it even had a moot and drawbridge. When Hans-Ludwig was born, his Vati (Father) “Hans” was 33 years old and his Mutti (Mother) “Sigrid” was 32 years old. Hans-Ludwig’s only sibling was his sister “Ingrid” who was already 6 years old.

Since the Manor house was multi-generational, there were plenty of other family members in residence.

Aunt (Sister of his Vater) Sigrid Melitta

Aunt (Sister of his Vater) Gabriele Annie Sophie Helene

Oma (Mother of his Vater) Gabriele von Tresckow

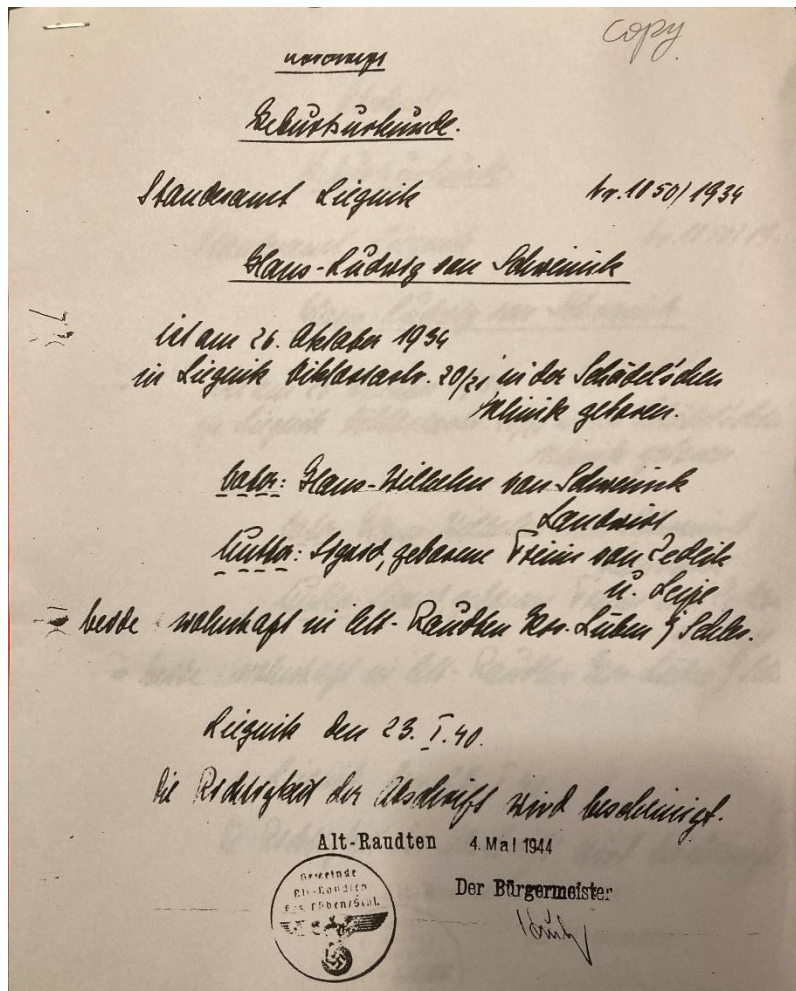
Opa (Father of his Vater) Hans Hermann Heinrich "Wilhelm" von Schweinitz

There were always other family members that would stay temporarily because they were traveling, need a vacation in the country, fleeing the war, were expelled, need a safe haven, and many other reasons. There was also a large house staff to care for the family's needs. Hans-Ludwig even had his own nanny. The staff members that helped to directly take care of the family such as butler, housemother, valet, Lady's Maid, and Nanny would reside in the Manor house. The others, such as the cook, kitchen staff, and maids would live in the village with their own families. These will be introduced in the following tales by Hans-Ludwig.

In 1939, just five years after Hans-Ludwig was born, per an official census, Alt Raudten estate and its village had 91 households (families) with 297 residents.

## **1934 to 1939: Hans-Ludwig's Birth 26 October 1934 until 1939**

### **The Birth 26 October 1934**



Certificate of Proof of Birth, verified on 4 May 1944.

All of Hans-Ludwig documents are translated in "Hans Documents compendium".

Hans-Ludwig would often tell people that "Up to the age of 7 years my childhood was happy and carefree with a great amount of freedom to ideas and action." He was born in Hospital in the nearest town, Leipzig, and grew up in his family ancestral home, Alt Raudten. His Vati (Father) was "Hans" Wilhelm and his Mutti (Mother) was Sigrid. His Paternal Grandparents also lived in the home, Hans "Wilhelm" and Gabriel. His Maternal Grandparents were living in their own estate nearby. There were also many Tantes (Aunts), Onkels (Uncles), and other family members in the house. Because the ancestral home was actually a large manor house, there were lots of staff. Hans-Ludwig had his own Nanny. The manor house was surrounded by a large estate with lots of farm workers, tradesman, craftsman, and a village.

### The Baptism 31 October 1934

On 31 October 1934, Hans-Ludwig was baptized at the church in Alt Raudten. Alt Raudten had its own church, Evangelical, located on a hill, with a single-nave with

Hans-Ludwig Biography

a three-sided separated altar. The family has a baptismal outfit that includes a pillow and 'dress'. The history of this outfit is included in "Baptism Pillow compendium."



Mutti Sigrid, Oma Gabriel, Tante, and Hans-Ludwig as baby in the baptism outfit.

**Gebührenfrei zum Zwecke der Taufe.**

Im Geburts-Register pro 19<sup>34</sup> ist unter Nr. 1050 eingetragen, daß von der *Mag. von*  
*Schweinitz* geb. *Frein von Lütz und Leipe*, *relig.* Religion, Ehefrau des *Ludw. von*  
*Wilhelm von Schweinitz*, *relig.* Religion, wohnhaft zu *Eiegmitz*, *alt. Rauden*,  
*Emil Leber*, am *21* ten *Oktober* 19<sup>34</sup> ein Sohn, Tochter geboren worden ist, welche  
 die — den — Vornamen *Hans Ludwig* erhalten hat.  
 Eiegmitz, den *21* ten *Oktober* 19<sup>34</sup>

**Das Standesamt.**

*(Circular stamp: Standesamt in Eiegmitz)*

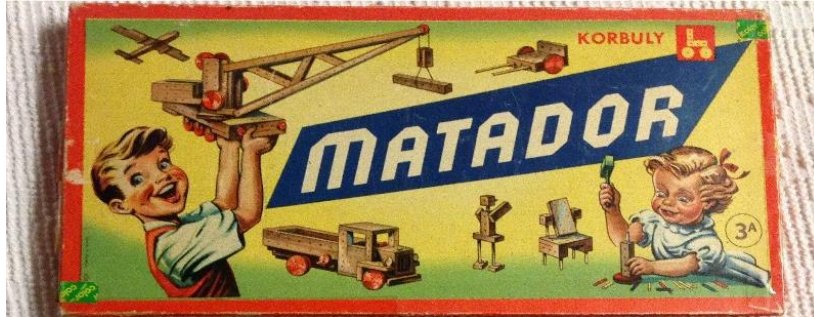
Anmerkung: Das Reichsgezet über die Beurkundung des Personenstandes und die Eheschließung vom 6. Februar 1875 bestimmt  
 in § 82  
 „Die kirchlichen Verpflichtungen in Beziehung auf Taufe und Trauung werden durch dieses Gezet nicht berührt.“

Druck: 15/A 1.  
1000. I. 34

## Toys

“As kids, we're pretty much on our own. The interaction with adults was very limited. We children were not allowed to dominate adult life.”. When Hans-  
 Hans-Ludwig Biography

Ludwig was young, he was under the care of his Nanny who taught him how to play with his toys. "We had these little blocks you could set together, you know, make different pictures. You had yo-yo. We had building blocks made out of box with building blocks that could build things [Matador]."



As Hans-Ludwig got older, Hans-Ludwig and his current playmate were allowed to roam the estate and find their own entertainment or make their own toys. "We have marbles we used to have a little shoe box with hole. You got one that's flew there, you could collect it. We used to take a piece of wood and hollowed it out. The attached a Bicycle pump. And we put wet paper down into it, stuffed it down to the end. And then the second one behind it and then pumped it and it would pop out so far [pop gun]. It was kind of a fun thing we used to play with. And then we make slingshots and Bow & Arrows. We use it. Would love to have them. Practice them. The slingshots we use to harass the girls. Take a tomato and shoot it on their \*\*\*\*. Make them jump."





This photo of the family is from 1942, when the family consisted mostly of women, children, and older men (Opa and Vati). The boy sitting in the “Little car pedal cars” is Hans-Ludwig. The boy in front is not Pfiffir, but he is holding one of the famous sling shots. The girl sitting on the car is Anne, she was often the target of the sling shot. The girl behind Anne with the braided ponytail is sister Ingrid. The Lady behind Ingrid is Mutti.

### Playmates

There were lots of adults in the manor house, but not many children. Hans-Ludwig's only sister Ingrid was already

6 years old when he was born. “I was very much restricted. I was actually not allowed to play with the children of the farmhands. And why is that? There was a separation of the Society. But often I had a playmate, which would be living on the estate.



Hans-Ludwig, Vati, Sister Ingrid, Cousin Anne

Before the war even began (about 1937), Papa's Cousin Anne [Anne von Tresckow] came to live on the estate. Papa was only about 3 years old and Anne was already about 5 years old. Anne actually liked to hang out with Ingrid because she was about 9 years old. Later when Ingrid left the estate at to be an Opere

(Lady in Training) at another estate, Anne would pay attention to Hans-Ludwig, who now 7 or 8 years old and not a toddler.

Anne was on the estate for safe keeping from 1937 to 1945. Her father was related to and working with Major General Henning von Tresckow. General von Tresckow was also a close relative of Oma Gabriele (née von Tresckow). General von Tresckow was a high-ranking official in Hitler's Germany Army. Early on he had been an avid supporter of Hitler. He was one of the masterminds to the Manstein Plan for invading France. But by 1934, General von Tresckow became disillusioned with the actions of Hitler and Nazi party. He managed to survive the 'Night of the Long Knives, 30 June to 2 July 1934' where the Nazi party purged prominent conservatives and any person they felt was against their agenda, including family members, through murders. He decided to remain in the Germany Army and work from within. By 1937, General von Tresckow was organizing German resistance against Hitler, secretly while still trying to maintain his position. If he was found out, the risk to his family was tremendous, probably murder. For safe keeping members of his family was secretly stashed away in different estates. Anne von Tresckow was at Alt Raudten.

In 1942, von Tresckow attempted to assassinate Hitler but the 'coup' was called off because they could not kill Heinrich Himmler [head of SS] at the same time, and if both were not assassinated, they feared that the Third Reich would just continue. Another attempt was made on 13 March 1943 by placing a bomb disguised as a bottle of Cointreau on Hitler's plane. It did not go off. General von Tresckow masterminded the 20 July 1944 assassination plot against Hitler "Valkyrie". Hitler was only injured. On 21 July 1944, General von Tresckow committed suicide in order to protect other conspirators and his own family. His own wife and children were arrested. Anne von Tresckow stayed safely at Alt Raudten.

When Hans-Ludwig was about 5 or 6, another relative became his playmate. "For a while I had one from South Africa [Pfiffir], there was a colony in South Africa that was lost [due to the Treaty of Versailles in 1919]. One of their sons was my playmate for a while." Pfiffir was Papa's age, also about 5 or 6.

Pfiffir was from South Africa, German colony that was lost because of WWI and the treaty of Versailles. Germany lost all African colonies (six principal) except for German South-West Africa (now Namibia) and lost all areas under German control. In Namibia, only half the German settlers were allowed to stay. Pfiffir's family had a large farm in South Africa in 1919, that they had lost. The family was evicted and Papa remembers that Pfiffir's family had first moved to the new

Namibia. They had lived there for several years trying to re-establish themselves. But with the out break of WWII in September 1939, their luck ran out. They were part of the Germans in Namibia that were not allowed to stay. So, they returned to Germany and stayed at Alt Raudten while they rebuilt their lives. Pfiffir only stayed for about one year at Alt Raudten, then moved away with his family. Pfiffir and Papa played with many of the toys that Papa talks about in the next paragraph.



They would spend hours shooting the marbles, or building elaborate structures with the wooded erector set (Matador). Their favorite past time was to load up their sling shots with nuts, hide in waiting, just to terrorize the girls, Ingrid or Anne.

Boys at their age already had pocket knives. Using just their knife, wood, and string they could fashion a variety of different toys. Papa would often state to us when we were children and were sitting among all our American toys and complaining of having nothing to play with, 'Who needs a toy store if you have your imagination'.

Ingrid standing over Hans-Ludwig, and Pfiffir.

## Pets





1938 Hans-Ludwig with cat



1942 Mutti with puppy

The estate was full of animals. The barns were patrolled by cats to keep the mice population under control. There were trained Hunting Dogs in the Kennels. Hans-Ludwig would make friends with the barn cats, if they were willing. But the Hunting Dogs were not pets, when they came out of the kennels they were working. These Hunting Dogs were trained to birding, they would point to them, flush the birds into the open, then retrieve the birds. None of the Dogs were guard dogs. Hans-Ludwig could only visit the Hunting Dogs if he was with the Trainer.

The Manor House also had animals that Hans-Ludwig could be friends with. The house cats would lounge around all day and hunt for mice at night. But these cats were always willing to disturb their daytime nap for some personal attention. They also had house dogs that were friendly and would follow you around. These pets were part of the family.

### **Relationship with Adults**

The manor house and estate was full of adults. Hans-Ludwig could always find somebody to interact with or he was part of their gathering. Although the children were not allowed to be the center of attention, they could always be part of the event.



Hans-Ludwig (about 2yrs old), Tante, Tante, Opa “Wilhelm”, Ingrid, Mutti, Onkel (Vati is missing)

Paternal Opa “Wilhelm” and Oma “Gabriele“

His Paternal Grandparents lived in the manor house. “I knew my father's parents very well. I was very close to my grandfather, my father's father, very close to him. He's the one who, because of a high living standard, he had maintained my grandmother had grown up on a lower court. And she was used to parties and hunting.”



Oma, Gabriele von Schweinitz, geb. von Tresckow

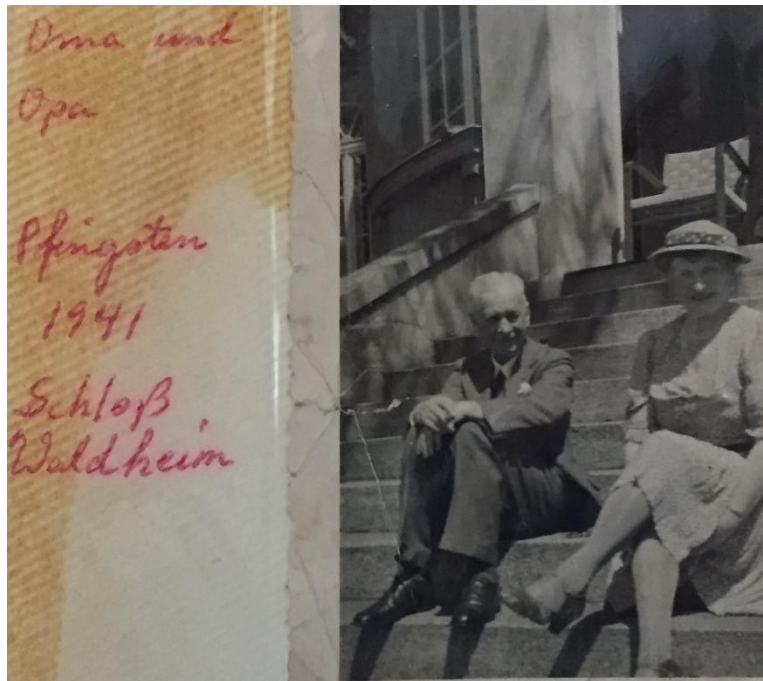


Opa : Hans Hermann  
Heinrich Wilhelm v. S.

### Maternal Opa and Oma

His Maternal Opa and Oma did not live on the estate. "My mother's parents were of nobility. And they left and went to England and lived in England. And then they came back from England, after the nobility was abolished after the First World War. Then he, grandfather, became very successful in hunt training and hunting ammunition. And he built another Manor house, not far from us where we lived. I knew her mother (my grandmother). She was quite well off. She was quite wealthy and I knew her very well and I knew my grandfather very well. We used to spend vacations with them."





Vati, Father "Hans" Wilhelm

His Vati (Father) "before the war, he was busy managing the estates My Vati whom I hardly knew since he was either away building the East-wall or he was occupied with the running of the estate. He was very strict. And without his training and all that, I would have not succeeded."



Vati in 1938

Mutti (Mother) Sigrid

Hans-Ludwig was very close to his mother. "In a very close relationship with her. We would travel together. We went to the Capital [Berlin]. We went to the Circus Busch. Then we went to other estates. Together we went to hunts."

Hans-Ludwig Biography

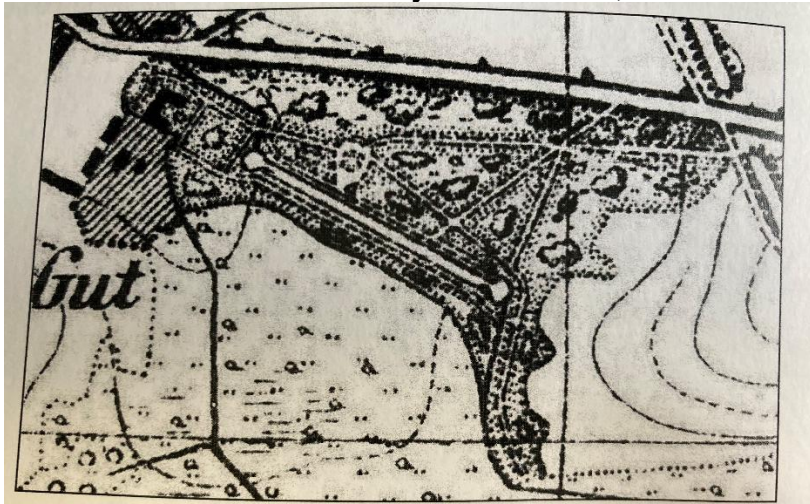


### **Tales by Hans-Ludwig between 1934 and 1939**

Our Papa's memories of Alt Raudten began about when he was 4 or 5 years old. Both my Brother and I remember many tales that he would tell about his childhood. After the 'Wall' fell in November 1989, we would take trips back to Alt Raudten. The manor house, church, and park were in ruins, but the village was still there. We would walk through the ruins and listen to our Papa. The following tales are a combination of those Papa told during his interviews and told to his family.

### **The Park**

Hans-Ludwig's first memories involved walking through the 56 acre park. Most often he was with his Nanny or his Mutti, but also at time with his Opa "Wilhelm".



The map from 1934 shows the layout of the paths in the shape of a 'Goose claw' and with a tree covered walkway.



Hans-Ludwig and Mutti on Bench    Public Archway entrance (Hans-Ludwig and daughter Bettina) in 1993

The park was open to the public on Sundays. They would come by road or by train. Alt Raudten village had a railroad station with walking distance. The public gained access to the park from the back entrance arch. The center piece of the park was a fountain with an elaborate statue of Diane. The public would often have picnics on the open grass area around the fountain. Or take long walks along the pathways over bridges, under the massive oaks, and between the follies. Each intersection was marked with a stone which indicated how to find the entrance.

Hans-Ludwig enjoyed the park the best during the week. The park was quieter and he could learn the ways of the woods. From his Mutti and Opa, he learned to identify which mushrooms were edible, which plants made good herbs, and when best to pick the nuts. They would also teach him how to identify the trees and flowers. His Opa or Onkels taught him which chestnuts were best for ammo in a sling shot.





Fountain statue in pond surrounded by lawn, with manor house' Terrasse in background.

Fountain Diane



Follie "Sybill" on the Temple Mount with Mutti sitting inside.

In 1993 and 1995, Hans-Ludwig walked through the park with his Daughter Bettina and Wife Helga. During the whole walk, he was identifying everything. He even could point out a few the old massive oak trees, even though we could not get close because of the overgrowth. The park had not been maintained since 1945. Times were not easy for the village during the Soviet occupation. Many of the old growth trees had been cut down and their location could be identified by the mushrooms that like to grow on dead wood. In one deep crater, Papa found many different mushrooms, and showed that some mushrooms might not be edible but they are fun to play with. He went up to one that was a round ball shape and stomped on it – a cloud of spores went everywhere.

When we reach a small bridge over a creek, Papa said that this is where he had one of his earliest most vivid memory. He was only 4 or 5, and his Nanny had taken him on a walk through the park and they had stopped on this bridge. He adored his Nanny, especially her voice, and as she talked with him, he got a woody. He did not know what to do! He never told her what was happening. But every time he stands on this bridge that memory comes back.

Walking further along a path, Papa stopped to pick up Chestnuts. These trees had survived the war and occupation. Papa said that not only do Chestnuts make good sling shot ammo, they were also good tasting when roasted. During the fall months the whole family would get involved with picking up acorns and Chestnuts throughout the park, and store them as winter food for the pigs and deer. The estate used to have over 300 acres of hunting forests and one of Vati's responsibilities was to manage the wildlife. During the winter months after the rut, Vati would organize shooting hunts. Everybody was involved and many guests were invited.



Hunt at Alt Raudten 1937

Typical Stag deer antlers on Alt Raudten

Papa then looked through the trees and pointed “see that white bark, those are birch trees”. We walked down another path towards the trees, when he stopped. With



his shoes he pointed out another mushroom – it looked like a truffle. Papa said that truffles did grow in the park, and we were standing under an oak tree, but not to trust truffles that were just laying on the ground. A fox might have dug it up and then peed on it, and the red foxes have a disease that effects humans [actually true Leptosprosis]. We continued on.

The paths were harder to find. The land was returning to it natural swampy state. The ground was soggy with red water. Our shoes where changing color or being sucked off our feet. During Papa's childhood there were several canals throughout the park that were maintained to look like streams. There purpose was to keep the soil drained. The red is from the iron in the soil. The soil is rich with iron and other nutrients, which is why the park is so overgrown in the 50 years since 1945. Every once in a while, we would find the old stone markers that were at each path intersection. They were just laying around. Some of the markings were still readable. We continued on.

Add photo of stone markers

### **The Fields and Farming**

We reached the edge of the park and were standing alongside a road. The white bark birch trees were not part of the park and were across the road on the other side of a field. They were growing on a hill and Papa said that among the birch trees were black berry bushes. There were several places on the estate that were cultivated to encourage bushes to grow that had edible berries. The berries were harvested each year and preserved or sold at market. Enough berries would be left on the bushes to feed the local wildlife. Papa enjoyed when the family would take a walk on a Sunday to the black berry bushes and they would pick enough for their dinner [late lunch in US]. He believes that he was eating more than he was putting into the bucket. What he did not enjoy was the purple hands and scratches from the thorns. At dinner he enjoyed the sweet taste of the berries, especially with fresh cream from their own dairy cows.

From this same point on the edge of the park, Papa pointed off to the distance where there was another hill. They whole Silesia valley and all the way to Dresden was known for its clay that made good ceramics or porcelain [Meissen]. Under this hill is layers of sand and clay. The clay is the type that is high heat resistant and has never been mined. During Papa's childhood they were discussing whether to market the clay to the military or rocket market as heat resistant tiles.



1937, Single tree along farm road used a marker for clay field, Black Berry fields, and back entrance into 56 acre Park.



1995 View to clay hill from road and birch trees

The road that we were standing next to lead further into the estate, into the farming fields. They fields used have heavy deep black soil. Papa used to love to go out with the farm hands and watch. In the deepest soil they would plant potatoes or sugar beets. The soil was so deep that tractors would just sink up to their axles. To solve that problem, the engines, usually steam, would be stationed on one edge of the field. The engines would pull a long rope or chain that was going around a pully on the other side of the field. The plow or till would be on that long rope or chain, and it would be pulled back and forth. During the spring the farm hands would follow the plow and seed the fields. In the fall they would follow the till and harvest the crop. When the potatoes were harvested in the fall was the best

Hans-Ludwig Biography

time. At the end of the fields there would be big bonfires to keep the farm hands warm. And a few potatoes would always find their way near the bonfire. All day and all night they would be bring in the harvest, warming themselves by the bonfire, and eating freshly roasted potatoes.



1937 Potato fields, Planting





Horse drawn plow on Alt Raudten Estate about 1937-1945



1993 Horse and wagon still used around estate.



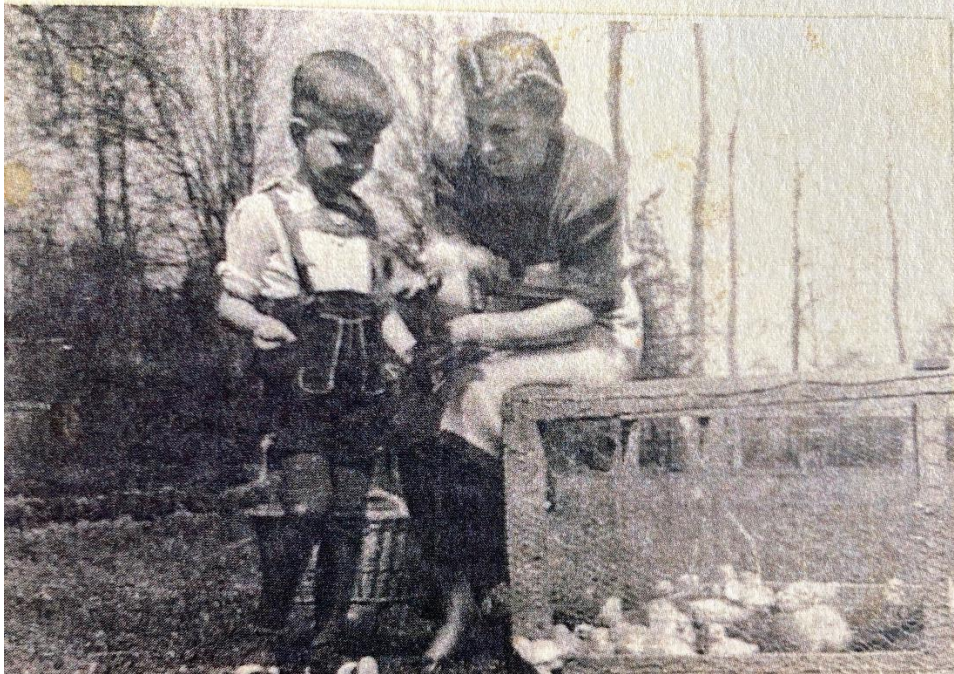
The road that we were currently standing next to was paved, with occasional car traffic. During Papa's childhood there were some tractors and trucks on the estate. But most farm transportation was still being done by horse and wagon. Papa would hop on the wagon with the farm hands and ride down this road out to the fields. When he was a child, most roads on the estate were dirt tracks, just right for horse traffic. Roads that were paved throughout Silesia would have a row of trees on each side for a wind break. Along the other side of the trees would be a dirt track for horse traffic. When Papa and his family would go visiting, they would take the carriage with the high-stepping light horses and travel along these dirt tracks. His favorite trip was when he went with his Mutti to visit her parents in their neighboring estate of Schloß Waldheim. In 1993, when we were driving through the Silesia portion of Poland, the paved roads were still narrow two lanes and tree lined, but the dirt track was missing. By 1995, the roads were wider two lanes with shoulders and the trees were also missing.

We left the side of the road and walked back through the park, this time coming out near the farm buildings. The buildings were in complete ruins but you could still see the vast extent of the venture. There used to be stables for the horses and wagons. Storage buildings and silos for the sugar beet, potatoes, wheat, corn, and other field crops. Buildings for the pigs, sheep, dairy cows and laying hens. The estate well known for their pigs.



1989 Farm buildings



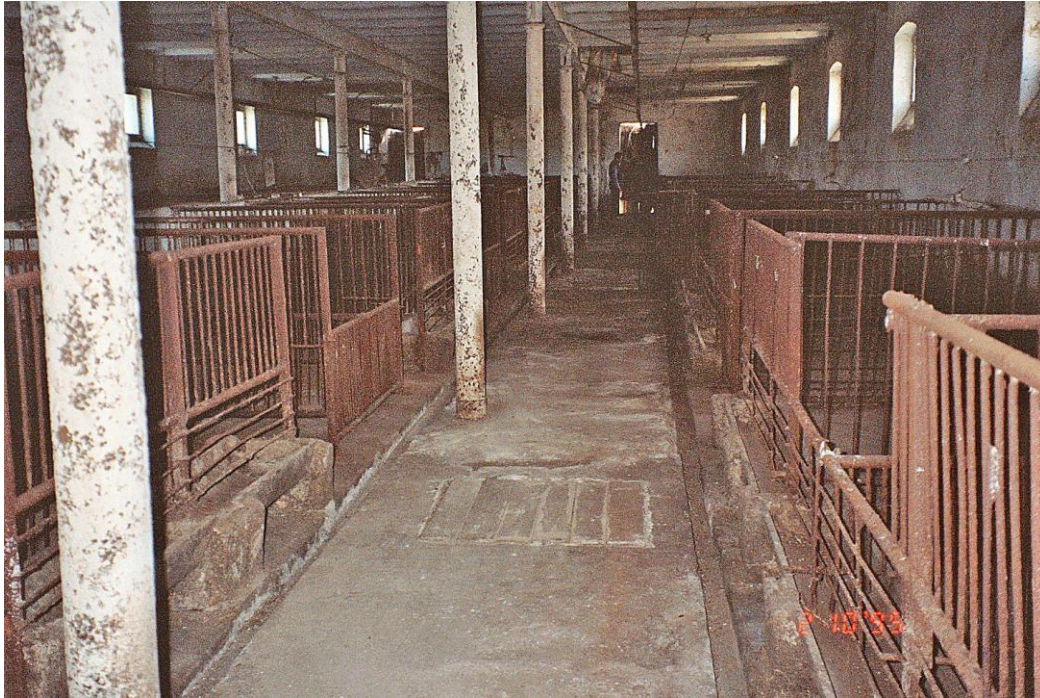


1938 Hans-Ludwig and Mutti tending to the young chicks



1941 Sister Ingrid tending to the lambs in the sheep shed





1995 inside of the pig breeding barn.

Papa used to spend hours in these pig barns. The farm workers did not mind that little Hans-Ludwig would hang around as long as he behaved. He was not allowed into the pens, but he could talk to the pigs and watch. It was in these barns that he got most of his education about life. He learned all about breeding; from mating, pre-natal care, birthing, whelping, and weening. The hardest learning experience was the fattening in preparation for market. Pigs that he just spent months chatting with were now sausage.

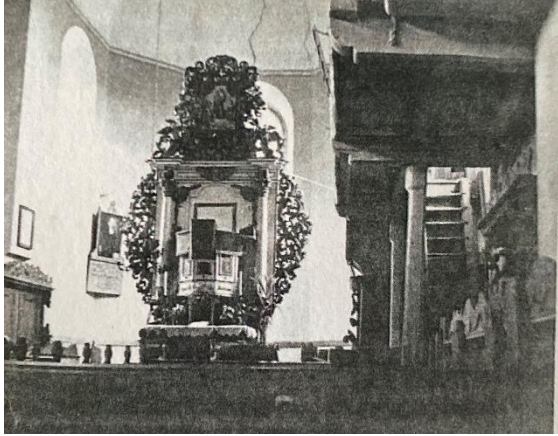
Another task was collecting the eggs from the hen coop. Papa remembers going with the farm workers into the coups. The smell was intense. Shooing the hens off their nests, discovering the eggs, and gently picking them up to put into the basket. Papa would also go with the cook to the hen coup when she was looking for meat. Papa said that 'She taught me how to cut off the head of the chickens, chop off the head up and let the chickens run around like headless.' Every morning for breakfast the family would have eggs from these hens. For the rest of his life Papa would have two boiled eggs for breakfast in memory of his happy childhood.

## Church

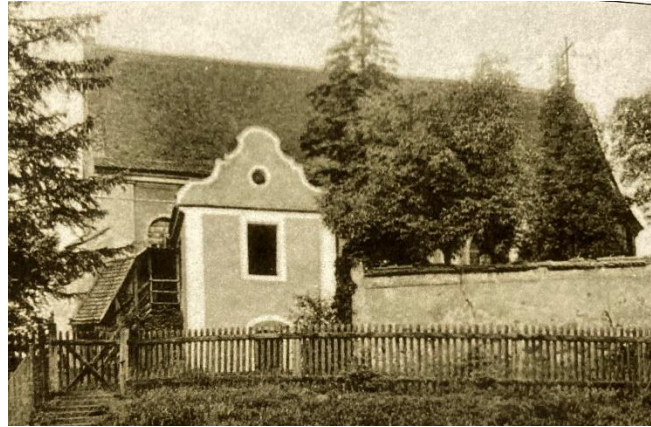
From the farm buildings we walked up the hill to the old village church. In 1993 the church was a ruin and the cemetery was desecrated. But before 1945, the family had a special box for when they attended. He sat with his family during some services. Other times he was an altar boy. The altar boys would stand in certain positions at the front and perform their tasks. The favorite task he looked



forward to came towards the end of the service, he would walk up to the altar candles and extinguish them with a candle snuffer. The snuffer had a little angle on its peak and the smell of talon candles is unique. Candles were special for Papa, he like to have a candle burning each evening on our living room coffee table.



Church Alter in 1940's.



Church in 1940's

### **Fish Pond**

From the church we walked down the road between the manor house and the village. At the end of the road was several ponds. The ponds were over grown and did not seem to have any fish. Another venture for the estate was the raising of fish. As a child, Papa was never really interested in the fish. Fish on a plate tasted good, but fish in the pond were boring. Later in Papa's life he would travel from Texas to Alaska just to fish for Salmon.



1989 one of the fish ponds.

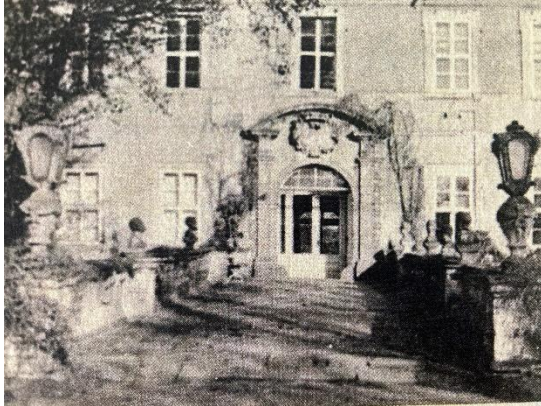
### **Manor House**

The history of the manor house is presented in "Hans Alt Raudten Compendium".

Hans-Ludwig Biography



From the pond we walked up to the front entrance of the manor house. In the very olden days, there used to be a moat with a draw bridge. But in Papa's childhood the moat was just a ditch and the draw bridge had been replaced with a stationary bridge. Looking towards the front door, Papa's room was on the top floor two windows to the right of the front door. It was the corner bedroom.



1935

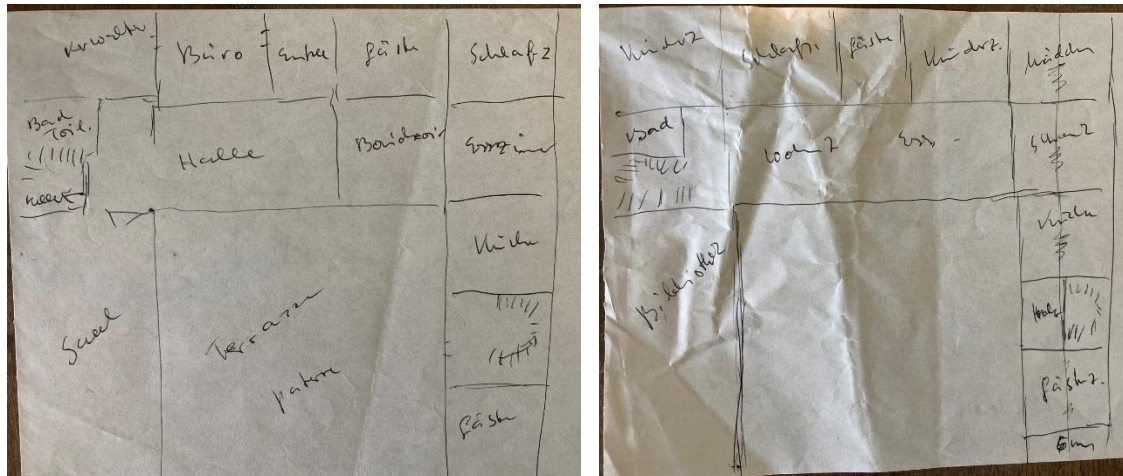


2014

Front Entrance with bridge over old moat.

When visitors arrived, they would use this front entrance. Over the front door is the family crest. Papa would sit at his window and observe. It was especially exciting on the evenings where there was a large dinner gathering or a dance party. Guests would come from all the neighboring estates and family members would travel from afar. Since there was a Railroad station in the village, one of the estates carriages with the fancy high-stepping horses would shuttle guests to and from the station. Others would come by vehicle or their own carriage. There was a lot of excitement in the air.

We walked across the bridge into the 'front entrance'. In 1993 there was only the out shell of the manor house still standing. The roof and upper floor had almost completely collapsed in. There was debris everywhere and trees growing on the upper floor wherever dirt had collected on any remaining upper structures. Papa drew a crude map of the ground floor and upper floor. Papa also had an old photo album that had pictures of most of the rooms. As we walked through Papa would describe some of his memories of different rooms. It was hard, but with the help of the pictures we could use our imagination to bring the tales to life.



Ground floor

Upper Floor

Ground floor Entrée (Entrance hall), Büro (office), Esszimmer (Family dining room), Schlafzimmer (Bedroom), Gästezimmer (Guest Bedroom), Saal (Great Saloon), Halle (Big Hall), Keller (Basement), Bad and Toilette (Full Bathroom), Terrasse (Terrace), Treppe (Stairs), Boudoir (Oma's room), Küche (Kitchen), Kerwelter (AnteRoom)

Upper Floor Kinderzimmer (Childrens Bedroom), Schlafzimmer (Bedroom), Gästezimmer (Guest Bedroom), Bibliothek (Library), Wohnzimmer (Livingroom), Bad & Toilette (Full Bathroom), Mädchen (Nanny/Governess Bedroom), Esszimmer (Family Dining room)

To one side of the Entrance Hall was entry into Vati's office (Büro). The management of the estate took most of Vati's time and he was either in his office or out in the estate. When a Business Guest arrived and Vati was not ready yet, they would be walked through the Halle and into the Kerwelter which was the Anteroom to wait until Vati was available. There was an entry way from the Anteroom into the Office. If Vati was in his office and not with a Business Guest, Papa could respectfully enter. Papa would receive a few minutes of his Vati's time, but then had to leave. Children were allowed to interact with the adults, just not dominate the adult's time.

Next to the Anteroom was a set of stairs. Going down lead to the Basement. In the Basement was the kitchen and storage rooms. There was also a sub-basement or root cellar. Papa loved to go into the kitchen. The staff always had time for him, as long as he behaved and was respectful. The Cook would allow Papa to help during preservation time. "Yes, the Cook was in charge. Of all the cooking. All the preservatives, there were no canning at that time. They were preservatives with the jars we would pickle and smoke. And freeze or with packing ice salt.





1942 Kitchen during preservation Time



1942 Mutti in Kitchen Garden

Because of the cold and severe winters in this area, we've always had food reserves, sometimes for a year or more. And they would do all these things. Like cabbage and fruit would be put in jars with the rubber band around it. So very little was bought. Most of it was produced on the estates itself."

There was a kitchen garden close to the manor house. The Groundskeeper tended the garden but both the kitchen staff and Mutti would pick fresh vegetable and herbs.

Back to the ground floor. To one side of the stairs was the only Toilet and Bath Tub on the ground floor. There was another on the upper floor. There was always a lot of people in the house and with only two bathrooms, you learned not to dwell. A quick in, finish, and out. The two bathrooms were the only two rooms on the ground floor and upper floor that had running water. Papa could not remember if there was hot water on tap, or was the hot water brought up from the kitchen. His Nanny always made sure that the Bath Tub was prepared for him, and he could not remember how it was made warm. Papa did remember that there was not heat the Bathroom, and getting out of the water on a cold winter day was memorable. More Bath Tub tales to follow. Taking a full emersion Bath was infrequent. Everyday a jug of fresh water was brought to each bedroom along with a bowl, washcloth, soap, and towel. Using the washcloth and soap you would clean your body, especially the stinky bits.

On the other side of the stairs was the entrance to the Saal or Great Saloon. This was a very large room. It was reserved for entertaining, such as large Dinner Parties and Dances. Every winter, the extended family and guests would gather for



large dinners and dances in December. The winters were bitterly cold in Silesia. Papa remembers that to have Great Saloon warm enough to be comfortable, the fireplace and the wood stove had to be burning all day and night starting in November. Whenever there was a big Dinner Party planned, Papa would wander into the Great Saloon and watch as the staff prepared the long tables and set the glasses and silverware just perfect. The white tablecloths were ironed while on the tables until every crease was removed. Each piece of silverware had been etched with the family crest and was polished until the crest glittered and then the piece was precisely placed in the correct order. The crystal wine glasses were polished until they shone without a speck or blemish. The family honor was at stake. Papa was allowed to look, but not touch, in case he would leave a smudge. During

the Dinner Party, all the Chandeliers were turned on and the room glowed. The manor house had converted from gas light to electric before Papa was born (1934).



Rooms in the Big Hall with open doors to Terrasse.



Back to the Big Hall (Halle). This was the main living area, more like a family room. There were lots of tables and chairs, and a wonderful warm fireplace. The family would gather in this room in the evenings or on bad weather days. There would be long discussions, card playing, games, and puzzles. Everybody was occupied, even if it was just listening. Both the Ladies and Gentleman could knit so "Sweaters were knitted. Then the wool used again. So there was very little purchasing going on." Sometimes, the Ladies would retire to the Boudoir which was also called Oma "Gabriele" room. The Big Hall was central to the house and had easy access to the front door and the door onto the Terrasse (Terrace). In the photo of the double room, there is light bulb in the top of the chandelier, the house was wired for electricity.

The manor house was shaped like a horseshoe, and in the middle was the Terrasse. Weather permitting the family lived on the Terrasse. They had their meals, entertained, played with the children, had discussion, and did other family things. The view from the Terrasse was over the open area of the 56-acre park onto the Water Fountain and continued down the tree covered wide walking path.



View from the Terrasse to Park



Terrasse between two wings

This open area is where the Sunday Public would have their picnics, while the family was on the Terrasse with their Sunday mid-day dinner. Papa remembers walking through the park with his family on a Sunday. As the family and the public walked past each other they would nod and say "Gross Got". Often, they would stop and a light conversation. The children of the public would run around the park and be playing. Papa was not allowed to join these children in play. He learned to talk to the other children, politely, then return to the Terrasse and play with either his current Playmate or his younger Tantes (Aunts). Sometime his Opa



“Wilhelm” and Mutti would play games. The biggest treat was when his own Vati had time to play.



*Vati, Hans*

1938 Vati “Hans” and Hans-Ludwig



*Hans, Opa*

Hans-Ludwig and Opa “Wilhelm”



**Other Photos from 1934 to 1940**



Mutti and Hans-Ludwig at base of Terrasse steps.

Vati, Mutti, and Hans-Ludwig





1936 Hans-Ludwig and Vati



1936 Hans-Ludwig





1937 Hans-Ludwig



1937 Hans-Ludwig and Ingrid

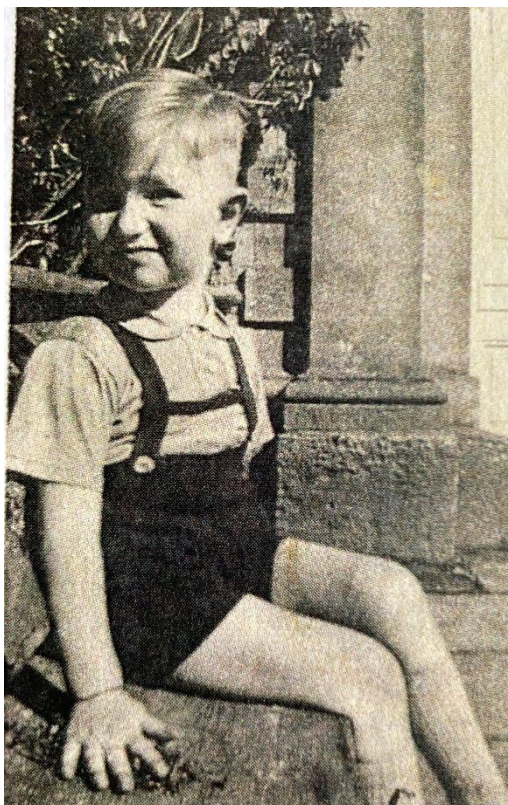


1938 Hans-Ludwig with his younger Onkels and Tante





Hans-Ludwig with an Onkel



1938

1938 Hans-Ludwig on Terrasse wall



1938 Hans-Ludwig and Ingrid in Park

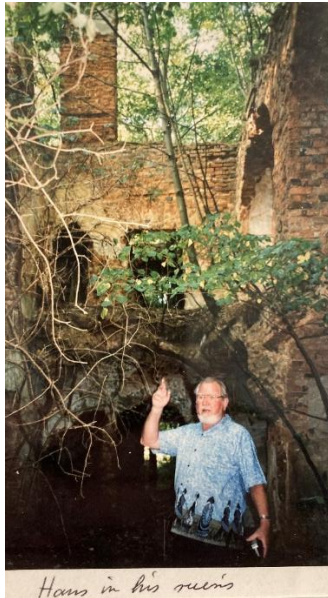


Ingrid and Hans-Ludwig

We ended our trip in 1993 with Papa standing in the Great Saloon and pointing back into the ruined Manor House, pointing up to where his bedroom used to be on



the upper floor. Now there is a tree growing on what remains of the floor of his bedroom. More about the upper floor later.



Add upper floor with bedrooms, and library and living room, etc

Side Note: On 9 March 1937, Helga Pörtner, Hans-Ludwig's future wife was born in Herford, Germany.

### **Historical Timeline between 26 October 1934 and 1938**

In 1934 shortly after Adolf Hitler rose to power in 1933, he established the Ministry of Propaganda with the goal that this agency would control all forms of mass communication in Germany. At its peak of influence, the Ministry employed 1,500 employees spanning 17 departments. Censorship policy was produced and implemented by the Reich Minister of Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels. As such, Goebbels oversaw the publication of all media that was to be widely distributed — literature, music, newspapers, and public events. Any material that threatened the reputation of Hitler's government or spoke ill of the regime was immediately censored and retracted. Nazi bureaucrats saw their work and information control as necessary. It was, in their minds their duty to protect the German public from the harms of "undesirable books". [from Wikipedia]

In 1934, the ideologies found at the root of Hitler's implementation of Lebensraum modeled that of German colonialism of the New Imperialism period as well as the American ideology of manifest destiny . Hitler had great admiration for the United States' territorial expansion and saw the destruction of Native American peoples and their cultures that took place during the United States' westward expansion as a template for German expansion. But Hitler limited

his German expansion to central Europe, he never pursued reclaiming the German colonies in Africa or the Pacific that were lost due to the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.

On 1936 November 25, Germany signed pact with Japan. Nazi Germany, which was an anti-communist régime, formalized its ideological position on 25 November 1936 by signing the Anti-Comintern Pact with Imperial Japan. Fascist Italy joined the Pact in 1937

On 1937 March 9, Hans-Ludwig's future wife Helga Pörtner was born in Herford Germany.

On 1938 November 9-10 Reichskristallnacht (Crystal night) occurred through Germany. Ironically November 9 1989 is when the Berlin wall fell.

## 1939

The year 1939 started as any other year. The estate continued to run efficiently under Vati's management. There were many guests in the Manor House. There were hunts, dinner parties, and dances. There were long walks in the Park. The family would also travel to other estates and go on vacations.



1939 Mutti, Ingrid, Hans-Ludwig, Anne, Oma traveling





1939 Sigensee Near Obersee near Zurich Switzerland. Opa “Wilhelm” in his beach attire.

Then came September 1939.

On 1 September 1939, the Third Reich had implemented Hitler’s Lebensraum initiative by invading the northern portion of Poland to annex Danzig area in order to reunite Germany with Prussia. Therefore, Great Britain declared war on Germany on 2 September 1939. Many of the von Schweinitz men were in the Army, Politics, or had other positions of power. They had left in support of the war, and as a result the only men at the manor house were Vati, Opa and a few very old Onkels. Vati because he was exempt due to being the heir and manager of the estate. Somebody had to produce the crops to feed the Army. And Opa and the Onkels were too old. When the war began, all communication was cut off to any country outside of areas controlled by Germany. Even communication within Germany was difficult and censored. Since all the officers in the Army and many civilian positions had to take an oath back in August 1934 to be loyal to Hitler himself, any communication that might be construed as negative about the war was prosecuted as treason.

On 17 September 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Poland from the East. By 19 September 1939 the German and Soviet armies link up near Brest Litovsk (now Brest Belarus). Great Britain does not declare war on the Soviet Union for invading Poland. Germany and the Soviet Union divide Poland between them, as they had planned in the August 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. The Silesia portion of Poland is solidly within the German occupied portion of Poland. Hans-

Ludwig's family at Alt Raudten was safe because they were Germans within a German controlled area.

But on 20 October 1939, Hitler told General Wilhelm Keitel that the war would be a difficult "racial struggle" and that the General Government was to "purify the Reich territory from Jews and Polacks, too." Likewise, in October 1939, Nazi propaganda instructed Germans to view Poles, Jews, and Gypsies as Untermenschen. This was an issue in the Estate of Alt Raudten. The village population was a mix of Germans and Poles. Many of the villagers did join the German Army in support of the war effort, but they had to declare that they were not only loyal to Hitler but also loyal Germans despite being Poles. Risky. Others joined the Polish Army or Polish Underground Resistance to fight against the invasion by Germany and Soviet Union. The Polish Government went into exile, first to France then to London where it joined other exiled governments (Norway, Netherlands, Belgium, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Greece).

Except for the uneasiness of the future, the only real effect on Hans-Ludwig's life was that most of the men within a certain age range had left the estate.

### **Historical Timeline 1939**

On 1939 August 23, Nazi Germany (Hitler) had signed a non-aggression agreement with Soviet Union, Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

On 1939 September 1, Germany invaded Poland, starting World War II. On 17 September, the Soviet Union invaded Eastern Poland, and, as a result, Poland was partitioned among Germany, the Soviet Union and Lithuania.

On 1939 September 3, Great Britain declares war on Germany for invading East Poland, beginning WWII. Great Britain did not declare war on the Soviet Union for invading West Poland. USA did not declare war on Germany until 1941 December 11. WWII ended in Europe on 1945 May 8 and in the Pacific on 1945 September 2.

On 1939 September 1 All communication in Nazi controlled areas were censored or banned. This was an attempt to control what information Germans hear about the war. Germans were banned from Listening to Foreign Radio. Later in the war, the regime even sentences people to death for listening to foreign radio stations. Newspapers were heavily censored. Mail delivery/acceptance from not controlled by Nazi (Hitler) was stopped. The effect was that normal citizen were completely cut off from any news about world events outside what the Nazi Party wanted them to read or hear about. Citizens could not even communicate with family members in other countries, such England or USA. A complete information black-out.



On 20 October 1939, Hitler told General Wilhelm Keitel that the war would be a difficult "racial struggle" and that the General Government was to "purify the Reich territory from Jews and Polacks, too." [60] Likewise, in October 1939, Nazi propaganda instructed Germans to view Poles, Jews, and Gypsies as Untermenschen

## 1940

In 1940, Hans-Ludwig was turning six in October, the age that children begin first grade in Germany. Except for the missing men of military age, not much had changed in his life. The estate continued to run efficiently under Vati's management. Vati was even busier than ever, since he had to run the estate with less farm hands. There were plenty of older adults around, like Onkels, Tantes, Opa, and Oma, that had time to pay him attention. His Mutti was still running the household and had plenty of time for Hans-Ludwig. There were no more hunts, large dinner parties, or dance parties. And trips to vacation destinations had stopped. But there were lots of gatherings on the Terrasse and long walks in the Park.

Except for the information that visitor brought with them, there was almost no communication with the outside world. There was a death penalty if you listened to Foreign Radio stations. The newspaper articles were heavily censored and full of propaganda. Even in conversations within the family, you had to be careful of any comments. Especially comments that might be construed to be against Hitler, which was treason.

## Appendicitis

Hans-Ludwig was to begin First Grade in August 1940, but sometime in the Summer his appendix burst and he was rushed to the hospital in Leipzig. He survived the surgery. In 1940 there was no anti-biotics or penicillin for civilian use. Penicillin was not mass produced until 1942. After the surgery, Hans-Ludwig was sent home (Alt Raudten) for recovery. His Nanny at that time was good at nursing and took good care of Hans-Ludwig. He was weak and had to stay for weeks in his room on the upper floor. By the time Hans-Ludwig had regained his strength, it was well after the beginning of school. So, the decision was made to delay his first day of school until August 1941 when he would be seven years old.

The war events of 1940 had little effect on Alt Raudten. There was still the issue of some of the villagers being Poles, but none of the decrees issued by the Nazis were enforced on the estate or in the village. There were so few farm hands left, that Vati could not afford to treat them as "Untermenschen", sub-humans and keep

the estate running efficiently. The Soviet Union continued to spread further west but they were concentrating on countries to the North of Poland. Hitler was extending this Lebensraum initiative towards France and by 14 June 1940 was occupying Paris. To the North, by July 1940 the German Luftwaffe was attacking England and in retaliation England was bombing Berlin, then in retaliation Germany began to heavily bomb London.

### **Historical TimeLine in 1940**

- On 8 March 1940: With the Polish decrees (8 March 1940), the Nazis ensured that the racial inferiority of the Poles was legally recognized in the German Reich, and regulated the working and living conditions of Polish laborers (Zivilarbeiter). The Polish decrees also established that any Pole "who has sexual relations with a German man or woman, or approaches them in any other improper manner, will be punished by death."
- On 16 March 1940: 16 March 1940 German air raid on Scapa Flow causes the first British civilian casualties.
- On 3 April 1940: 3 April 1940, 22,000 Polish officers are massacred by the Soviet in the Katyn Massacre.
- On 10 May 1940: 10 May 1940 Germany invades France. By 14 June 1940, German troops occupy Paris.
- On 18 June 1940: 18 June 1940 the Soviet Union now controls Norway, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and more. Areas north of Poland on the Baltic Sea.
- On 2 July 1940: 2 July 1940 Hitler orders preparation of plans for invasion of Britain, code named Operation Sea Lion. It began on 15 September 1940
- On 3 July 1940: 3 July 1940 The British Royal Navy destroys the French Fleet, fearing that it would fall into German hands.
- On 10 July 1940: 10 July 1940 Battle of Britain begins with Luftwaffe raids on channel shipping
- On 26 August 1940: 26 August 1940 Berlin is bombed by RAF for first time. Germany retaliates against the Berlin raid by changing bombing targets from RAF Airfields to London with "The Blitz".
- On 15 September 1940: 15 September 1940 Germany's Operation Sea Lion begins, the invasion of Britain. Does not go well due to British having RADAR and German poor aircraft range.

### **1941**

Just like 1940, the year started the same. The estate continued to run efficiently under Vati's management and Mutti managed the household. There were still plenty of older adults around who had time for Hans-Ludwig. He had now recovered enough from the burst Appendix to be outside and enjoy all kinds of boyhood adventures.

Hans-Ludwig Biography

Hans-Ludwig's playmate, Pfiffir, had left with his family. Anne von Tresckow was still living at the estate for safe keeping. Her relative, Henning von Tresckow, was becoming more disgruntled with Hitler's handling of the war. Nobody could openly talk about any knowledge of General von Tresckow for fear of being prosecuted for treason, but the family made sure that Anne was safe. Anne still wanted to hang out with Ingrid more than Hans-Ludwig.

On 22 June 1941 Nazi Germany began Operations Barbarossa against the Soviet Union, in violation to the non-aggression Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact that Germany and the Soviet Union had signed on 23 August 1939. The attack against the Soviet Union was a three-pronged operation aimed at Leningrad, Moscow, and the southern oil fields of the Caucasus. All three of these areas were well away from Silesia and Alt Raudten. Again, it did not have any direct effect except that the young men were still being called away in support of the German war.

### **Going to village school 1941**

(This section was written first as a submission to the writing club at the Conservatory in December 2023. A few modifications have been added)

In August of 1941, Hans Ludwig entered first grade. He was 7 years old. Normally schooling in Germany starts at age 6. His entry into school was delayed because he had contracted a burst appendix in the summer of 1940. In 1940 there was no penicillin or anti-biotics for civilians in Germany. It was well into the winter months of 1941 before Hans Ludwig to recover from the operation. So, his schooling was delayed.

The estate of Alt Raudten had been self-sufficient for hundreds of years. But by the fall of 1941 the estate was having a personnel problem and a cash flow problem. Many of the able-bodied adults from both the manor house and the village had left and were active in the war effort. They did not have a choice; if you did not volunteer, you were drafted, or you were 'picked-up'. The various governments were also demanding high payments (taxes) from all estates to pay for the war effort. Since Silesia was on the border of Germany and Poland, both governments were claiming sovereignty over the estate, both governments were demanding their taxes. The only cash crop that the estate produced was sugar beets and pigs. The cash they produced was not enough and the estate was in financial difficulties.





For hundreds of years, the children of the manor house were taught by tutors for the first four years of primary (Grundschule) schooling. Then the children would go off to boarding school for further education (Hauptschule and beyond). As stated by Hans-Ludwig “I did go to public schools, and I was one of the first generations who went to public school. Before, we always had house teachers. And at the age of 10, we still left the homes. And where sent to boarding schools, or cadet schools, military schools, the boys and girls went to boarding schools.”

But now there was no money to pay for a tutor. The decision was made to send Hans Ludwig to the public school in the village, where the local kids attended. “It was an economic thing. Part of the war. That you could no longer afford a house teacher or tutor. Like Butlers were no longer. We had no Butler, but we had three or four house girls. It was, I think, more of an economic thing.”

The village school had one teacher and one class room for all grade levels of schooling. The farm and village children went to this school for their first 4 years of primary education. Because of the war, there were also ‘displaced’ children from the cities. They had been sent out into the southern country side for safety from the armies and bombing in Northern Europe.

On the first day of school, Hans-Ludwig proudly received his cone of candies, mid-morning snack, and school supplies and walked to the village school. He was different from day one. He was the only child from the manor house, he was a year older than others in his grade, and he was a boy.

The other boys were merciless. The village and farm boys resented Hans Ludwig because he was from the manor house and he was going to become the future manager of the estate. The city boys resented him because he represented the ruling families that were linked to the various governments that were at war and they blamed him for their ‘displacement’ from their families. “I really had to defend myself against the kids. In the village because they hated the ruling families and the children of the ruling families. So I was an outsider there.”

School was from 8am to midday, about 1pm. There was a pause for a mid-morning snack. School was over in time to return home for lunch. There was no school in the afternoon.

During the lessons the students would behave and treated each other with respect. The teacher would maintain control in the class room. But the fun would begin at snack time and on the way home. In the 1940's when children were at play, the adults would only provide general oversight and supervision, not micro-manage the children. The children made their own decisions and resolved their own issues. The children learned quickly exactly what they could get away with and how far they could take their behavior, before an Adult would become involved.

At snack time they would ignore Hans Ludwig, so he ate alone. After school, as he walked back to the manor house, they would taunt him. While walking through the village, there were still adults around, so the other children would only slightly taunt him. But between the village and manor house was a section of woods. There some of the boys would wait in hiding. Sometimes the boys would also hide in the woods also during the morning walk to school. Hans Ludwig tried to give-back as much as they gave him. Still, this made walking to and from school very stressful. This taunting went on for weeks.

“It was extremely difficult because I had to sneak my way home. I was chased. With the children and made the fun out of it to chase me. Home from school. I found ways to establish myself. I developed all kinds of tricks to get even with them. So eventually they laid off. And then eventually I would make friends”

Although Hans was only 7 years old, his father was already grooming Hans to become the manager of the estate. His father encouraged Hans to follow along while affairs of the estate were being resolved or discussed. Before leaving his office, his father would often fill his pockets with small items such as cigars or packages of preserved fruit/nuts. As his father walked around the estate and talked with the various workers, he would reward some of the best with a small item for a job well done. Hans witnessed how well these cigars or packages of fruit/nuts were received. Hans had an idea.

Hans went down into the kitchens to visit the cook. Manor House children were allowed to go ‘downstairs’ without any formal announcement and freely talk with the downstairs staff. He asked the cook, if he could have extra sweets, such as the preserved dried fruit or maybe some of the precious sweets? The dried fruit came from the estate's fruit trees, were dried, and then sprinkled with sugar granules. The sweets were hard candy, made from only sugar, flavoring and water. The

sugar was from sugar beets that were grown in the estate fields. The cook asked Hans why he needed extra sweets. He told her that he wanted to give them to his new friends at school. She thought that was so considerate of him, and gave him a bag full.

But what friends? The ones that were taunting him? The next school day, Hans brought along his bag full of sweets and dried fruit. Hans carefully choose a few of the boys, asked them if they could be friends, and offered them sweets. The boys had a choice, taunt Hans or accept the sweets? The sweets won. Others wanted sweets also. Hans said that he had to ask the cook for more and could bring them on another day. The taunting stopped and Hans could leisurely walk home after school. The cook continued to give Hans small bags of sweets or dried fruit. Hans learned how to ration the sweets to maximize the good-will of the other students.

When Hans returned to the manor house each evening, he did not have any other kids to play while he was upstairs. He did have a sister, Ingrid, but she was already 14 years old (7 years older than Hans). Ingrid, as the future Lady of an estate, had to learn how to run a manor house. The traditional method to teach these skills was to send the teenage girl to another estate, either from the same family tree (there were 23 estates in the Schweinitz family tree) or the estate of another family of the same Nobility status. There the future Lady would further her formal education, learn to be a Lady, and learn how to run the business of a manor house, all without having to rebel against her own mother. Because the effects of the war in the northern section of Central Europe, it was decided to send Ingrid to an estate further south. So, Ingrid had already left and was being trained by the Lady of another manor house in the family tree near Swidnica in the southwestern portion of Silesia. [Ingrid actually did not go to the other estate until 1944 when she was 16 or 17]

Hans could not bring any of this schoolmate home to the manor house. Not just because his father would not have approved, but because even the families of the village children would not have approved. Socially, village children did not mix with the manor house children. Nobility had its rules, and even children did not have the freedom to break the rules. Hans had bought his schoolmate's kindness with the sweets, not their friendship.

Side Note: in August of 1941 Helga Pörtner, Hans-Ludwig's future wife, started of Kindergarten in Herford, Germany.



**1941 Fall and Christmas**

(This section was written first as a submission to the writing club at the Conservatory in January 2024. A few modifications have been added)

Hans' predicament about being an only upstairs child was soon resolved. The same war effect that sent his sister Ingrid to the south, was now having an effect in the manor house. But by fall of 1941, England had built an effective Air Force and were bombing northern Central Europe. Germany and Poland had built equally effective air defense around every town, city, and bridge in the northern section. The British Air Force quickly learned not to bomb towns and cities. It was better to avoid the anti-aircraft guns and bomb the unprotected railroad tracks or roads in the countryside. Without tracks or roads, the trains and factory goods were stuck in the towns, and the German military was not being restocked. Problem was, that the estates of the Nobility were in the countryside.

The village had already absorbed several children from the northern towns. Now the village was absorbing whole families from the northern farms who were leaving and heading south to relatives. The same was happening in the estates. The manor house was filling up with distant relatives that were fleeing their estates in the north. These estate families included children. Now Hans had playmates.

Soon it was the beginning of December. Time to prepare for all the festivities that honor the Birth of Christ and then followed by the bringing in of the New Year. There was no central heating in the Manor house, so to have the big Hall warm enough for the parties and formal dinners, all the fires in the fireplaces had to be lit all day and night beginning on December 1. The farm hands slaughter several pigs, chickens, and geese. All the stoves, ovens, and fireplaces in the kitchens were busy. Meat had to be cooked, pastries baked, fruit preserved, and nuts processed. All the smoke houses outside were also blowing smoke from their chimneys. Not all the food being prepared was for 'upstairs' in the Manor house. Villagers could bring their allotment to be prepared. And when the villagers collected their cooked or processed food, they would also receive portions of the estate food. Preparation for Christmas had evolved into a process where enough preserves were put into storage at the estate and in the village so that all could survive the harsh winter weather that was coming in January and February.

December 6 was a special day for Hans. It was St Nicholas Day, a special day for children. The night before, Hans and all his new "upstairs' playmates put one of their boots on the mantel of a fireplace in the big Hall. In the morning of the 6th, they found their boot full of sweets, nuts, and fruits. They could then eat the sweets and run around like wild children intoxicated by sugar. They were so loud

and energetic that they were told to continue playing outside, before they broke something. They put on their outside cloths and play on the great lawn, throwing snowballs and sledding. In Hans' memory, this was the best St Nicholas Day ever.

In the middle of December, the trout came. Hans loved the trout. When the trout came, they were still alive and had to be fattened for the great Christmas dinner. Every bathtub in the manor house was used to hold all the live trout. Every day, Hans would go around with his father and feed the trout. Hans would give thanks to the trout. As long as the trout were in the bathtubs, Hans did not have to take a bath. In every bedroom there was still a wash basin and he had to wash every day with a cloth and towel. But soaking in a bathtub – that was not for a real boy. The day after Christmas, Hans would have to take a bath. The manor house did not have central heat and there were no fireplaces in the rooms with the bathtub. Hans could not decide which was worse. Actually, taking the bath with his Nanny present encase Hans needed assistance, or stepping out of the tub into the cold air while Nanny toweled him off, or putting on his cold clothes? Hand washing privately in the bedroom in front of the warm fireplace was much nicer.

But the bath was still a few weeks away, it would not happen until after Christmas Day. First came the Advent candles. There were four for each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each Sunday an additional Advent candle was lit. There was also the opening of a new window in the Advent calendar. The picture behind the opening was always a surprise. During the week was choir practice. There were lots of carols to learn. Then there was the choir performance in the church each Sunday. Hans had a wonderful voice, and even at such an early age, he had an important position in the choir. Almost every day at mid-day there would be a large meal served with all kinds of special dishes. The children would join these meals and learn proper etiquette. Only talk to the person on either side of you, and be polite and respectful. Only asked to be served the amount that you know you can eat, and eat everything on your plate. A clean plate shows respect to the kitchen staff. Hans, being a growing boy, never had a problem with cleaning his plate.

The manor house was full of relatives talking and enjoying themselves. Hans had lots of relatives his own age so he could really play like an eight-year-old. Hans was still too young to join the formal evening dinners and dances, but all the children were allowed, if they behaved, to sit at the bannisters and look down into the hall. For just a short time, then the Nanny told them to get ready for bed, and if they wanted, they could stay up and play in the bedrooms. The children were part of the decorating committees and Hans loved to run through the house waving the silver tinsel, then throwing the tinsel onto the Christmas tree. The Christmas tree

had lots of candles, that were lit only on Christmas Eve. All other lights would be turned off and the Christmas tree would sparkle with tinsel and flicker with candle light. Then the children would be given sparkler sticks, the adults would lite them, and the children could wave them around. It was even better if everybody went outside onto to the Terrasse, then Hans-Ludwig could run around, waving the stick, and watching the sparks fly through the air.

On Christmas Day there was a special Church service along with a special Choir performance. Then there was the Christmas meal at mid-day and they ate the trout. Then everybody would go outside to enjoy the winter: Slay riding, sledding, throwing snowballs, ice skating on the pond, or trudging through the snow. The Christmas season of 1941 was a wonderful time for Hans. Life couldn't get any better.

### **Historical Time Line 1941**

1941: Silesia population was 2,632,630 made up of 2,404,670 poles, 98,204

Germans, 124,877 Jews, 1,202 Ukrainians, 3,677 others

On 23 January 1941 Charles Lindbergh testifies before the U.S. Congress and recommends that the United States negotiate a neutrality pact with Adolf Hitler

On 11 March 1941: Lend-Lease Act was enacted, policy under which the United States supplied the United Kingdom , the Soviet Union , France , Republic of China , and other Allied nations of the Second World War with food , oil , and materiel between 1941 and 1945. The aid was given free of charge on the basis that such help was essential for the defense of the United States. Materiel delivered under the act was supplied at no cost, to be used until returned or destroyed. [2]

On 22 June 1941: Nazi Germany (Hitler) had signed a non-aggression agreement with Soviet Union, Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact on 23 August 1939. But on 22 June 1941, Operations Barbarossa a three-pronged operation aimed at Leningrad, Moscow, and the southern oil fields of the Caucasus, Hitler invaded Soviet Union in violation of pack. From 1941 to 1943, the eastern front was centered on Belgorod in the Ukraine with German movement toward Stalingrad. The war ended on 9 May 1945, when Germany's armed forces surrendered unconditionally following the Battle of Berlin (also known as the Berlin Offensive), a strategic operation executed by the Red Army. Some historians say Stalin was fearful of war with Germany, or just did not expect Germany to start a two-front war and was reluctant to do anything to provoke Hitler. Others say that Stalin was eager for Germany to



- be at war with capitalist countries. Another viewpoint is that Stalin expected war in 1942 (the time when all his preparations would be complete) and stubbornly refused to believe it would come early
- On 8 September 1941: Hitler ordered the Siege of Leningrad (8 September 1941 – January 1944), to raze the city and destroy the native Russian population. [84]
- On 30 September 1941 US Navy Oiler USS Salinas was torpedoed off Newfoundland by German U-Boat
- On 17 October 1941 Destroyer USS Kearny was hit by a German torpedo while escorting a convoy in the North Atlantic.
- On 7 December 1941: WW2 started for US 7 December 1941 with Pearl Harbor. On 8 December 1941 US, UK, Netherlands and New Zealand declare war on Japan. On 11 December 1941 Germany and Italy declare war on US, the US reciprocates and declares war on Germany and Italy.
- On 11 December 1941: Germany declares war on US 11 December 1941
- On 19 December 1941 Hitler becomes Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the German Army.
- On December 1941: Most World War II historians recognize the name Henning Von Tresckow. Henning was a Lieutenant Colonel in the German Army and after he witnessed the killings of captured soldiers of the Red Army in by December 1941 while in German POW camps, he decided at that time Hitler had to be stopped. Henning later became an officer in the Army Group Centre. While there Henning recruited senior army officers to help him overthrow Hitler's government. In 1943 a makeshift bomb was placed on an airplane carrying Hitler, but the bomb failed to explode. Hitler was to attend another meeting on July 20th, 1944 and a recruitment of Henning, Claus von Stauffenberg, carried a briefcase bomb into the meeting. The bomb exploded while Hitler was inside, killing four men and only injuring Hitler's right arm. This plot was famously named Valkyrie. Henning lived during the same generation as Hans' father and was the son of a brother of Hans' paternal grandmother.

## 1942

Just like 1940 and 1941, the year started the same. The estate continued to run efficiently under Vati's management and Mutti managed the household. Hans-Ludwig was attending the local village school and had diffused the hostilities by the use of Candy.

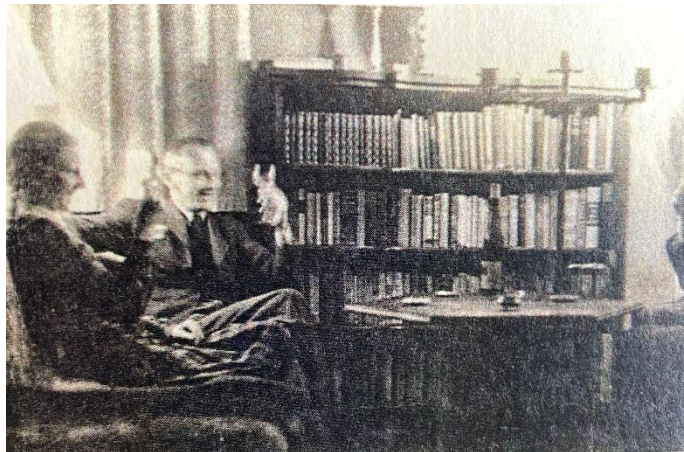
"It was a wonderful room schoolhouse. Eight classes and one. And one the teacher taught all eight classes at the same time. The youngest was age 6 and oldest was

14. Everyone was not learning the same thing. The teachers were trained in such a way that they. See the way the schools were structured at that time. You had four years of grammar school. And then you started high school. After the first four years, which was usually when we enter into a boarding school. You didn't have any foreign languages, you just learned the basics. So that's the basic schooling and that's what was in the villages. The high schools were only. Available in the cities and boarding schools. Math was very much supported because your seating order in the school was established by how fast you learned the Multiplication tables and the divisions. We had only two or three hours of school, and some homework. Then students were on their own and then free to play that they have to make the homework. A lot of it was committed to memory. We had to a lot of things we had to memorize poems, songs. The education system was extremely solid.”

A few things did change in Alt Raudten. There were still family gatherings on the Terrasse with long hours of conversation. But now the adults were very careful about what they said in front of Hans-Ludwig. The school system was being used by Nazi Germany to interrogate the children in order to determine if the adults were committing treason at home. In school, every morning would begin innocently with a pledge to Hitler and Nazi Germany. Hans-Ludwig remembers that "I had to kneel before Hitler's picture on my knees and promise I would not wet the bed". Then the teacher would quiz the children about what the family had done the day before. For example, did the family listen to Hitler's speech on the radio the evening before? What did they think about his speech? The assumption was that children at this young age usually repeat what the adults say, rather than express their own opinions. Any adverse statement by the Child would be reported and then?

### **Nanny Ursula von Frankenberg-Lüttwitz**

The other change was Hans-Ludwig now had a new Nanny, Ursula von Frankenberg-Lüttwitz, age 17/18 [born 26 March 1924]. Actually, since Hans-Ludwig was older now and in school, she was more of a Governess than a Nanny.



Ursula was also from another Noble family so Ursula also needed to learn how to be the Lady of an Estate. Mutti and the Tante's were her teachers. Mutti was spending quite some time with Ursula, teaching and mentoring her. Hans-Ludwig was becoming jealous, his Mutti was not always available for him. But he was becoming a big-

boy now, at least that what he was being told by his older Onkels and Tantes, whenever he felt depressed because he could not find his Mutti. Vati was also spending quite some time with Ursula. Hans-Ludwig could hear them talking as they would sit in the Biblioteck (Library) which was on the upper floor right by his bedroom. Nobody thought this was unusual.

Vati and Ursula in Biblioteck.

The winter of 1941 to 1942 was the coldest that any family member could remember. The pond with the Diane fountain, froze completely. It was almost to cold to even ice-skate on the pond. The deep freeze seemed to last forever. The wildlife also suffered. The chestnuts and acorns that were collected in the fall where now being distributed in the forests so that the deer would have food.

Most of the war had no effect on Alt Raudten. During the winter months the Germany Army that was attacking Moscow was pushed back, exhausted and freezing. In May 1942 the Royal Air Force began to bomb Germany tourist and historic sites and in July the United State joined in the air raids. Germany retaliated by using a British tourist guide books to select bombing targets. In September 1942, the German assault against Stalingrad Russia was succeeding. Enough that Hitler on 30 September 1942, Hitler announces on the Radio that "Stalingrad will be taken." Hans-Ludwig was asked the next day by his teacher, did his family listen? And what did they think? On 8 November 1942 United States troops were first used in European Theater, but they entered North Africa and Casablanca, too far away to effect Alt Raudten.

### **Mutti's Death 3 September 1942**

The only effect the war had on Alt Raudten was the discontinuation of the Diphtheria vaccination program. Before 1939 a vaccine was produced and the world was in the middle of vaccinating all the children and adults. Once war was declared in September 1939, the United Kingdom and most of the Allied portion of Europe continued the vaccination program. Germany and German occupied areas did not. Also, the Soviet Union stopped their vaccination program.

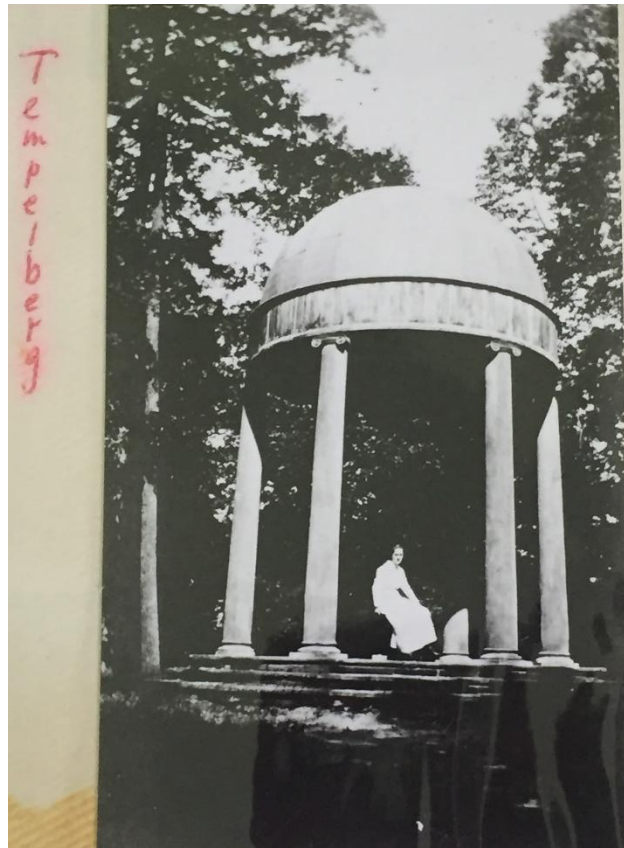
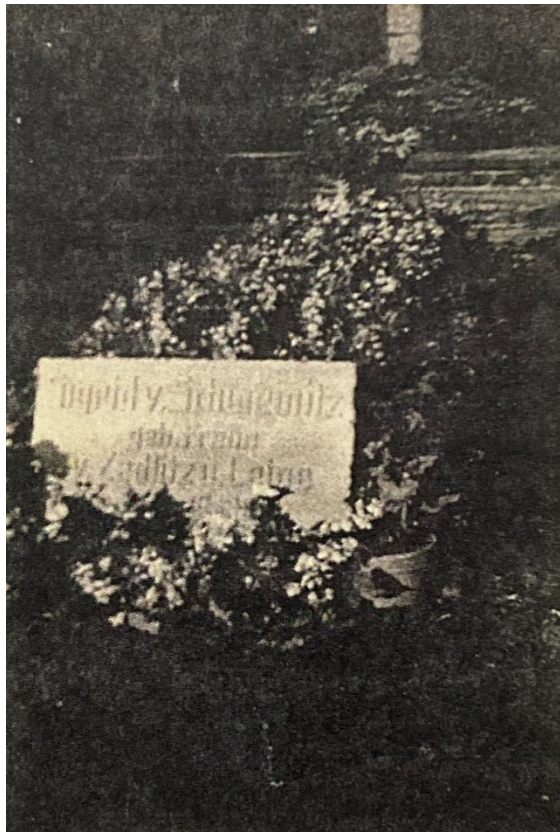
Early in 1940, an epidemic of malignant diphtheria that started in Copenhagen began to spread through central Europe. In 1942, diphtheria arrived in estate Schloss Alt-Raudten with deadly consequences. In Germany alone, in 1942 over 237,000 civilians died. Historians speculate that Germany was ripe for a severe outbreak for many reasons. Large portions of the population, such a Jews, Gypsies, Prisoner of War, Political Prisoner's were all forced to live in squandering conditions of low food, poor sanitation, and overcrowding. The civilian population that was living in Northern Europe was on the move south to



avoid the escalating bombing, many traveling on crowded trains. Medical supplies and treatment were restricted, the civilian population only received basic medical treatment, the rest was reserved for those directly involved in the war effort (Army, Luftwaffe, high commanders). These conditions of overcrowding, population on the move, and poor medical conditions allowed Diphtheria to spread fast and to mutate. How Diphtheria entered Alt Raudten and the village is speculation. In both locations there were plenty of families from North Europe cities that had arrived by crowded trains. City that had been bombed and were without functioning sewer and water systems. Soldiers, on home leave, would come from areas where the population was starving and in poor health. No matter how Diphtheria travels, it came to Alt Raudten, in its most deadly form – Malignant Diphtheria (also known as hypertoxic or gravis Diphtheria).

In August of 1942, Hans-Ludwig returned to the village school for his second year of education. Just in time for the outbreak of Diphtheria in the village. This Diphtheria was different, it was not primarily affecting children under age 5, but was going after older children (Hans-Ludwig was 8) and Adults. After the first few days of school Hans-Ludwig developed the normal symptoms of sore throat, swollen neck glands, nasal discharge, and fever. Hans-Ludwig then stayed home. Nobody knew if it was the flu which often infects people in the fall, or something else. The family Doctor was called and with one look into Hans-Ludwig's throat and seeing the gray membrane covering the tonsils, he knew it was Diphtheria. Diphtheria is caused by bacteria and there was very limited anti-bacterial treatment available in 1942. The Doctor did find some antitoxin that he gave Hans-Ludwig and others in the village. The rest of the normal course of action was isolation, rest, and hope that the throat does not swell closed due to the inflammation. Hans-Ludwig was isolated to his room, with only his Governess Ursula and his Mutti having contact with him.

Then it happened! His Mutti suddenly began to vomit, had an extremely high fever, and her throat began to swell. The Doctor was immediately called and he administered doses of the antitoxin – with no effect. Mutti had contracted the fatal version of Malignant Diphtheria. This version is immune to antitoxin and antibacterial (penicillin) treatments. Lucjan Sobera who worked on the estate and was taking Mutti to the village Train Station said in an interview in the 1970s or 1980s “The first wife of heir von Schweinitz. She became infected. I was taking her to the train. Saying goodbye to her husband, she said: I will never see my beloved palace again. She died in the Lubin hospital at the age of 40.” Mutti died on 3 September 1942 at age 40.



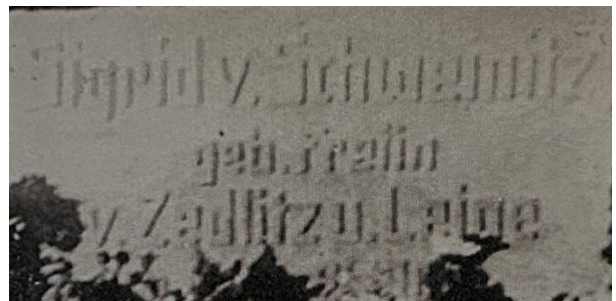
Mutti was buried near the Sybill folly on the Tempelberg (Temple Mound).  
Mutti sitting in Sybill Folly in 1941



*Sigrid Freiin von Zedlitz und Leipe —  
von Schweinitz, auch: Muckchen  
auch: Mutti*



Mutti  
Sigrid Ingrid von Schweinitz (née  
Freiin von Zedlitz und Leipe)



This was a very traumatic event in Hans-Ludwig's life. When his Mutti was buried a few days after the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1942, he was still too sick to attend the funeral. Nobody knew if he was contagious. He was still isolated in his room with limited contact. The antitoxin treatment was working on him, so he had not contracted the Malignant version. But the Medical world was still unsure how the treatable version of Diphtheria turns into the Malignant version. Not everybody survives the treatable version, but Hans-Ludwig was getting better.



His only contact was with his Governess, Ursula. He often could hear her talking with his Vati in the Bibliothek nextdoor. He would call out for her, but many times they would just continue talking and ignore him. Or there would be nobody on the upper floor to respond to his calls. He felt abandoned. His physical needs were taken care-of but not his emotional needs. He was only 8 years old, and before the Diphtheria he was a strong healthy boy, so he rebounded quickly from his physical ailments. Soon his was back with the family and back to school.

But there was no Mutti to spend time with him. He tried to spend more time with his Governess, Ursula, but she would not dot over him like a mother. Instead, she spent more and more time with the older Tantes or with Vati. So, he tried to spend more time with the older Tantes looking for one that was willing to be a substitute mother. They were friendly to him and would spend time with him, but again, not like a mother. The adults would include him in their gatherings and discussions. But Hans-Ludwig was craving attention.

He was only 8 years old and did not completely understand what had just happened and why. In one of the gatherings of old Tantes on the Terrasse, he asked why his Mutti had died. One Tante told everybody that Mutti had died from diphtheria, the diphtheria had come from the village, and Hans-Ludwig had brought it into the Manor House because he had attended the village school. Hans-Ludwig's brain froze – he could not think – was it true that he had caused the death of his own Mutti! [Hans-Ludwig, our Papa would never tell us which old Tante said this, but he remembered]. He loved his Mutti dearly, she had been the center of his world.

Now Hans-Ludwig felt abandoned, was craving attention, and guilty. His emotional world was in turmoil. In typical Hans-Ludwig way of thinking, he found a solution. Act sick, but you had to choose the right ailment, something that was not contagious. If he developed any flu like symptoms he was put in isolation (so was anybody else with similar symptoms), but if he complained about a nausea, headache, or diarrhea he would receive attention. Even his Governess, Ursula, had to pay attention to him.

### **Historical timeline 1942**

1942: Diphtheria The most interesting changes occurred in Germany, where diphtheria was endemic before World War II and where an alarming rise in the incidence of diphtheria was seen beginning in 1941. Frequent references were made to the spread of malignant diphtheria in Germany in the early 1940s, the course of which was so rapid that 194 serum therapy, even at a very early stage of disease development, had no effect [53,58].

Unexpectedly, the proportion of adult patients rose concomitantly with the

Hans-Ludwig Biography

overall rise in diphtheria incidence (table 3). In 1942, about 237,037 died. Furthermore, among all diphtheria deaths reported, those involving adults also increased (from 12% in 1939 to 48% in 1943) [19460]. On the other hand, increasing enrollment in schools, summer camps, and meetings of children, adolescents, and adults from different neighborhoods and social backgrounds probably contributed to wider circulation of *C. diphtheriae* within these age groups. Likewise, migration and displacement of many people during World War II probably enhanced the circulation of diphtheria organisms and contributed to the shift toward more adult cases [15]. In many areas of Germany late in World War II, conditions were far from normal. People were at work during the day and in overcrowded bomb shelters at night. They were under constant stress, which was reinforced by shortages of food, water, and electricity. Some of these conditions enhanced the transmission of infection.

January 1942: The first U.S. troops arrived in the British Isles in January 1942, but nearly a year passed before they went into action against the Axis.

Meanwhile, air power provided virtually the only means for the Allies to strike at Germany. The Royal Air Force began its air offensive against Germany in May 1942, and on 4 July the first American crews participated in air raids against the Continent.

7 January 1942: German ‘Operation Barbarossa’ against Soviet Union in Moscow had failed and German Army is pushed back from 62-155 miles from Moscow. German Army is exhausted and freezing.

January and February 1942: The winter of 1941–42 is known as the coldest European winter of the 20th Century. The temperature was much below normal from the beginning of January until the end of March 1942. Blockings and cut-off lows were frequent, particularly during January and February 1942.

26 January 1942: First American forces arrive in Europe landing in Northern Ireland. Through the Lend-Lease program, USA had been producing and sending military equipment to England and Soviet Union, since March 1941, but not troops.

21 February 1942: American Air Corps established at bases in the UK.

April 1942: Germany and the British RAF begin to bomb touristy and historic sites. Essen and Lübeck in Germany by the RAF. Germany used maps in tourist guide books to bomb Exeter, Bath, Norwich, York, and others. Germany plan was called “Baedeker raids”.

24 May 1942: General Dwight D Eisenhower arrives in London to assume the post of Commander of American forces in Europe.

4 July 1942: First air missions by the United States Army Air Forces in Europe.

13 September 1942: The Battle for Stalingrad continues; it is now totally surrounded by the Germans. On 30 September 1942, Hitler announces on the Radio that “Stalingrad will be taken.”

8 November 1942: The United States ground troops first used in WW2 European theater. They entered the war in the west with Operation Torch on 8 November 1942, after their Soviet allies had pushed for a second front against the Germans. General Dwight Eisenhower commanded the assault on North Africa, and Major General George Patton struck at Casablanca.

### **1943-1944**

The war had come into the Manor House at Alt Raudten as Diphtheria. Both Hans-Ludwig and his Mutti contracted Diphtheria, Hans-Ludwig survived, his Mutti did not. Hans-Ludwig's Vati was even more busy with running the estate. In January of 1943, farm labor was in short supply because men between 16 and 65, and women between 17 and 50 were now being conscripted/drafted in the Germany Army. Also, Hans-Ludwig was now almost 9 years old, and his Vati was becoming stricter. Vati was grooming his son to behave and become the next heir, and Vati had high standards. “During the following years I was placed under the care of several governesses. The switch to the stiff authoritarian treatment only resulted I the drive to have my caretakers fired or to make them resign. The war [World War II] had very little effect on my life until Russian tanks and guns were firing over our house on a cold January night in 1945.”

The tide was turning against Germany. On 30 January 1943, they heard Hitler on the radio announcing that no German Army had ever surrendered or been captured. On 31 January 1943, the German 6th Army surrendered and were captured at Stalingrad. The Soviet Union Red Armies did not move east from Stalingrad, instead the Red Army spent the rest of 1943 and 1944 concentrating their action on occupying southern countries with access to the Black Sea (Ukraine, Moldova, Romani), then occupying southern countries with access to the Adriatic Sea, and then occupying northern countries with access to the Baltic and North Sea. Germany concentrates on Siege of Leningrad. The portion of Poland near Alt Raudten was solidly in German Occupied territory and spared from battles during 1943 and 1944.

At home in Alt Raudten, Ursula was no longer Hans-Ludwig's governess. Ursula was still living in the manor house but was spending all her time with either Vati or the older Tantes. In her place came several different governesses. Hans-Ludwig continued to complained about a nausea, headache, or diarrhea so he would receive attention. This list of symptoms is not uncommon during the 1940s. All the food



was grown in the farm fields and gardens. Being seasonally grown, the food was often preserved or stored for long periods of time. Under the kitchen in the basement was another basement normally called the root cellar which stayed cool year-round. Here a lot of the food was stored. Even with the best of care in preparing, washing and cooking, often the food was contaminated and some members of the household would have digestive issues. It was rare that any one person could go a month without having some kind of reaction to something they had ate. The most common culprit would be fruit, which is usually just washed and eaten raw. Throughout his life, Hans-Ludwig would always ask us to make sure the fruit was properly washed. When we would pick berries or peaches directly from the bush or tree, he would not eat any until after we came home and washed the fruit. [Side note: Helga Pörtner's, his future wife, older brother Ralph died in 1936 from eating too many black berries directly from the bushes in their own back yard. The yeast that is naturally on berries is toxic.]

### **Stuttering**

After his Mutti died, Hans-Ludwig began to stutter. Part of his treatment was to join the local Church Choir. The family was active in the village Evangelical Church [was more like today's Protestant rather than today's Evangelical], and Hans-Ludwig was still an Alter boy with his candles. But now he joined the Boys Choir. He enjoyed the Choir and actually was pretty good. He continued joining Choirs until 1957. The stuttering continued well into his adulthood. As an adult Hans-Ludwig learned English and never stuttered in English. When he met his to-be wife, he did not stutter in English or German when talking with her. But when ever he was around his Vati, he would begin to stutter when speaking German. Hans-Ludwig believed that the stress of living up to his Vati's expectations caused the stutter. Although the stuttering grew less obvious over the years, it did not completely go away until after January 1969, after his Vati died.

### **Teacher's Trousers**

In the fall of 1943, Hans-Ludwig continued to attend the village school, and he entered the equivalent of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. [Side note, Helga Pörtner, his future wife, entered 1<sup>st</sup> grade in 1943, in Herford Germany]. Despite being treated differently by most students because he was the heir to the estate, he did foster some kind of friendship with a few students. He still could not invite them to play with him in the Manor House, because of the Social Class structure and separation. But he developed a good enough friendship with one other boy, because they both decided to play a trick on the teacher, who was a male at that time. They spread glue on the teacher's chair. When the teacher sat down, the glue went all over the back of his trousers. The trousers did not stick to the chair, like it would in a Hollywood movie, because the teacher immediately stood up before the glue could dry.

Though the trousers were ruined. Exactly what happened next, Hans-Ludwig never told. But he did say that his Vati was informed of the incident and had to pay for new trousers for the teacher. When asked about what punishment his Vati inflicted on him, Hans-Ludwig would never answer, only would say that his Vati said that the new trousers were very expensive.

### Stone and Steam Train

Hans-Ludwig's imagination led him into trouble also at home. In the 56 acre park behind the Manor House was a foot bridge over the railroad tracks. From 1943 to 1944, the trains were still steam powered with the tall smoke stack and wide opening on top. He and one of his playmates spent months practicing their skill at tossing rocks into the smoke stack as the train passed below. The small pebbles were not the problem. When they began to use larger stones, there was a problem. One day they lifted a more significant sized stone, tossed it off the bridge, and it went right down the smoke stack. Their celebration was brief. As soon as they returned to the Manor House they found out that the Engineer had seen the boys on the bridge, witnessed the toss, then when the train stopped at the Station in the village, the Engineer called (in 1939 there were already 224 phones on the estate, including the village) the Manor House and talked with Vati. When asked about what punishment his Vati inflicted on him, Hans-Ludwig would answer that he did not want to talk about it.



Train in 1993

Hans and daughter Bettina by Train Tracks under bridge in Alt Raudten Park, 1993

### **Nazi SS Confiscating Weapons**

Hans-Ludwig probably got his rebellious imagination from his Vati. Just that his Vati was up against much higher stakes, the German Third Reich and the Nazi Party. As Hans-Ludwig remembers, that sometime in the late summer of 1944, Vati somehow found out that German Nazi SS officers were coming to confiscate the estate's weapons.

The 1919 Treaty of Versailles had disarmed Germans that were in Weimar Germany, but not Germans that were living outside of Weimar Germany. Then in 1928, under Hitler the Third Reich Germany removed the restriction for certain Germans (not Jews) as long as the weapons were registered. When Germany occupied Poland, this new gun control law applied to Poland, and Vati had registered the estate weapons. This same registry was now being used by the German Nazi SS to confiscate weapons of "undesirables" or people that could begin to exhibit behavior not in favor of the Third Reich's agenda. The owners of the registered weapons were lucky if only the weapon was confiscated, often the Nazi SS would use the same weapon on the family, with deadly results.

In late July, the family had just gotten word that Anne von Tresckow's Onkel (Uncle) had committed suicide. Her Onkel, General Henning von Tresckow, had been the mastermind behind the several assassination attempts against Hitler. One was on 13 March 1943, for which he miraculously was not executed. And he also was one of the masterminds behind the attempt on 20 July 1944 called "Valkyrie". He committed suicide on 21 July 1944, when he learned that the coup had failed. He died trying to protect his co-conspirators and his family. Right after receiving the news of his death, Hans-Ludwig's Oma and Opa left the estate and began to travel to Wiesbaden Germany. Oma's maiden name Gabriele von Tresckow and she was the Tante (Aunt) of General Henning von Tresckow. Anne von Tresckow, Hans-Ludwig's playmate, also left with them, since she was a niece of General von Tresckow. This linkage between the two families, von Schweinitz and von Tresckow, was probably traced by the German Nazi SS. Now they wanted to disarm the family.

It was a tense time, because the SS did not always stop at just confiscating the weapons. Upon learning of the Nazi SS coming, Vati prepared the weapons. He knew how many he had registered and what kind. So, he laid the weapons and all their parts out on to the Gun room's table and began to disassemble the weapons. When the Nazi SS arrived, he showed them into the Gun room and innocently stated that "he was just cleaning the weapons and did not have time to reassemble." They believed Vati. They collected all the parts, the number of firing pins, stocks, barrels and other parts matched the number and type of registered weapons. The



Nazi SS left satisfied that the von Schweinitz family had been disarmed. The Nazi SS officers did not take any other action against the von Schweinitz family in Alt Raudten. That was a relief.

The Nazi SS Officers had not taken all the weapons. What Vati had done was add spare parts to the collection on the table. Enough to make it seem that there were the right number and type of weapons to match the registry. He had hidden away a hunting rifle and a couple of hand guns.

In June 1944, the Allies were preparing to land army troops into Central Europe. Up until this point ground fighting in Central Europe mostly consisted of the Army/Resistance/Underground of the occupied country fighting to evict either Germany, or Soviet Union. By 1944, the Armies of the English and United States were mostly deployed in Northern Africa, Italy, or the Pacific. On 6 June 1944, D-Day occurred in Normandy France. The Ally Armies had landed and were on the move East to Berlin and South to Austria/Switzerland. Again, very little about this event reached Alt Raudten by Radio or Newspaper. The information blackout, census, and propaganda was very effective.

### **Family beginning to Leave August 1944**

Later in August 1944, the Polish Underground tried to evict the occupying German Army from Warsaw Poland, in the Warsaw Uprising. Warsaw is only about 200 miles east of Alt Raudten. The German Army was retreating from the advancing Soviet Red Army. The Soviet Red Army had been successful in occupying the Baltic Sea, Adriatic Sea, and Black Sea countries and was now concentrating on occupying the rest of Poland. Their destination was Berlin. The Soviet Red Army was winning and was advancing towards Germany, pushing the Germany Army in front of them. The estate was quickly going to be between two armies.

More of the family members began to leave the estate and go west. Vati's sister Gabriele left and began to travel to Salzburg Austria. Vati's other sister, Sigrid left for Wiesbaden Germany.

### **Wedding 15 October 1944 Vati and Ursula**

In October 1944, Hans-Ludwig found out why Ursula, who was his Governess during his Diphtheria illness, had not paid much attention to him. She was in love with his Vati. That is why they were spending so much time together. On 15 October 1944, Vati married Ursula von Frankenberg-Luttwitz. Vati was already 43 and Ursula was less than half his age, at only 20.

Hans-Ludwig remembers that in 1944 he had lots of freedom. The adults were often in deep discussion, and then would tell Hans-Ludwig to go out in the park and play, or go into another room. The adults were trying to determine what was actually going on in the war. The radio and Newspapers were full of positive news. Any negative News was considered Treason. There was no News at all about anything happening outside of the German Controlled area of Europe, because of the News blackout and censorship. But many of the family members were high-up officials in various parts of the German Government, Nazi Party, or Army. They would often come back to Alt Raudten for a few days, and brought their own news. Their news often contradicted the censored News. Any discussion that was not pro-Hilter could be prosecuted as treason. Since Hans-Ludwig was still attending the village school, where the Teacher would quiz the children every morning about statement that they had heard at home, and then report anything derogatory to the Nazi Party, Hans-Ludwig was not allowed to hear any of the deep discussions. Instead, he would be sent away to play.



Family gathering for a Baptism. Mostly women and older men. The Soldier in the middle is the father on home leave.

Side Note: In 1944 there was no bombing in or near Alt Raudten. For Hans-Ludwig's future wife, Helga Pörtner the bombing came in August 1944 to Herford Germany. Bomber's Baedeker (not to be confused with Baedeker Raids or Blitz) the Target Book of RAF Strategic Bombing in the Economic Warfare against German Towns, Second version, was released in mid 1944. German towns with populations with as few as 1,000 inhabitants were now also targeted so the list of towns increased to 518, which included Herford. Helga's family home was just a few hundred meters from the main Railroad Station in Herford, a primary target for bombs. Helga, being only 7 years old, had already been shipped off to relatives in a smaller town nearby called Bad Salzuflen. On 15 October 1944, Helga's Oma Johanne (sister of her Mutter) was in the family home in Herford, hiding in the basement when bombing started to land at the Railroad Station. A Locomotive launched into the air, flew the few hundred meters, and went nose down into the family home. Oma Johanne survived in the basement and managed to be dug out safely. The family home was destroyed. Helga's family began to stay with different relatives in the area in an attempt to avoid the bombings. For more of Helga's experience's during the war are in "Helga's Autobiography".

### **Family Historical 1943-1944**

Hans

1944: Hans' Vati (age 43) married Ursula von Frankenberg-Luttwitz (age 20) on 15 October 1944. They divorced in 1950. Ursula was born 26 March 1924. Ursula gave birth to one girl (Heizi) and two boys (Hemmi, Michael)

Helga

1943: Helga Father left for basic training Military Service 11Mar

1943: Helga start Volksschule right after Easter Sunday

1944: Helga Went to live with Tante Hanna in Shotmar/Bad Salzuflen, Summer

1944: Helga Oma Johanne stayed in basement, instead of going to bunker, 15 October

1944: Helga Lived in Onkel August's house with family, late Fall

1944: Helga 7 November photo taken of Rennstraße Herford in ruins.

1944: Helga Father came home for Christmas

### **Historical Timeline 1943-1944**

Hans-Ludwig Biography



- 1928: Following Germany's defeat in World War I, the Weimar Republic passed very strict gun control laws in an attempt both to stabilize the country and to comply with the Versailles Treaty of 1919 – laws that in fact required the surrender of all guns to the government. These laws remained in effect until 1928, when the German parliament relaxed gun restrictions and put into effect a strict firearm-licensing scheme. All firearms had to be registered. These strict licensing regulations foreshadowed Hitler's rise to power. These policies were promulgated in every country conquered by Hitler.
- 19430128: on 28 January 1943 A new conscription law in Germany: men between 16 and 65 and women between 17 and 50 are open to mobilization.
- 19430130: On the tenth anniversary of his rise to power 30 January 1943, Hitler makes a speech in which he promotes General Paulus to Field Marshal. This includes a reminder that no German field marshal has ever surrendered or been captured. On the next day 31 January 1943: Friedrich Paulus (Generalfeldmarschall in command of the German 6th Army) and his staff surrender to Soviet troops in Stalingrad, the first time a German Field Marshal is lost to surrender and thus captured by the enemy.
- 19430201: Soviet Red Army spend rest of 1943 concentrating their action on occupying southern countries with access to the Black Sea (Ukraine, Moldova, Romania), then occupying southern countries with access to the Adriatic Sea, and then occupying northern countries with access to the North Sea. Germany concentrates on Siege of Leningrad
- 19430313: Henning von Tresckow. By September 1941, he was disillusioned with Nazi and Hitler and was in contact with opposition groups, planning to overthrow the government (coup) and remove/eliminate Hitler. Tresckow was Chief of Staff of the 2nd Army. He masterminded the 1943 March and 1944 July attempts against Hitler. Henning von Tresckow attempt on Hitler's life on 13 March 1943. On the return flight from a front visit, Hitler visited the headquarters of the Army Group Center in Smolensk. During the visit there were several attempts on his life: During lunchtime, Tresckow, Boeselager, and others planned to get up at a sign and fire pistols at Hitler. The commander-in-chief of the Army Group, Field Marshal Günther von Kluge, knew about the plan but decided not to intervene. However, the plan was abandoned when it became clear that Hitler would not be present. Kluge forbade the attack, citing his fear of a possible civil war erupting between the SS and the army. See also 20 July 1944 plot Valkyrie
- 19430801 August: Nazi Germany (Hitler) had signed a non-aggression agreement with Soviet Union, Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact on 23 August 1939. On 1 September 1939 Germany invaded Poland, starting World War II. On 17 September, the Soviet Union invaded Eastern Poland, and, as a result, Poland was partitioned among Germany, the Soviet Union and Lithuania.

But on 22 June 1941, Operations Barbarossa, Hitler invaded Soviet Union in violation of pact. From 1941 to 1943, the eastern front was centered on Belgorod in the Ukraine with German movement toward Stalingrad. By Aug 1943 to December 1944 the Germans were pushed back and Soviet Union now occupied Lithuania, Ukraine, Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria. The Russians were moving fast and were not far from Breslau Poland which was near Alt Raudten. From Jan 1945 to May 1945, the Russian now had “eastern” Germany, Berlin, Poland, East Prussia, Czechoslovakia, and Austria.

19430901: Bomber's Baedeker – British Target Book Strategic Bombing in the Economic Warfare against German Towns. First version was approved and released. First version targeted 392 towns with populations above 15,000 inhabitants. (Not same as Baedeker Blitz of Baedeker Raids which were Germany bombing England.)

19430903: Nazi Germany begins the evacuation of civilians from Berlin

19430908: 8 September 1943 Italy the other member of the Axis powers surrendered

19431101: Heavy civilian losses in Berlin as bombing raids continue.

19431103: Some 43,000 Jews were shot by Germans at three camps in German-occupied Poland in Aktion Erntefest in a two-day "Harvest Festival".

19431122: The Cairo Conference: US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and ROC leader Chiang Kai-shek meet in Cairo, Egypt, to discuss ways to defeat Japan.

19431124: The US General Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

19431128: The Tehran Conference. US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Leader Joseph Stalin meet in Tehran to discuss war strategy; (on 30 November they establish an agreement concerning a planned June 1944 invasion of Europe codenamed Operation Overlord). Stalin at last has the promise he has been waiting for.

19440104: 1944 January 4: The 1st Ukrainian Front of the Red Army enters Poland. But most of the Red Army efforts continue to be Ukrainian, Crimea, and southern countries, and the Norther Baltic countries.

19440127: 1944 January 27: The Siege of Leningrad ended after 872 days, as Soviet forces finally forced the Germans to withdraw. Some 2 million died, mostly of starvation and disease.

19440606: 1944 June 6: D-Day begins with the landing of 155,000 Allied troops on the beaches of Normandy in France. The Allied soldiers quickly break through the Atlantic Wall and push inland in the largest amphibious military operation in history.

19440720: Most World War II historians recognize the name Henning Von Tresckow. Henning was a Lieutenant Colonel in the German Army and after he witnessed the killings of captured soldiers in the Red Arm in 1941, he decided at that time Hitler had to be stopped. Henning later became an officer in the Army Group Centre. While there Henning recruited senior army officers to help him overthrow Hitler's government. In 1943 a makeshift bomb was placed on an airplane carrying Hitler, but the bomb failed to explode. Hitler was to attend another meeting on July 20th, 1944 and a recruitment of Henning, Claus von Stauffenberg, carried a briefcase bomb into the meeting. The bomb exploded while Hitler was inside, killing four men and only injuring Hitler's right arm. This plot was famously named Valkyrie. Henning lived during the same generation as Hans' father and was the son of a brother of Hans' paternal grandmother.

19440721: Henning von Tresckow on 21 July 1944 suicide.

19440801: Bomber's Baedeker - Target Book Strategic Bombing in the Economic Warfare against German Towns. Second version released. Towns with populations with as few as 1,000 inhabitants are now also targeted so the list of towns increased to 518.

19440801: Dresden had not previously been bombed during the war. The city was not considered a likely target because it was not a major contributor to the Nazi war economy and no key oil refineries or large armaments plants were located there. In the British Ministry of Economic Warfare's 1943 "Bomber's Baedeker," Dresden was ranked 20th of 100 German towns in its importance to the German war effort. In fact, Dresden was best known worldwide as a site of architectural treasures and was sometimes referred to as the "German Florence." Despite this, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill ordered the Dresden raids based on a plan submitted in August 1944 by Sir Charles Portal, Britain's Chief of the Air Staff.[2]

19440801: August – September: Warsaw Uprising – failed due to lack of outside support. The Warsaw Uprising (Polish: powstanie warszawskie; German: Warschauer Aufstand), shortly after the war also known as the August Uprising (Polish: powstanie sierpniowe),[15] was a major World War II operation by the Polish underground resistance to liberate Warsaw from German occupation. It occurred in the summer of 1944, and it was led by the Polish resistance Home Army (Polish: Armia Krajowa). The uprising was timed to coincide with the retreat of the German forces from Poland ahead of the Soviet advance.[16] While approaching the eastern suburbs of the city, the Red Army halted combat operations, enabling the Germans to regroup and defeat the Polish resistance and to destroy the city in retaliation. The Uprising was fought for 63 days with little outside support. It was the single



largest military effort taken by any European resistance movement during World War II.[17] The Uprising began on 1 August 1944 as part of a nationwide Operation Tempest, launched at the time of the Soviet Lublin–Brest Offensive. The main Polish objectives were to drive the Germans out of Warsaw while helping the Allies defeat Germany. An additional, political goal of the Polish Underground State was to liberate Poland's capital and assert Polish sovereignty before the Soviet-backed Polish Committee of National Liberation could assume control. Other immediate causes included a threat of mass German round-ups of able-bodied Poles for "evacuation"; calls by Radio Moscow's Polish Service for uprising; and an emotional Polish desire for justice and revenge against the enemy after five years of German occupation.[18][19]

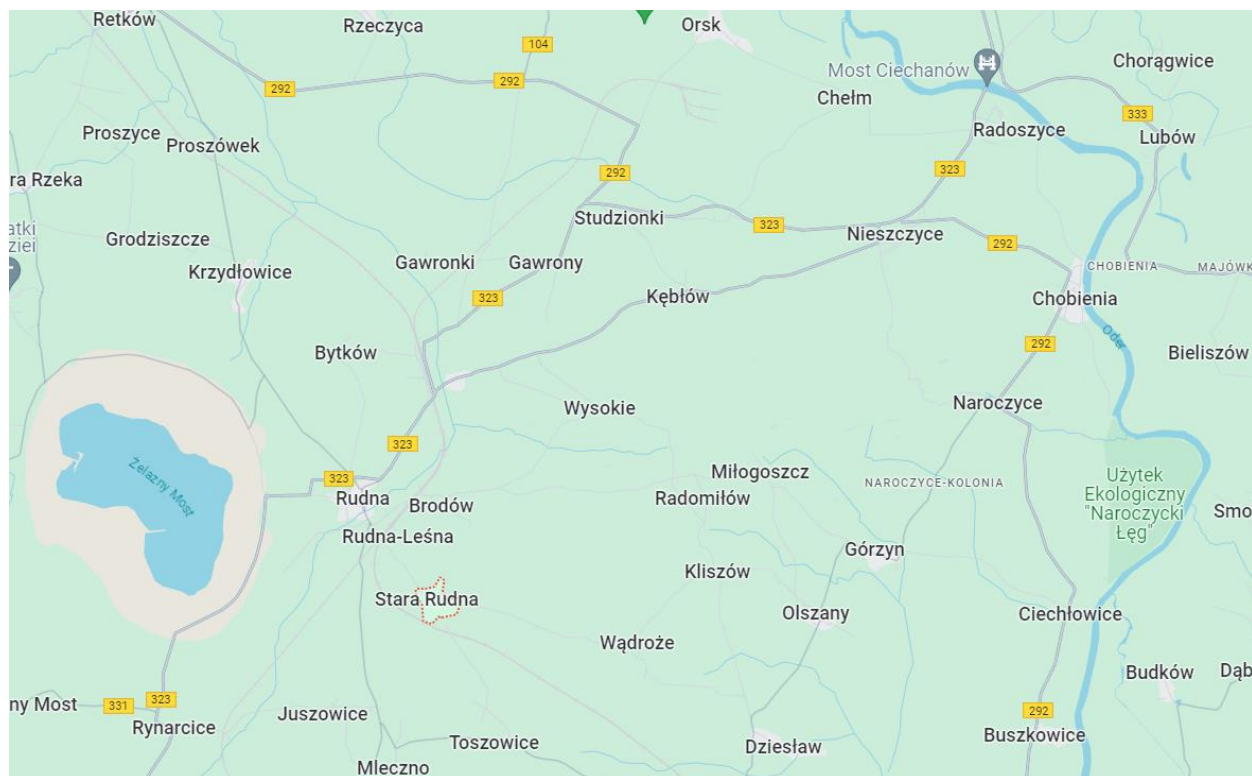
- 19441015: 15 October, US Eighth Air Force: bombed Hannover and Munster-Kassel areas
- 19441026: 26 October, US Eighth Air Force: bombed ordnance and storage depot at Bielefeld, Munitions yard Munster, military vehicle plant near Hannover, Mittelland Canal at Minden, and city of Hannover
- 19441102: 2 November, US Eighth Air Force: as liberation and conquest of Germany accelerated, five separate forces using 1,100 heavy bombers bombed synthetic oil plants and "targets of opportunity" around Bielefeld. Supposedly over 160 German fighter planes were claimed to be destroyed. US lost 40 heavy bombers.
- 19441106: 6 November, US Eighth Air Force: Six separate forces using 1,000 heavy bombers bombed Airfields, Marshalling yards, and "targets of opportunity" in northwest Germany. Sixteen fighter groups afford close escort and later strafe ground targets in northwest Germany.
- 19441126: 26 November, US Eighth Air Force: Using 1,000 B-17 and B-24 bombers and 25 fighter groups attacked oil refinery, marshalling yards, and 7 "Targets of opportunity" which included Herford. US lost over 35 bombers, but US fighters claimed over 100 air victories.
- 19441205: 5 December Operation Aphrodite: Two B17 (#39824 and 30353) drones were targeting Herford's marshalling yard on 5 December 1944, but because of cloud cover, so the planes were directed to alternate target of Haldorf where both planes crashed outside of town. Haldorf now is a community within Edermünde which is about 150 km away from Herford and near Kassel

## 1945 Jan to 14 July 1945: The Flight

### **1945 January 11-22 Leaving Alt Raudten**

In October 1944, Hans-Ludwig had just turned 10. In January 1945 his world completely changed, never to return to the way it used to be. "The war (World War II) had very little effect on my life until Russian tanks and guns were firing over our house on a cold January night in 1945. My father (Hans Wilhelm), whom I hardly knew since he had been either away building the East-wall or he had been occupied with the running of the estate, hastily over-night assembled a convoy of horse drawn-wagons. The following morning our trek of about 600 families joined the millions on the road, fleeing from the Russians. My father had remarried just before we fled." And why flee the Red Army? Is answered by a statement by General Patton on 21 July 1945, when he finally entered Berlin after the Red Army had been occupying Berlin since 2 May 1945 (3 months) "for the first week after they took it (Berlin), all women who ran were shot and those who did not were raped. I could have taken it (instead of the Soviets) had I been allowed."

The following is a mix of historical events that were happening around Hans-Ludwig and having an effect on his life. There were thousands of other events happening in Central Europe but these are more directly influencing Hans-Ludwig. The tales that our Papa (Hans-Ludwig) told us kids were usually very consistent if he was involved, but if tales that involved other members of his family were not always consistent or were vague. Remember, our Papa was just 10 years old in January 1945, when all this happened. Later when Hans-Ludwig was interviewed he said he "was excited more than scared."



Map of Stara Rudna (Alt Raudten), Wądroże, Radoszyce

In January 1945, the Soviet Union Red Army was advancing west across Poland. The Red Army was killing everybody in their way. There were over 9 million people being chased by the Russians. The roads around Alt Raudten were packed with refugees as they fled West.

On 11 January 1945, many in the village evacuated and headed West towards Zwickau, a town in Germany about 40 miles west of Dresden and 40 miles south of Leipzig. By 17 January 1945, the Red Army had advanced to the Oder River and the village could hear the sounds of fighting near Radoszyce, about 30 miles away. Many from the village met at the RailRoad Station in Polkowice and went West.

On 22 January 1945, the von Schweinitz family began to evacuate. There are several tales about what happened on this day, they are all similar, but slightly different.

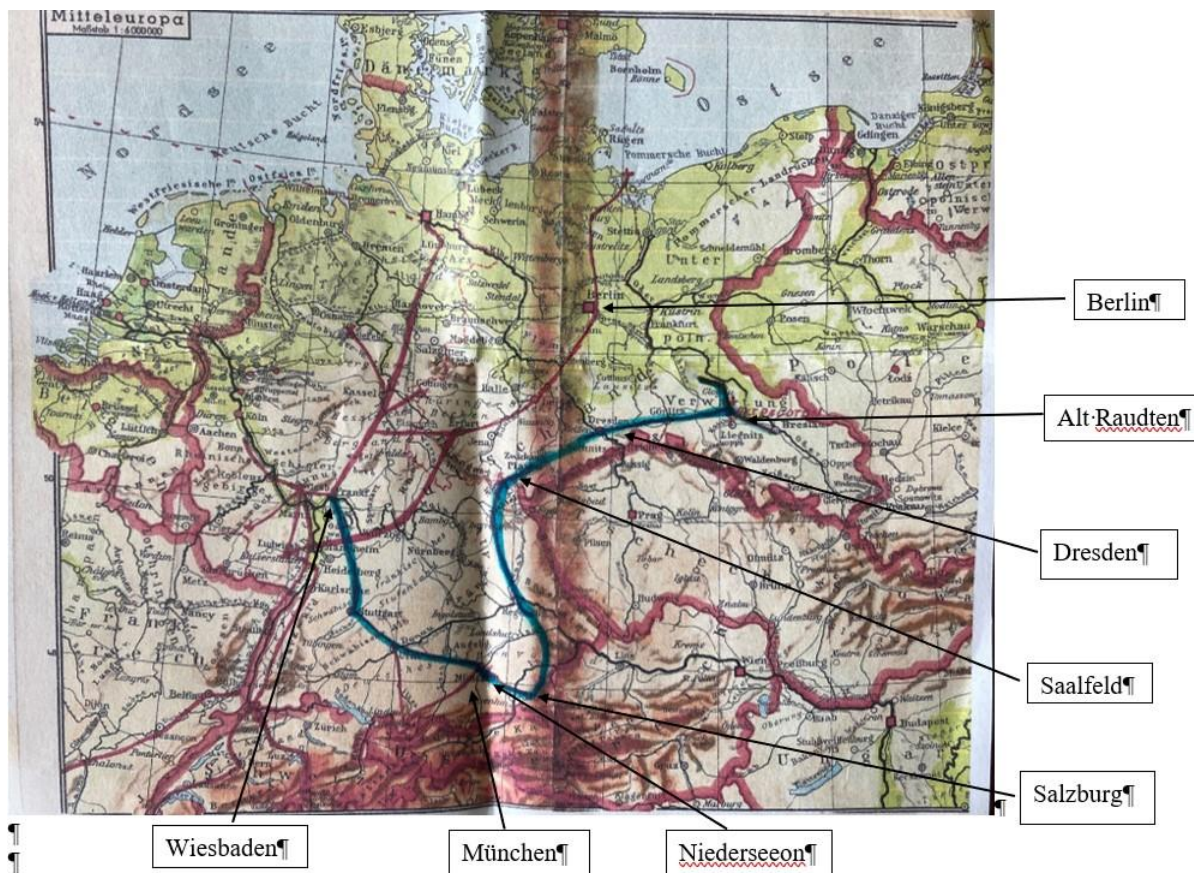
Vati and one of the Onkels were to stay behind, encase the German Army managed to push back the Red Army and Alt Raudten might be saved. The rest of the family packed up and left. Their possessions were loaded onto wagons. One was a heavy-duty wagon (sometimes called a Truck, because it is designed to carry heavy loads). They needed so many, that another was the “Honey Wagon” or manure



wagon. They also couldn't take all the sensible farm horses, so they also had to use some of the high-stepping carriage horses. Even though they need multiple wagons, they did not take everything. Most of the furniture was left behind. "There was always hope that we might be able to go back." Stated Hans-Ludwig when interviewed later in life.

They decided to head NorthWest on the road to Berlin which was about 180 miles away. "We didn't go to West Germany, we went, we wanted to go to Berlin 1st and we cut off with the Russian armies. Then they had to turn South and later West.

Why did they try to reach Berlin first. Could be that information that they had received from other family members, was that Germany was making a last stand in Berlin, and if that failed, the American were going to take Berlin. What they did not know was that the Western Allies had already decided to allow the Red Army to take Berlin. General Eisenhower had ordered General Patton not to advance to Berlin. Berlin was being bombed during the day by the US Army Air Force and by night by the RAF. A large part of the civilian population in Berlin had already fled or been evacuated.



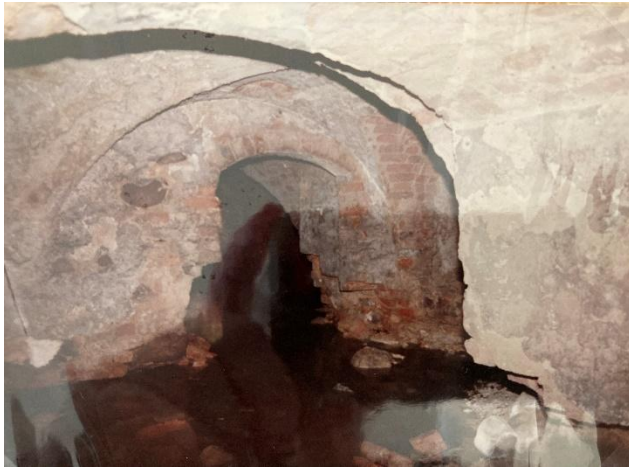
The blue marking is trek they took during the Flight from January 1945 to 1946.  
Hans-Ludwig Biography

Back at Alt Raudten, On 23 January 1945, the fighting could be heard from the direction of Wądroże (about 5 miles away). On January 26, 1945, the German Army entered the village of Alt Raudten. But the Red Army was right behind them. On the morning of January 28, 1945, the Soviet army entered the village of Alt Raudten. The German Army fled into the countryside. For the next few weeks there were several battles and skirmishes between the Armies in and around Alt Raudten. In the meantime, Vati and one Onkel were still in the Manor House. They were hiding in the sub-basement. The Manor House had an “echo chamber” that was either attached to the front entrance or in the sub-basement. This ‘echo chamber’ was a round empty hollow room that will amplify sounds. This room amplified sounds from the road that lead up to the Manor House, especially when the traffic passed over a certain bridge. Vati and Onkel heard the heavy tanks and trucks pass over the bridge, and only had enough time to run down into the sub-basement. The Soviet Soldiers did then the Manor House but stayed on the upper floors. After dark, Vati and the Onkel left using a passage about which the Red Army soldiers had no idea. No one stopped them, and the local residents helped in their escape.

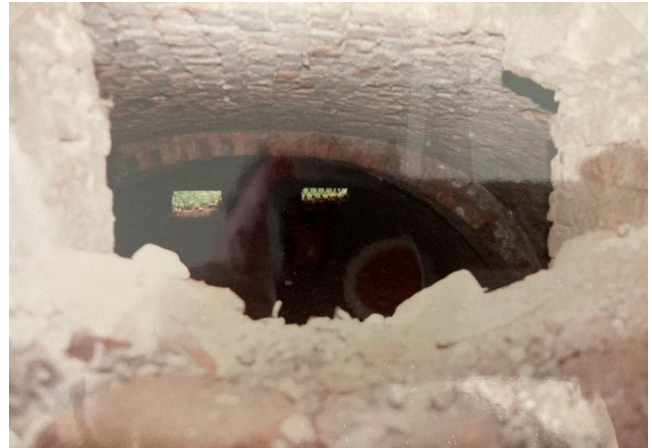


*Christopher looks for those secret passages Papa had told him about.*

In 1989, Christopher, son of Hans-Ludwig (Papa) on a visit to Alt Raudten took these photos of the sub-basement entrance and secret exits.



Passage way



Exit through slits into moot.

How Vati and the Onkel knew where to meet up with the family, is unknown. The family was no longer on their way to Berlin, they were trying to make their way to Dresden, which was classified as a sanctuary city.

The high-stepping carriage horses were too high strung and could not take all the commotion caused by the bombings and troop movements. They were constantly spooking and turning the wagon over into the ditch. By the time the family got to Dresden, they were completely shattered emotionally (horses and people), and their possessions that were in the honey-wagon were strewed over miles of ditches.

The other issue on the road to Dresden was that the German Army was also using the road. The civilian population that was in flight was allowed to use only one side of the road. Luckily, they were all heading in the same direction, West away from the Red Army. The German Army was moving their equipment back and forth on the other side. Until one day. The civilians were at a stand still for some reason, and blocked on either side by cliffs. The other side was completely full of German Army equipment also all heading West, the German Army was in retreat. When the civilians asked each other, "why are we not moving?" the word filtered back that there was one German Guard at the intersection ahead that was holding the whole line at a standstill to let the German Army have full use of the whole road up ahead. Okay, being at a stand still was not an unusual occurrence. They waited patiently. Then the screaming started. It was coming from the back. And more horrific sounds were added, crunching sounds. Vati jumped into the wagon, came out with one of his illegal hand-guns (a hand-gun that he had hidden from the Nazi's) and ran towards the front. A few other men also pulled out their illegal hand-guns and joined Vati. A couple of minutes later he was running back, yelling at everybody to get ready to start moving forward. The civilian line began to move



forward, and as they passed the intersection, Hans-Ludwig remembers looking towards the ditch and seeing a dead German Soldier. As the line moved forward, they finally come out of the cliff area and more and more of the wagons turned off into fields or side roads. The family also found a place to pull off the road. The German Army was now using both sides of the road. There were pieces of wagons and other un-imaginable things stuck underneath some of the heavier vehicles, such as the tanks.

They returned to the road and continued to travel West to Dresden and they were there before 13 February 1945.

### **1945 February 13-15 Dresden, Germany**



The first thing that Vati did when they arrived in Dresden was to trade in the high-strung carriage horses. It is not clear if they consolidated all their possessions into the one heavier wagon that was being pulled by the more sensible farm horses, or if they bought another set of horses. The horses and wagons were being housed in what used to be the

Royal Palace. Many of the horse stalls were on the second floor and there was a ramp for the horses to climb up.

All the adults were busy and not paying attention to the children. Hans-Ludwig remembers “the freedom we had as children, were free. Out of control.” They were staying in a Hotel near the Altmarkt in the city center, not far from the Frauenkirche. Not only during the day did Hans-Ludwig run around the streets, but at night he remembers climbing out of the window and sliding down the drain pipe. He would join his new friends and they often liked to climb the hills just outside of town and look down over a cliff onto the town. It was especially interesting if there were girls along. At times the Air Raid Sirens would go off. But the factories and military installations were outside of town, and Dresden itself with over 100,000 refugees was not usually the target of the bombings.

Unknown to the refugees, was that the Dresden’s Air Defenses had been depleted in January 1945. The weaponry was needed by the German Army and Luftwaffe

to fight the Red Army. Even Nazi Germany did not believe that the Allies would bomb a city with over 100,000 refugees. But the Allies made plans. They needed a city to bomb that would demoralize the German and also show the Russians what the RAF Bomber Command can do. They picked Dresden, Leipzig, and Berlin.

Then the night of 13 February 1945 happened. It was well after sunset while Hans-Ludwig and his friends were on their hill looking down on Dresden, when the Air Raid Sirens started. Usually, the planes just flew over Dresden and continued to the military sites. This night they did not. The first wave of bombing lasted just under 30 minutes and history said that 881 tons of were drop during this time. Many of the bombs that were dropped during the first wave of bombers were phosphorus bombs which create fire. Hans-Ludwig and friends watched the bombs drop and the city burn in the fire storm. There was nothing that they could do but watch. After the first half hour, more waves of bomber flew over but they continued on and did not drop more bombs on Dresden. In the city below, the civilians were coming out of the bomb shelters and trying to extinguish the fires and assess the damage. Hans-Ludwig and friends waited almost two hours after the last wave of bombers, and were just deciding to come down from their hill when another wave of bombers could be heard. These bombers dropped another round of bombs on Dresden, with all those civilians in the streets. This second attack, just three hours after the first, included more than 1,800 tons of bombs.

Hans-Ludwig and friends were still on top of the hill, looking down the cliff onto the burning city. Hans-Ludwig does not remember how it happened. Was it because the ground was shaking, or because he leaned forward to far, or why, but he suddenly was falling down the cliff. He dug his fingers into the cliff's side to try and stop is decent. No matter how hard he dug his fingers into the dirt he kept going down, and he was going faster. Then suddenly, he stopped, he had fallen into a large Manure Pile. He pulled himself out, and headed into the burning town, looking for his family.

Hans-Ludwig remembered going past every imaginable devastation. Both to people, animals, and buildings. Death everywhere. As he approached the Altmarkt in the city center, near the hotel where the family was staying, there were burned bodies everywhere, tiny shriveled up all black corpses. People were screaming and yelling. A group was frantically digging through rubble, they were trying to get to an entrance to a bomb shelter, the people were burning inside because the phosphorus bombs had leaked down through cracks and was causing a fire. Most deaths that night were caused by lack of oxygen because the fires consumed the air, or from being burned directly by the fire. Hans-Ludwig would

remember the smell of burned humans for the rest of his life and his most vivid memories were the “Air raids, the killing and the air raids”.

Hans-Ludwig was never very clear about how he found his family, only that they were alive. The next day, 14 February, they collected their wagon and left Dresden to head West. They rejoined the westward flow of refugees on the road. The decision to leave Dresden turned out to be the right choice. For the next two days, Dresden was repeatedly bombed by the Allies. By the end of 15 February, two days later, 90% of Dresden city center was destroyed using 3,900 tons of bombs and destroying more than 1,600 acres of the city. How many people died can never be determined, because nobody knows how many were in the city and how many had fled. Many of the bodies in the bomb shelters and basements were not found for months. While the city buildings burned for days, the fire pyres (to burn the dead) also were burning for days.

### **1945 after 13<sup>th</sup> February, Saalfeld Germany**

After Dresden they traveled West and stopped in Saalfeld, Germany, West of Dresden about 60 miles, South of Leipzig.





The wagon (Truck) with the sensible farm horses in Saalfeld 1945.





In Saalfeld “we stopped for a couple of months and I went to a boarding school and then when the Russians moved further in and we continued on to go down to Austria, my father took me out of that boarding school, went to Austria.”

When Hans-Ludwig slid down the cliff in Dresden, he had torn his fingernails and fingers to shreds. He began to develop an infection under what remained of his fingernails. Landing in the manure pile must have contributed to the infection. The Doctor had to remove/pull out all of Hans-Ludwig’s fingernails to release the infection. There was not enough medication for civilians, and Hans-Ludwig remembers that the pain of having those fingernails removed. His fingernails never really grew back correctly. They were always wavy and strange colors.

Hans-Ludwig’s education had been interrupted when they left Alt Raudten. The family still hoped or believed that the Germany Army would push back the Red Army. So, they expected to spend some time in Saalfeld and enrolled Hans-Ludwig in a boarding school. The Red Army passed Dresden and was moving West towards Saalfeld in April 1945. The time that Hans-Ludwig was in this boarding school was probably between mid-February when they arrived and mid-April when they left.

There is no record of this boarding school among Hans-Ludwig’s school records. Probably, because one of his Onkel’s or his Vati had come to the school late at night and just took Hans-Ludwig away with him. Based on one of Hans-Ludwig’s memories of this school, he was more than ready to leave. Before the end of the war, he had been in a boarding school that did not provide enough food. He was always hungry. Hans-Ludwig was 10 years old, but very small for his age, and now that he was so thin, he could fit inside the dumb-waiter. At night he would ride the dumb-waiter down into the kitchen, steal some food (he preferred the cooked chicken) and ride the dumb-waiter back to his dorm. He stole enough to share with the other boys in the dorm. He had friends.

There has been mention that Hans-Ludwig had attended a Nazi run boarding school at some time. Due to historical events, this is the only school that could have been Nazi run. The difficulty in condemning this school for its educational practices, is that all schools had to follow Nazi guidelines. There was the morning pledge of allegiance to Hitler, the morning interrogation about discussions at home, all books and curriculum was approved by the Nazi government, and the wearing of some type of uniform. At only the age of 10, Hans-Ludwig could not even become a member of the Hitler Youth, you had to be 14 years old. And remember, Hans-Ludwig was only in this boarding school for two months.



With the advancement of the Red Army in April 1945, the family again joined the flow of refugees going west on the road with the wagon. They were heading the Salzburg Austria.

### **1945 April to July 14<sup>th</sup> Salzburg Austria**

When they arrived in Salzburg Austria, they lived with relatives. One of Vati's sisters, Gabriele, had already moved to Salzburg. By going to Salzburg Austria, they had finally passed through the front line of the Allied Armies and the German Army. By April 1945, Austria was already occupied by the Allies and on 27 April 1945 Austria proclaimed independence from Nazi Germany.

Surrender of German Forces in Italy and Western Austria

Lt. Col. Viktor von Schweinitz signs the documents of unconditional surrender for all German troops in Italy and western Austria at Allied Forces' headquarters in Caserta, Italy on April 29, 1945. On that same day, Hitler married his longtime mistress Eva Braun in a Berlin bunker and wrote his final testament. (Photo by © CORBIS/Corbis via Getty Images)



Unknown to the family was that another family member, Lieutenant Colonel Viktor von Schweinitz, uncle of Hans-Ludwig von Schweinitz was already negotiating the surrender of the German Southern Armies in Caserta Italy. The full details are in the compendium "Germany Surrender". Lt Col Viktor von Schweinitz and others arrived in Caserta Italy on 28 April 1945. From 28-29 April 1945, an unconditional surrender document was drafted. On 29 April 1945, Lt Col Viktor von Schweinitz signed the Instrument of Surrender on behalf of General von Vietinghoff. In the photo, Viktor is not wearing his uniform. Hitler was still alive and so was the Nazi Party, and as an Officer he had taken an oath to Hitler, therefore signing this document was an act of treason against Hitler punishable by death.

And then on 30 April, Hitler committed suicide in Berlin. On 5 May 1945, German high command surrenders unconditionally all land, sea, and air forces at Reims effective 9 May 1945. Also on 5 May 1945, General Patton's Army came into Salzburg. The family was still in Salzburg during the celebrations.

Hitler reigned the German Reich for 13 years, and in that time, there were no fewer than 42 documented attempts on Hitler's life that have been uncovered by historians. All 42 were attempts by citizens of the German Reich. The true number will never be known. And there were countless other attempts by non-citizens of the German Reich. Some member of the von Schweinitz family was directly involved in at least three attempts.

### **1945 May 09 World War II End in Central Europe**

The war ended on 9 May 1945, when Germany's armed forces surrendered.



The celebration.



The End of the War is near: ruins in Salzburg.



There were French, British, and American troops already in Salzburg. On 9 July 1945, the Allies agreed on the borders of their occupation zones. The French and American zones bordered those countries' zones in Germany, and the Soviet zone bordered future Warsaw Pact states: Salzburg and Upper Austria south of the Danube were assigned to the American Zone.

To an interviewer later in his life, Hans-Ludwig “laughingly told me the American soldiers were extremely kind to him and when they would see him, they would stop him and give him chocolate. The black soldiers were particularly friendly. Black soldiers were still segregated and many of them lived with German families and created great relationships with their second families.”

Hans-Ludwig’s schooling did continue in Salzburg, but very sporadic. “Due to the situation the schools opened and closed for political or financial reasons, therefore, I changed schools multiple times.” There are no records from any of the schools he attended while in Salzburg.

### **Family Time Line 1945 January to 1945 July**

Helga

1945 Helga Gustav Gößling: It was not until this time after the war that we learned of Gustav's death 1944. Probably from the Red Cross.

1945: Helga 31 March last time sirens were used for Air Raid in Herford. 480 buildings completely destroyed, 2,380 buildings partially destroyed, 137 people dead.

1945: Helga Bomb went off in manure pile, spring

1945: Helga 16 to 20 May 1945 in the Herford area the American Liberators were replaced by British troops and the "der Britischen Besatzungszone" (British Occupation Zone) began.

1945: Helga 20 April 1945: Certification that house owned by American Gustav by Obergürgermeister

1945: Helga 22 Jan 1945: Official correspondence to Ella Portner from Regierungspräsident

1945: Helga 3 & 4 April: American Liberation. American tanks come into Herford and the neighboring town of Bielefeld

1945: Helga American liberators and British Occupying forces arrived April-May in Herford

1945-1949: Helga In der Britischen Besatzungszone May 1945-May 1949 Herford

### **Historical Timeline 1945 January to 1945 July**

19450101: Berlin. After the Vistula–Oder offensive of January–February 1945, the Red Army had temporarily halted on a line 60 km (37 mi) east of Berlin. On 9 March, Germany established its defence plan for the city with Operation Clausewitz. When the Soviet offensive resumed on 16 April, two Soviet fronts ( army groups ) attacked Berlin from the east and south, while a third overran German forces positioned north of Berlin.

19450101: Hans. Berlin From Wikipedia

Hans-Ludwig Biography

No plans were made by the Western Allies to seize the city by a ground operation.[29] The Supreme Commander [Western] Allied Expeditionary Force, General Eisenhower, lost interest in the race to Berlin and saw no further need to suffer casualties by attacking a city that would be in the Soviet sphere of influence after the war,[30] envisioning excessive friendly fire if both armies attempted to occupy the city at once.[31] The major Western Allied contribution to the battle was the bombing of Berlin during 1945.[32] During 1945 the United States Army Air Forces launched very large daytime raids on Berlin and, for 36 nights in succession, scores of RAF Mosquitos bombed the German capital, ending on the night of 20/21 April 1945 just before the Soviets entered the city.[33]

19450101: Hans. From quora.com

General George S. Patton did not continue on to Berlin after reaching the city of Pilsen in Czechoslovakia during World War II for several reasons. One reason was that the city of Berlin was already being approached by Soviet forces from the east, and there was an agreement among the Allied powers that the Soviet Union would take Berlin. Additionally, the Western Allies, including the United States, had already agreed on zones of occupation in Germany, with Berlin being divided into sectors controlled by the four Allied powers. Therefore, it was not part of the Western Allies' military strategy to capture Berlin. Instead, the focus shifted to securing the areas assigned to the Western Allies in the post-war division of Germany.

19450101: Hans. January–March 1945

Main articles: Vistula–Oder Offensive, East Pomeranian Offensive, Silesian Offensives, East Prussian Offensive, and Vienna Offensive

The Soviet Union finally entered Warsaw on 17 January 1945, after the city was destroyed and abandoned by the Germans. Over three days, on a broad front incorporating four army fronts, the Red Army launched the Vistula–Oder Offensive across the Narew River and from Warsaw. The Soviets outnumbered the Germans on average by 5–6:1 in troops, 6:1 in artillery, 6:1 in tanks and 4:1 in self-propelled artillery. After four days the Red Army broke out and started moving thirty to forty kilometres a day, taking the Baltic states, Danzig, East Prussia, Poznań, and drawing up on a line sixty kilometres east of Berlin along the River Oder. During the full course of the Vistula–Oder operation (23 days), the Red Army forces sustained 194,191 total casualties (killed, wounded and missing) and lost 1,267 tanks and assault guns.

On 25 January 1945, Hitler renamed three army groups. Army Group North became Army Group Courland; Army Group Centre became Army Group North and Army Group A became Army Group Centre. Army Group North (old Army Group Centre) was driven into an ever-smaller pocket around Königsberg in East Prussia.

A limited counter-attack (codenamed Operation Solstice) by the newly created Army Group Vistula, under the command of Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler, had failed by 24 February, and the Red Army drove on to Pomerania and cleared the right bank of the Oder River. In the south, the German attempts, in Operation Konrad, to relieve the encircled garrison at Budapest failed and the city fell on 13 February. On 6 March, the Germans launched what would be their final major offensive of the war, Operation Spring Awakening, which failed by 16 March. On 30 March the Red Army entered Austria and captured Vienna on 13 April.

19450101: Hitler's most fanatically loyal troops were preparing to make a lengthy, last-ditchstand in the natural fortresses formed by the rugged alpine mountains of southern Germany and westernAustria. If they held out for a year or more, dissension between the

Soviet Union and the Western Allies might have given them political leverage for some kind of favorable peace settlement.

19450105: January 5 1945: On 5 January 1945, two North American B-25 Mitchell bombers dropped 300,000 leaflets over Dresden with the "Appeal of 50 German generals to the German army and people".

19450203: Hans Berlin wikipedia

1,500 bombers of the Eighth Air Force, protected by some 1,000 fighters attacked the Berlin railway system on the forenoon (British: morning) of 3 February 1945 in the belief that the German Sixth Panzer Army was moving through Berlin by train on its way to the Eastern Front,[39] thinking the Sixth Panzer Army would use the Tempelhof railyards for the move.[40] This was one of the few occasions on which the USAAF undertook a mass attack on a city centre. Lt-General James Doolittle, commander of the USAAF Eighth Air Force, objected to this tactic, but he was overruled by the USAAF commander, General Carl Spaatz, who was supported by the Allied commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Eisenhower and Spaatz made it clear that the attack on Berlin was of great political importance in that it was designed to assist the Soviet offensive on the Oder east of Berlin, and was essential for Allied unity.[41][42]

19450204: Yalta Conference 4-11 February 1945. The Yalta Conference had already determined that both Germany and Berlin would be divided into four zones of occupation

19450208: Early and 8 February 1945: Early in 1945, the German offensive known as the Battle of the Bulge had been exhausted, as was the Luftwaffe's failed New Year's Day attack. The Red Army had launched its Silesian Offensives into pre-war German territory. The German army was retreating on all fronts, but still resisting. On 8 February 1945, the Red Army crossed the Oder River, with positions just 70 km (43 mi) from Berlin. [23] A special British Joint Intelligence Subcommittee report, German Strategy and Capacity to Resist, prepared for Winston Churchill's eyes only, predicted that Germany might collapse as early as mid-April if the Soviets overran its eastern defences. Alternatively, the report warned that the Germans might hold out until November if they could prevent the Soviets from taking Silesia.

19450213: Dresden 13 and 14 February 1945. On 13 February 1945, bad weather over Europe prevented any USAAF operations, and it was left to RAF Bomber Command to carry out the first raid. It had been decided that the raid would be a double strike, in which a second wave of bombers would attack three hours after the first, just as the rescue teams were trying to put out the fires. [51] As was standard practice, other raids were carried out that night to confuse German air defences. Three hundred and sixty heavy bombers (Lancasters and Halifaxes) bombed a synthetic oil plant in Böhlen, 60 mi (97 km) from Dresden, while 71 de Havilland Mosquito medium bombers attacked Magdeburg with small numbers of Mosquitos carrying out nuisance raids on Bonn, Misburg near Hanover and Nuremberg. [52] The sirens started sounding in Dresden at 21:51 (CET). The first attack, bombs were released at 22:13, the last at 22:28, delivering 881.1 tons of bombs, 57% high explosive, 43% incendiaries. The second attack, three hours later. The German sirens sounded again at 01:05, but these were small hand-held sirens that were heard within only a block. [59] Between 01:21 and 01:45, 529 Lancasters dropped more than 1,800 tons of bombs. On the morning of 14 February 431 United States Army Air Force bombers of the Eighth Air Force's 1st Bombardment Division were scheduled to bomb Dresden near midday. The bombing started at 12:17 and finished by 12:30. On 15 February Dresden was bombed between 12:00 and 12:10. Between 100,000 and 200,000 refugees [97] fleeing westward from advancing Soviet forces were in the city at the time



of the bombing. the number of dead recovered by that date was 20,204, including 6,865 who were cremated on the Altmarkt square, and they expected the total number of deaths to be about 25,000. [93] [94]. Most died from lack of oxygen.

19450213: Dresden Dresden's air defences had been depleted by the need for more weaponry to fight the Red Army, and the city lost its last massive flak battery in January 1945. By this point in the war, the Luftwaffe was severely hampered by a shortage of both pilots and aircraft fuel; the German radar system was also degraded, lowering the warning time to prepare for air attacks. The RAF also had an advantage over the Germans in the field of electronic radar countermeasures. [81]. Over 90% of the city center was destroyed.

19450213: Dresden The bombing of Dresden was a joint British and American aerial bombing attack on the city of Dresden, the capital of the German state of Saxony, during World War II. In four raids between 13 and 15 February 1945, 772 heavy bombers of the Royal Air Force (RAF) and 527 of the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) dropped more than 3,900 tons of high-explosive bombs and incendiary devices on the city. [3] The bombing and the resulting firestorm destroyed more than 1,600 acres (6.5 km<sup>2</sup>) of the city centre. [4] Up to 25,000 people were killed

19450213: Hans Bombing of Dresden in World War II Feb 13, 1945 – Feb 15, 1945

19450213: Hans Dresden wikipedia

The bombing of Dresden was a joint British and American aerial bombing attack on the city of Dresden, the capital of the German state of Saxony, during World War II. In four raids between 13 and 15 February 1945, 772 heavy bombers of the Royal Air Force (RAF) and 527 of the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) dropped more than 3,900 tons of high-explosive bombs and incendiary devices on the city. [3] The bombing and the resulting firestorm destroyed more than 1,600 acres (6.5 km<sup>2</sup>) of the city centre. [4] Up to 25,000 people were killed. [1] [2] [a]

19450213: Hans The bombing of Dresden Germany on February 13th and 14th of 1945 was very controversial for its time. There were thousands of civilians who lost their lives fleeing the Russian and German army's. The allies from the West, Churchill and Roosevelt, decided that Stalin was going to be a problem after the war. It was decided that the allies would show the Russians they had the superior military and they did not care who was in the city of Dresden, the allies were going to drop 3,300 tons of bombs in three waves. So many bombs were dropped at the same time it sucked the oxygen out of the air creating a great firestorm. Buildings and homes were completely destroyed. Bodies lie in the street, flesh burning and there is no way to walk around them to escape.<sup>23</sup>

19450314: 14 March US Eighth Air Force: bombed 2 rail bridges and a marshalling yard near Herford

19450412: 12 April 1945, FDR died

19450412: Berlin. On 12 April 1945, Hitler, who had earlier decided to remain in the city against the wishes of his advisers, heard the news that the American President Franklin D. Roosevelt had died. [27] This briefly raised false hopes in the Führer bunker that there might yet be a falling out among the Allies and that Berlin would be saved at the last moment

19450416: Berlin, Battle of Berlin 16-25 April 1945. Russian army. No plans were made by the Western Allies to seize the city by a ground operation. [29] The Supreme Commander [Western] Allied Expeditionary Force, General Eisenhower, lost interest in the race to Berlin and saw no further need to suffer casualties by attacking a city that would be in the Soviet sphere of influence after the war, [30] envisioning excessive friendly fire if both

armies attempted to occupy the city at once. [31] Stalin had wanted to settle the score since Hitler's breach of their non-aggression pact. On 15 April 1945, the Soviet Union fired a massive barrage of some one million artillery shells, one of the largest in history, onto the German positions west of the Oder.

19450420: 20 April 1945: Soviet artillery began shelling Berlin at 11 a.m. on Hitler's 56th birthday.[1] Preparations were made to evacuate Hitler and his staff to Obersalzberg to make a final stand in the Bavarian mountains, but Hitler refused to leave his bunker.

19450427: Austria was occupied by the Allies and proclaimed independence from Nazi Germany on 27 April 1945 (confirmed by the Berlin Declaration for Germany on 5 June 1945), as a result of the Vienna offensive and ended with the Austrian State Treaty on 27 July 1955.

19450428: Operation Valkyrie on 20 July 1944. The plot to assassinate Hitler was on 20 July 1944, the name Operation Valkyrie—originally referring to part of the conspiracy—has become associated with the entire event. In the aftermath and clean up, 7,000 people were arrested and 4,980 were executed. If Lt Col Viktor had been involved, it was a well kept secret from the family. The family story about why Lt Col Viktor was chosen, was because in 1945 he had no wife or children. Any act towards surrender was considered treason by Hitler, and would have resulted in execution. But Hitler's enforcement arm, Gestapo, did not just stop with executing the military Officer, they also executed his wife and children. So being a bachelor, he was probably 'volunteered' for the assignment or he may have willingly taken on the assignment. The family does not know how General von Vietinghoff convinced Lt Col Viktor von Schweinitz. Lt Col Viktor von Schweinitz and others arrived in Caserta Italy on 28 April 1945. From 28-29 April 1945, an unconditional surrender document was drafted. On 29 April 1945, Lt Col Viktor von Schweinitz signed the Instrument of Surrender on behalf of General von Vietinghoff.

19450429: 29 April 1945: At the royal palace in Caserta, two German officers signed the terms of surrender of German forces in Italy. Hostilities would cease at noon on May 2.

19450429: Hans On April 29th, 1945 Lieutenant Colonel Viktor von Schweinitz, uncle of Hans von Schweinitz, was authorized to sign the surrender of Germany in Caserta Italy. (See Figure 3) With this signing the Lieutenant Colonel was negotiate the framework of surrender of German soldiers and how they were to be treated as prisoners of war while they were kept in Italy. If an agreement was not met during the signing the German soldiers were to hide in the hills without surrender. They were told to surrender or be slaughtered and they eventually agreed to a full surrender.<sup>24</sup>

19450430: Attempts on Hitler's life: 42 documented attempts. All attempts occurred in the German Reich, except where noted. All attempts involved citizens of the German Reich, except where noted. No fewer than 42 plots have been uncovered by historians.[2] However, the true number cannot be accurately determined due to an unknown number of undocumented cases. Wikipedia

19450430: 30 April 1945 Hitler committed suicide.

19450430: 30 April 1945: Death of Adolf Hitler: Adolf Hitler and his wife Eva Braun committed suicide at around 3.30 p.m. while the Red Army was a short distance from the Führerbunker. In accordance with Hitler's last Will and Testament, Karl Dönitz and Joseph Goebbels took on Hitler's roles as Head of State and Head of Government of Germany respectively.

19450508: 8 May 1945 End of WWII in Europe, WWII in Pacific theater would continue until 2 Sep 1945

19450509: End of WW II 8 May 1945 for Europe theater

19450509: German high command surrenders unconditionally all land, sea, and air forces at Reims effective 9 May 1945.

19450509: Nationalsozialismus for was over, it had existed from 1933 to 1945.

19450509: Occupation process by USA. When Allied soldiers arrived in a town, its leaders and remaining residents typically used white flags,bedsheets, and tablecloths to signal surrender. The officer in charge of the unit capturing the area,typically a company or battalion, accepted responsibility over the town. Soldiers posted copies of GeneralEisenhower's Proclamation No. 1 , which began with "We come as a victorious army, not as oppressors."The proclamation demanded compliance with all orders by the commanding officer, instituted a strictcurfew and limited travel and confiscated all communications equipment and weapons. After a day ortwo, specialized Office of Military Government, United States (OMGUS) units took over. Soldiersrequisitioned housing and office space as needed from residents. At first, this was done informally withoccupants evicted immediately and taking with them few personal possessions, but the process becamestandardized, with three hours' notice and OMGUS personnel providing receipts for buildings' contents.The displaced residents nonetheless had to find housing on their own. [27]

19450509: Suicides by Nazi Germany. This is a list of suicides in Nazi Germany. Many prominent Nazis, Nazi followers, and members of the armed forces died by suicide during the last days of World War II. Others killed themselves after being captured. Those who committed suicide includes 8 out of 41 Nazi Party regional leaders who held office between 1926 and 1945, 7 out of 47 higher SS and police leaders,53 out of 554 army generals, 14 out of 98 Luftwaffe generals, 11out of 53 admirals in the Kriegsmarine, and an unknown number of junior officials. [1] Henning von Tresckow on 21 July 1944. Wikipedia

19450709: Austria Occupation zones On 9 July 1945 the Allies agreed on the borders of their occupation zones.[25] Movement of occupation troops ("zone swap") continued until the end of July.[21] The French and American zones bordered those countries' zones in Germany, and the Soviet zone bordered future Warsaw Pact states: Salzburg and Upper Austria south of the Danube were assigned to the American Zone.

19450717: At the Potsdam conference, the Allied leaders confirmed their previous commitment to the removal of German populations from Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary, which the provisional governments of those countries had already begun to put into effect. The three allied leaders agreed that transfers of German civilians should proceed in an orderly and humane manner, but according to modern estimates, between 600,000 and 2.2 million Germans died during the flight and expulsions.[37][38][39]

19450717: Hans. Invasion of the Red Army: Flight and expulsion of the German population: In the Potsdam Agreement, Silesia is placed under Polish administration until a peace treaty is signed. The peace treaty was never signed by the Soviet Union, so the peace treaty was never finalized. Germany surrendered unconditionally and was occupied therefore no "peace treaty" was required.

19450717: The Allies issued a statement of aims for their occupation of Germany: demilitarization, denazification, democratization, decentralization, dismantling, and decartelization. More specifically, as for the demilitarization and disarmament of Germany, the Allies decided to abolish the SS; the SA; the SD, the Gestapo; the air, land, and naval forces; and organizations, staffs, and institutions that were in charge of keeping alive the military tradition in Germany. Concerning the democratization of Germany, the



"Big Three" thought it to be of great importance for the Nazi Party and its affiliated organizations to be destroyed. Thus, the Allies would prevent all Nazi activity and prepare for the reconstruction of German political life in a democratic state.[21]

19450717: The Potsdam Conference (German: Potsdamer Konferenz) was held at Potsdam in the Soviet occupation zone from July 17 to August 2, 1945, to allow the three leading Allies to plan the postwar peace, while avoiding the mistakes of the Paris Peace Conference of 1919. The participants were the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

## 1945 July 14 to 1945 August: The Expulsion

From 17 July to 2 August 1945, the Allies met in Potsdam to iron out the Potsdam Agreement. The three participants were the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States (no France). Besides identifying the occupational zones, it also addressed the Nazi Party and the orderly removal of German population from countries that Germany had occupied. The Nazi party was declared illegal on 10 October 1945. The Allies attempted to purge German society of Nazi elements in a process known as denazification.

At the Potsdam conference, the Allied leaders confirmed their previous commitment to the removal of German populations from countries that Germany had occupied. The three allied leaders agreed that transfers of German civilians should proceed in an orderly and humane manner. The problem was that several provisional governments of those countries had already begun to put this expulsion into effect, days before the Potsdam Conference even began. The expulsion of German would continue until 1950, and those evacuated, migrated, or expelled by 1950 totaled over 8 million. According to modern estimates, between 600,000 and 2.2 million Germans died during this flight and expulsions.

Per Hans-Ludwig's memory in one interview, "they kicked us out of Austria at a certain time limit and was supposed to take was 20 pounds of Personal belongings and anyway, we got kicked out of Austria. And we went from Austria near a small town South of Munich." In answer to the question "What did your family take with you?" his answer was "The only thing we can carry. And Father, father carried some jewelry and a basic jewelry, if it was gold or jewelry."

In another interview Hans-Ludwig's memory to the question "You said you were forced to leave?" his answer was "Yes, the Austrian sent us a paper hanger. Hitler was an Austrian originally. The Austrians kicked all Germans out in 45. They restricted us to 20 pounds with my father had bribed people. We came out by our

truck (the large horse drawn wagon) and had little more. But we lost a lot in Austria when we left Austria. And went to near Munich. Friends of my father, which had in this estate outside of Munich.”

The below flier is from Poland, but sometime in July a similar flier was posted in Salzburg. What date, Hans-Ludwig could not remember, but he knew that they were definitely out of Austria by 31 July 1945, and were living in the small town south of Munich.



# Sonderbefehl

**für die deutsche Bevölkerung der Stadt Bad Salzbrunn  
einschliesslich Ortsteil Sandberg.**

**Laut Befehl der Polnischen Regierung wird befohlen:**

1. Am 14. Juli 1945 ab 6 bis 9 Uhr wird eine Umsiedlung der deutschen Bevölkerung stattfinden.
2. Die deutsche Bevölkerung wird in das Gebiet westlich des Flusses Neiße umgesiedelt.
3. Jeder Deutsche darf höchstens 20 kg Reisegepäck mitnehmen.
4. Kein Transport (Wagen, Ochsen, Pferde, Kühe usw.) wird erlaubt.
5. Das ganze lebendige und tote Inventar in unbeschädigtem Zustande bleibt als Eigentum der Polnischen Regierung.
6. Die letzte Umsiedlungsfrist läuft am 14. Juli 10 Uhr ab.
7. Nichtausführung des Befehls wird mit schärfsten Strafen verfolgt, einschliesslich Waffengebrauch.
8. Auch mit Waffengebrauch wird verhindert Sabotage u. Plünderung.
9. Sammelplatz an der Strasse Bbf. Bad Salzbrunn-Ubelsbacher Weg in einer Marschkolonne zu 4 Personen. Spitze der Kolonne 20 Meter vor der Ortschaft Ubelsbach.
10. Diejenigen Deutschen, die im Besitz der Räumungsbefehlsbescheinigungen sind, dürfen die Wohnung mit ihren Angehörigen in der Zeit von 5 bis 14 Uhr nicht verlassen.
11. Alle Wohnungen in der Stadt müssen offen bleiben, die Wohnungs- und Hauschlüssel müssen nach außen gesteckt werden.

Bad Salzbrunn, 14. Juli 1945, 6 Uhr.

**Abschnittskommandant**

(-) Zinkowski  
Oberleutnant.

Bad Salzbrunn is now Szczawno Zdroj in Poland about 60 miles south of Alt Raudten

## Transcript in German

## Sonderbefehl

für die deutsche Bevölkerung der Stadt Salzbrunn einschließlich Ortsteil Sandberg.  
Laut Befehl der Polnischen Regierung wird befohlen:

1. Am 14. Juli 1945 ab 6 bis 9 Uhr wird eine Umsiedlung der deutschen Bevölkerung stattfinden.
  2. Die deutsche Bevölkerung wird in das Gebiet westlich des Flusses Neisse umgesiedelt.
  3. Jeder Deutsche darf höchstens 20 kg Reisegepäck mitnehmen.
  4. Kein Transport (Wagen, Ochsen, Pferde, Kühe usw.) wird erlaubt.
  5. Das ganze lebendige und tote Inventar in unbeschädigten Zustände bleibt als Eigentum der Polnischen Regierung.
  6. Die Umsiedlungsfrist läuft am 14. Juli 10 Uhr ab.
  7. Nichtausführung des Befehls wird mit schärfsten Strafen verfolgt, einschließlich Waffengebrauch.
  8. Auch mit Waffengebrauch wird verhindert Sabotage u. Plünderung.
  9. Sammelplatz an der Straße Bhf. Bad Salzbrunn-Adelsbacher Weg in einer Marschkolonne 20 Meter vor der Ortschaft Adelsbach.
  10. Diejenigen Deutschen, die im Besitz von Nichteвакуierungsbescheinigungen sind, dürfen die Wohnung mit ihren Angehörigen in der Zeit von 5 bis 14 Uhr nicht verlassen.
  11. Alle Wohnungen in der Stadt müssen offen bleiben, die Wohnungs und Hausschlüssel müssen nach außen gesteckt werden.
- Bad Salzbrunn, 14. Juli 1945, 6 Uhr Abschnittkommandant (-) Zinkowski,  
Oberleutnant
- Dieser Sonderbefehl betraf nicht nur den Ort Bad Salzbrunn; er wurde in zigtausenden deutschen Orten erlassen, mit stillschweigender Duldung der westlichen Alliierten.

## Translation to English

## Special order

for the German population of the city of Salzbrunn including the Sandberg district.  
According to the order of the Polish government:

1. A resettlement of the German population will take place on July 14, 1945 from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.
2. The German population is resettled in the area west of the Neisse River.
3. Every German is allowed to take a maximum of 20 kg of luggage with them.
4. No transportation (wagon, oxen, horses, cows, etc.) is allowed.
5. All living and dead inventory in undamaged condition remains the property of



the Polish Government.

6. The relocation deadline expires on July 14th at 10 a.m.
7. Failure to carry out the order will result in the most severe penalties, including the use of weapons.
8. The use of weapons also prevents sabotage and looting.
9. Assembly point on the Bad Salzbrunn-Adelsbacher Weg station road in a marching column 20 meters before the town of Adelsbach.
10. Those Germans who have non-evacuation certificates are not allowed to leave the apartment with their relatives between 5 a.m. and 2 p.m.
11. All apartments in the city must remain open; apartment and house keys must be kept outside.

Bad Salzbrunn, July 14, 1945, 6 a.m. Section commander (-) Zinkowski, first lieutenant

This special order not only affected the town of Bad Salzbrunn; It was enacted in tens of thousands of German towns, with the tacit acquiescence of the Western Allies.

### **1945 July 15 to 1945 August München (Munich)**

The family was evicted from Salzburg and had to cross the border into Germany to München (Munich) along with over 100,000 other displaced Germans. They lived mostly on the street, right next to the truck (heavy horse drawn wagon). Many other displaced Germans were moving on or finding lodgings. But they had to stay in Munich for a while. Ursula, Vati's new wife and Hans-Ludwig's prior Nanny, was heavily pregnant. She was actually already pregnant when the flight began in January 1945 back in Alt Raudten. She was with child during the bombing in Dresden, and while on the endless days on the road.

Hans-Ludwig's half brother Kurt Balthasar von Schweinitz was born in the Hospital in München (Munich) to Ursula and Hans Wilhelm von Schweinitz on 31 July 1945. Kurt was later called Hemmi as a nickname. Hemmi was born a healthy normal baby boy, which was amazing because of Ursula's exposure to bombing, extreme physical exertion, and stress while Hemmi was in her womb.

After it was safe to travel with Hemmi, the family found lodging at a friend of the family. Per Hans-Ludwig, "From Salzburg, in 1945 we moved to a small town in the woods just south of Munich Germany for about a year." This area of Germany is part of Bavaria.

### Family Time Line 1945 July

Hans

19450731: Hans' Brother Kurt Balthasar (Hemmi) born 31 July 1945 Kurt Balthasar to Ursula in München (Munich)

Helga

194507: Helga Father walked into back yard and came home, July

### Historical Timeline 1945 July

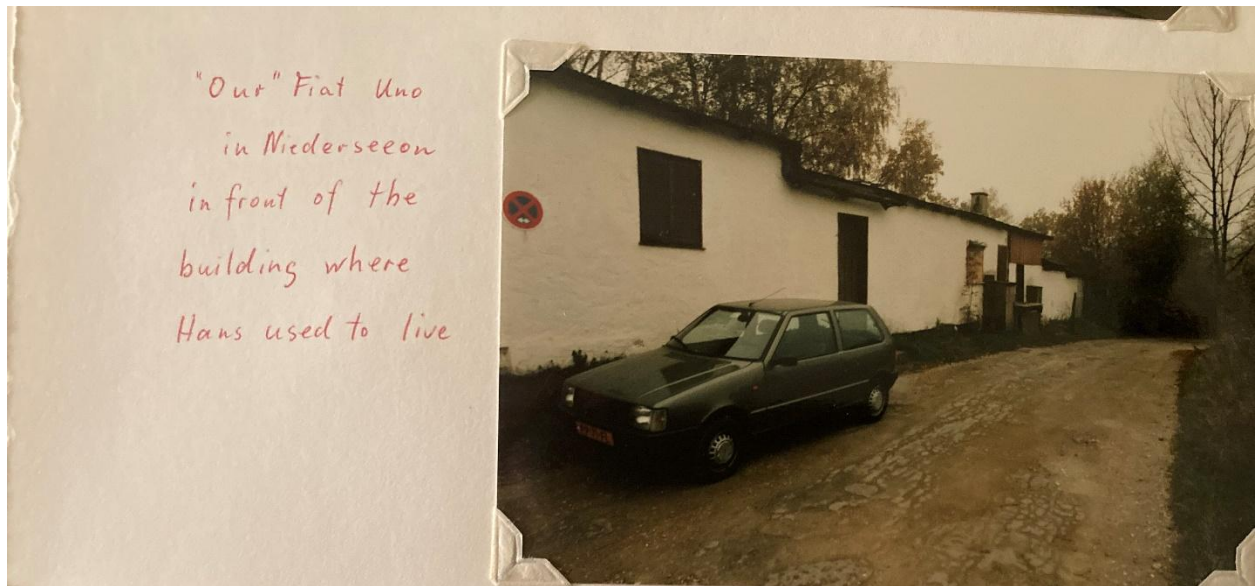
19450721: Patton statement As with Prague, Patton's request to secure Berlin was denied. Sadly, after Patton finally reached the ravaged city, he wrote his wife on July 21, 1945, "for the first week after they took it (Berlin), all women who ran were shot and those who did not were raped. I could have taken it (instead of the Soviets) had I been allowed."

### 1945 August Niederseeon near Munich

The town was Niederseeon which was in the woods just Southwest of Munich. The family lived there for about one year.



Photo from 1986 visit. Niederseeon where Hans[-Ludwig] lived in 1945



1986 photo of Niederseeon Reitclub staff building where Hans[-Ludwig] lived in 1945.

Hans-Ludwig remembers that his older sister, Ingrid, joined them at Niederseeon. Before the war arrived in Silesia, she had been an Opar at another family estate. She and that family were also expelled in July 1945, from Silesia/Poland because they were Germans. She rode her bicycle from Silesia to Niederseeon near Munich.

During their time in Niederseeon, Hans-Ludwig went to various local school and also various boarding schools. The situation in Germany was still unstable and schools were still closing for various reasons.

### **1945 August to 1956 June: Refugee**

The family was just trying to survive. Unbeknownst to them, they were now Refugees. The official declaration would not occur for another five years. In 1950, Hans-Ludwig received his Refugee Identification Papers. These ID papers were important. Many German Refugees no longer had official Identification Papers and because they used to live in another country (Silesia was in Poland) they were not German Citizens, just of part of the German Ethnic group that spoke German and had been identifying themselves as German. Confusing. The Refugee ID Papers were used to identify the person as having the rights of a German Citizen. Over time there were some other benefits or compensations, that will be explained when they happened.



**BUNDESREPUBLIK  
DEUTSCHLAND**

**AUSWEIS**  
für Vertriebene und Flüchtlinge

**A**

Nummer des Ausweises

**7532/3595**

Dieser Ausweis gilt nur in Verbindung mit einem gültigen  
Personalausweis.

Name (bei Frauen auch Geburtsname)  
*v. Schweinitz*

Vornamen (Rufname unterstrichen)  
*Hans Ludwig*

Geburtstag *26. Okt. 1934*

Geburtsort (Land, Kreis) *Liegnitz / H. Posen*

Kinder unter 16 Jahren

	Vorname	Geburtstag
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

Ständiger Aufenthalt im Bundesgebiet (Berlin-West)  
seit: *August 1945*

Wohnort und Wohnung  
**Grünstadt**  
*Schlesingerstr. 28*

*Hans L. v. Schweinitz*

Unterschrift des Inhabers

**Frankenthal, Den 15. Juni 1956**

Ort Datum

Ausstellende Behörde  
*Landratsamt*

Dienststempel  
**Landratsamt  
Frankenthal**

Unterschrift

Nr. des Personalausweises  
*RPV 29 937*

Behördliche Eintragungen



**1945 August to 1946 November: Niederseeon near Munich**

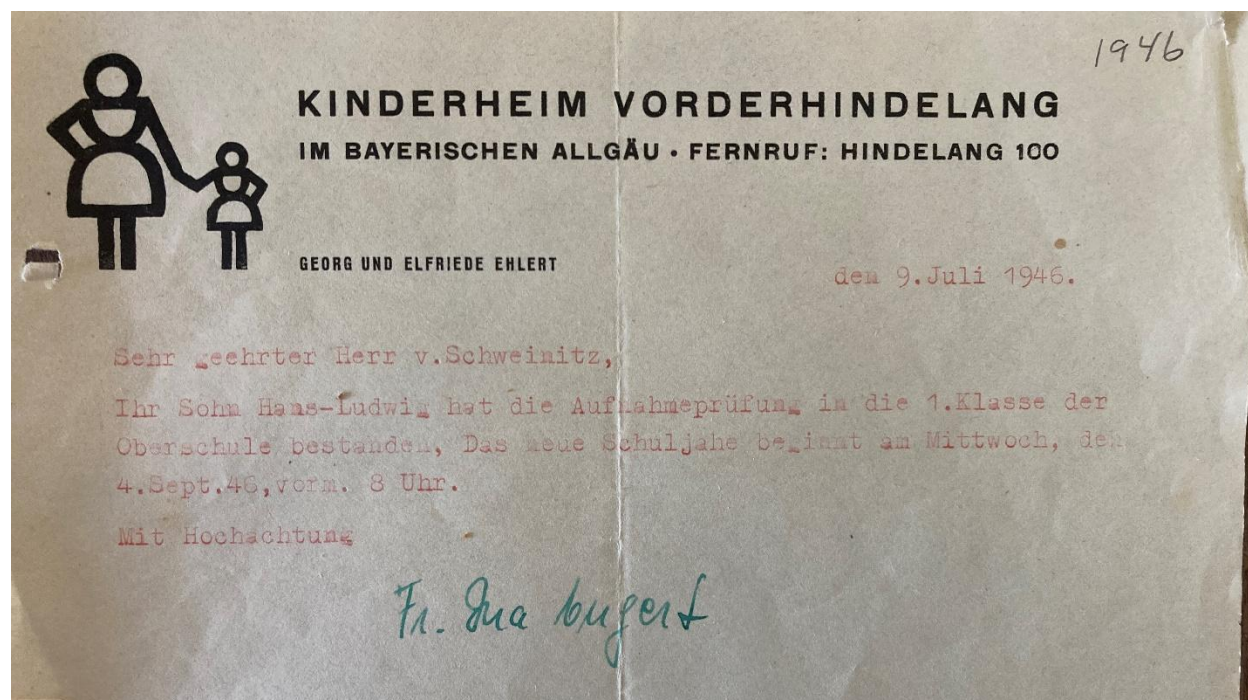
While the family was in Niederseeon, Hans-Ludwig went to various schools and boarding schools. The area in Germany around Niederseeon and Munich is called Bavaria. From Munich you can see the Bavarian Alps which is about 180 km away.



Winter of 1945/46 in Neiderseeon, Hans-Ludwig, Vati, Hemmi, Ursula, Ingrid

Per Hans-Ludwig, “We went to Bavaria from Austria. Bavaria went to school there. But then again, I went to a boarding school, in the Alps. It stopped off and on and then. I got out of there. Boarding school in, in the Alps. And from there again I went to the boarding schools. And Catholic priests and different boarding schools. I have become very honorably. And I had a very good. Boarding schools, good teachers and the nuns were very good.”

The only remaining documentation of all the schools that Hans-Ludwig went to while in Niederseeon is this letter.



In the 1946/47 school year, Hans was sent to a Children's Home.

#### German Transcript

Kinderheim Vorderhindelang

Im Bayerischen Allgäu, Fernruf: Hindelang 100

Georg und Elfriede Ehlert

Den 9 Juli 1946

Sehr geehrter Herr v. Schweinitz,

Ihr Sohn Hans-Ludwig hat die Aufnahmeprüfung in die 1 Klasse der Oberschule bestanden. Das neue Schuljahe beginnt am Mittwoch, dem 4 Sept.46 for 8 Uhr

Mit Hochachtung

#### Translation

Vorderhindelang Children's Home

In the Bavarian District, long distance call: Hindelang 100

Georg and Elfriede Ehlert

July 9, 1946

Dear Mr. v. Schweinitz,

Your son Hans-Ludwig passed the entrance exam for the first class of high school.

The new school year begins on Wednesday, September 4th, 1946 at 8 a.m

With respect

This Boarding School was near Bad Hindelang in South German Alps, about 60 miles SouthWest of Munich.

Hans-Ludwig Biography



The family left Niederseeon in late 1946, probably in November. By then Hans-Ludwig had just turned 12 years old.



Hans-Ludwig in Neiderseeon.





Vati aged significantly during the flight.

The photo on the left is from Alt Raudten in 1944, the one on the right is from 1946, just before they left Niederseeon.

### **Family Timeline 1945 September to 1946 November**

Hans

Helga

1945-1949: Helga In der Britischen Besatzungszone May 1945-May1949 Herford

1946: Helga Father filling in forms. Had received letter (13Aug1946)where "They" were going to investigate his Nazi Party past. On 28Nov1946 received letter where "they" explained their findings (matched what Father had filled in on form) and also included that he had purchased material zzzzzzz look at pink letter more.

1946: Helga 25April1946 Certification that house owned by American Gustav again by Obergürgermeister

1946: Helga 26Feb1946: Denied war related damage retribution because house owned by Gustav in Milwaukee by Stadtkämmerer.

1946: Helga 26Feb1946: Official correspondence to Ruldof Portner from Reigierungspräsident

### **Historical Timeline 1945 September to 1946 November**

19450902: 2September1945: WWII ended in Pacific theater also, WWII end complete

19451010: Nazi Party. Following the military defeat of Germany in World War II, the party was

Hans-Ludwig Biography

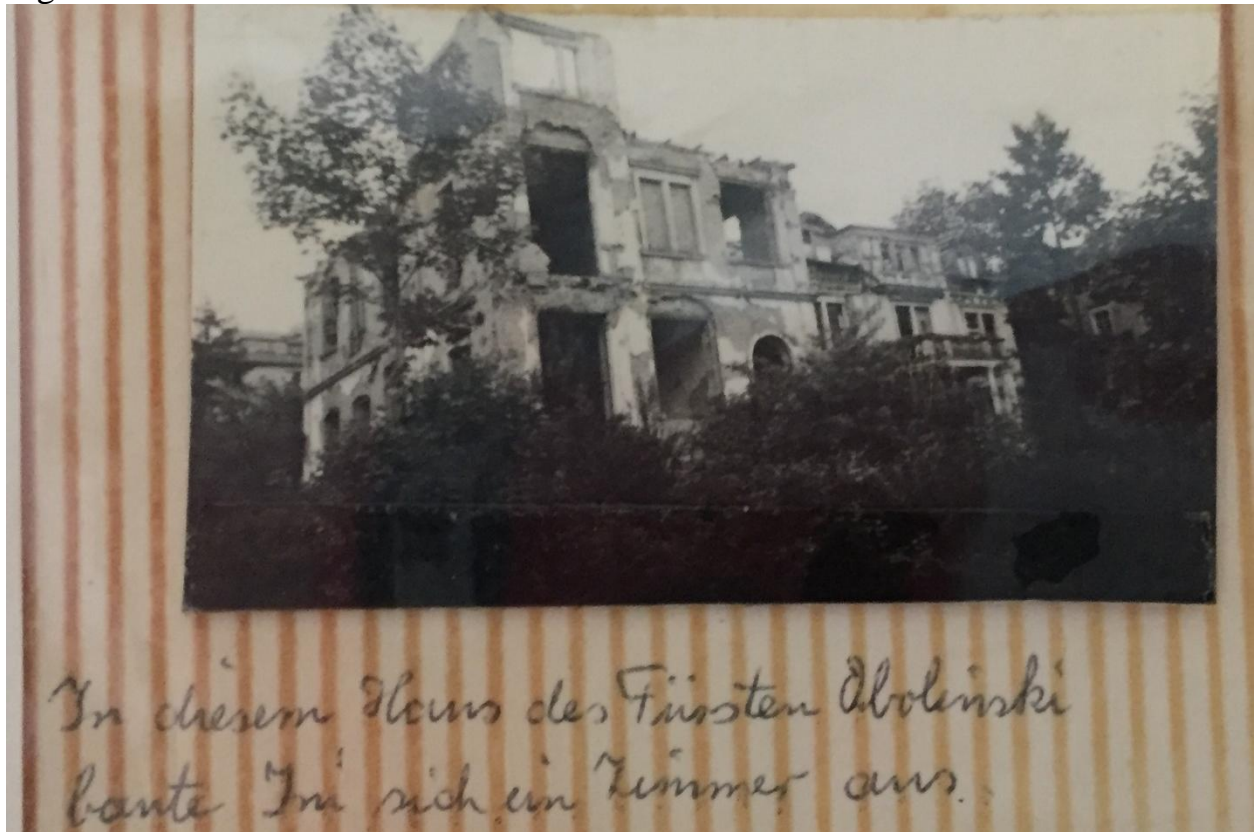


declared illegal on 10 October 1945.[24] The Allies attempted to purge German society of Nazi elements in a process known as denazification. Several top leaders were tried and found guilty of crimes against humanity in the Nuremberg trials, and executed. The use of symbols associated with the party is still outlawed in many European countries, including Germany and Austria.

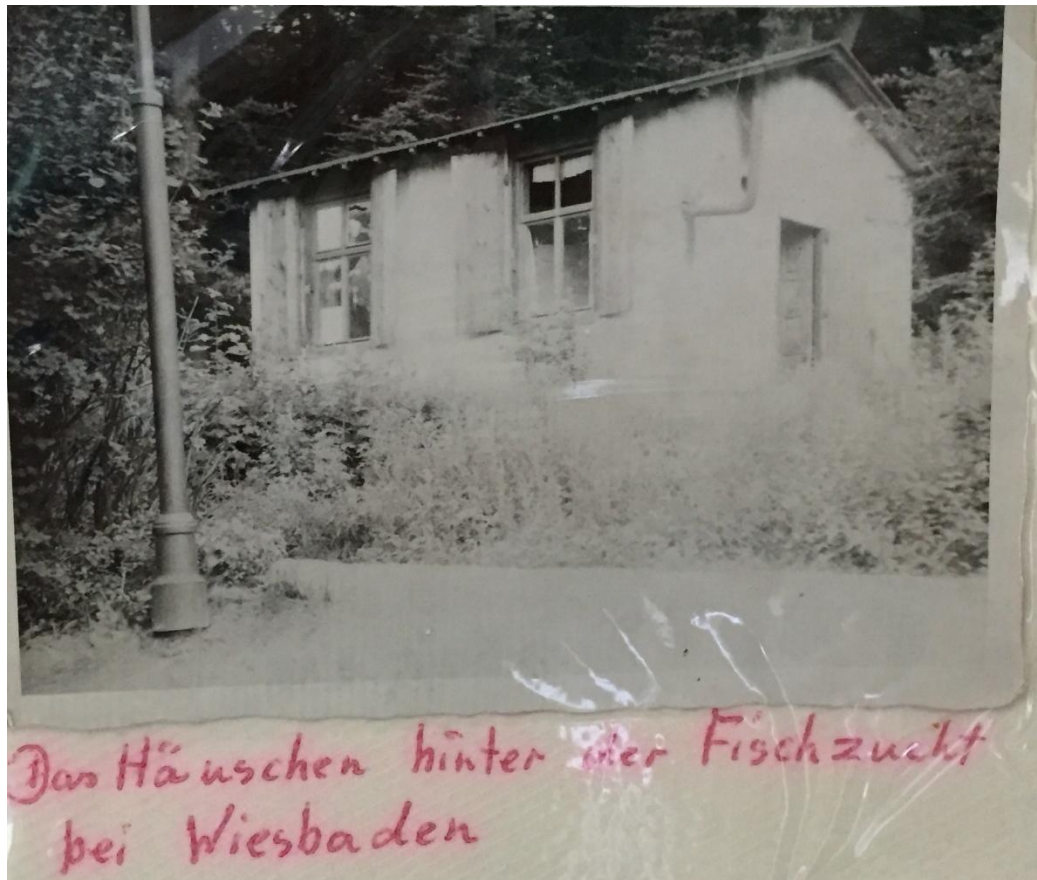
### **1946 November to 1950 July in Wiesbaden: A new Life**

In about November 1946, they left Niederseeon and moved to the Wiesbaden/Frankfurt area. Along the way they stopped at Stuttgart. All these cities were still in the American Zone. One of Vati's sisters had moved to Wiesbaden back in 1944, so they had family. They were definitely in Wiesbaden by 15 December 1946 because Hans-Ludwig's half-sister Therese Maria (Heise) von Schweinitz was born to Ursula and Vati in a Wiesbaden Hospital.

The first place they lived in was a bombed-out building. Hans-Ludwig's sister Ingrid built her own room.



Per Hans-Ludwig's interview, "Most of the cities were in ruins, was very difficult to find living places. My family lived in a small house. Up in the mountains way up in the woods." This small house was part of a Fischzucht (fishing farm). They raised fish in the ponds and also ran a restaurant.



The small house behind the Fish Farm near Wiesbaden.

From the bombed-out house they had moved to a small two room house that at least had a working roof. The little house did not have running water or electricity and the “plumbing” was out in the woods.

Hans-Ludwig continued his education at the Städt Realgymnasium in Wiesbaden.



Städt. Realgymnasium  
f. Jungen a. d. Oranienstraße  
Wiesbaden

1947

Klasse: V. a Schuljahr 194 6/47, 3. Jahresdrittel

**Zeugnis** für Hans-Ludwig v. Schweinitz

Allgemeine Beurteilung des körperlichen, charakterlichen und geistigen Strebens und Gesamterfolges:	Betragen:	<u>gut,</u>
	Fließ:	<u>genügend,</u>
	Aufmerksamkeit:	<u>genügend.</u>
Schulbesuch:		
Versäumte Stunden:	wegen Krankheit <u>88</u>	aus anderen Gründen <u>unentschuldigt</u>
Verspätungen:		
Bemerkungen:	<u>Laut Konferenzbeschluss vom 18. 9. 47 mit großen Bedenken nach Oranien veretzt.</u>	
den <u>26. 9.</u> 194 <u>7.</u>	<u>Randnitzky.</u> Klassenleiter	<u>Sophie Schweinitz</u> Klassenleiter
Der Vater oder dessen Stellvertreter: <u>Hans v. Schweinitz</u> (Leistungen umseitig)		

School year 1946/47 third portion, Klasse VIa (6th grade). 88 days missed due to sickness. After a conference on 18 September 1947, with great thought he is being transferred to ??something (Possibly Oranien Strasse school)

More information about all the different schools that Hans-Ludwig attended is included in the compendium "Hans Education". Most of his grades were 'not without blame', 'inadequate' or 'enough', except in Math where he received a 'good'. And the teacher's comment was "Despite repeated discipline he shows no signs of improving his work or behavior." Hans-Ludwig was in full rebellion because "The adults couldn't say anything anymore. They had screwed up the country so bad. They either crippled, had lost their arms and legs. Or had been in prisoner of war camps. Starved half to death full of diseases. They had lost all respect of the young people and the children of the children. "

In early 1947, from the Fischsucht, they moved into Hotel Haus Tamara. Vati and Ursula ran the hotel.



Hans-Ludwig remembers that his Vati would only register with the authorities the first guest for the night for each room. But that the rooms were rented multiple times each night. The Hotel Tamara was near the Kurhaus (spa house) which had Hans-Ludwig Biography



been taken over by the “Amis”, Americans, so there was a steady supply of guests. Hans-Ludwig always believe that his step-mother Ursula would do more than just change the sheets between guests, but not until after Vati made sure that Ursula was pregnant with his child. The whole family helped out in cleaning the rooms during the day. Ria was hired to help, and she soon became a valued member of the family.



On 22 June 1947, Opa Hans “Hermann” Heinrich Wilhelm von Schweinitz died. Hans-Ludwig was very close to his Opa. Oma Gabriele lived until 1962. Ernst was Opa’s brother, who never married.



Ursula soon gave birth to her third child, Michael (Mischi) von Schweinitz born on 27Feb1948 in Wiesbaden.



Photo of Hemmi, Ria, Mischi, and Heisi later in 1948.

During their time at Hotel Tamara, Hans-Ludwig learned how to survive on the streets. He would spend his days taking on odd jobs so that he could bring food back to feed his family. "I was heavily involved in black marketing. Because there was a shortage of everything. Hair Combs and I had silky nylon stockings. These were my best trading goods. I had money coming out of my ears. But the money wasn't worth very much." Hans-Ludwig would also trade in cigarettes and coffee beans.



In September 1948, Hans-Ludwig was still in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and not doing well.

**Zeugnis für** Hans-Ludwig von Schweinitz

Schuljahr 1947/48, Jahreshälfte

**Allgemeine Beurteilung des körperlichen, charakterlichen und geistigen Strebens und Gesamterfolges:**

**Schulbesuch:** wegen Krankheit, anderen Gründen, unentschuldig

**Versäumte Stunden:**

**Verspätungen:**

**Bemerkungen:**

**Leistungen:**

I. Leibeserziehung	Turnen:	Chemie:
Leichtathletik:		Physik:
Schwimmen:		Rechnen und Mathematik:
Spiele:	Boxen:	IV. Fremdsprachen
Gesamterteil:	genügend	Latein:
II. Deutschkunde	Deutsch:	Griechisch:
Geschichte:	mangelhaft	Englisch:
Erdkunde:	genügend	Polen:
Kunsterziehung:	mangelhaft	Polen:
Musik:	genügend	V. Handschrift:
III. Naturw. u. Math.	genügend	genügend
Biologie:	genügend	

Den 30. 9. 1948

Oberstudienrat

Klassenleiter

Der Vater oder dessen Vertreter:

1947/48 school year call Va(5th grade) transcript dated 30 September 1948.

Befragen (Testing) Nicht ohne tadel = not without blame. Fleiß (Work) and Aufmerksamkeit (Attention) mangelhaft = inadequate. Verstung sehr zweifelhaft = transfer very doubtful. Genügend = enough. UnGenügend = insufficient.

Mangelhaft = inadequate

This transcript begins to indicate Hans' aptitude towards Mathematics (Gut).

Ironically, he received an "insufficient" in English, which he later became very proficient.

Then suddenly on 15 March 1949, somehow, in one year, Hans-Ludwig completed three years of education, made all "Gut (Good)" grades, and received his Volksschule Leaving Certificate (Diploma). The minimum schooling requirement in Germany was schooling through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at a Volksschule. Hans-Ludwig told us that refugee children did not make good students because they no longer respected the adults. They had seen the real world and became "disruptive because of the atrocities and killings that took place" and preferred to be on the streets and learning how to survive the real world, not sit in classrooms. The new German Government decided to just graduate the refugee children when they reach the age of 14, which is when they should have been in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Volksschule, not matter what their grade or what they had learned. While at Alt Raudten, Hans-Ludwig had attended one school from 1941 to 1944. Then from January 1945 to March 1949, he "Due to the situation in Germany the schools opened and closed for political or financial reasons, therefore, I changed schools 22 times in those years."

*Absehe!* **Parit. Volksschule**  
Klasse *194* Volksschule zu **Sobernheim**

## Zeugnis

Der Schüler *Hans-Ludwig von Schweinitz*  
des *8* Schulhalbjahres erreicht:

Führung: *gut*  
Fleiß und Aufmerksamkeit: *gut*  
Ordnung: *gut*

Religion:  
a) Katechismus: *gut*  
b) Bibl. Geschichte: *gut*  
Deutsch:  
a) Lesen: *gut*  
b) Rechtschreiben: *gut*  
c) Aufsatz: *gut*

Geschichte und Staatsbürgerkunde: *gut*  
Erdkunde: *gut*  
Naturkunde: *gut*  
Naturlehre: *gut*

Rechnen: *gut*  
Raumlehre: *gut*  
Zeichnen: *gut*  
Musik: *gut*  
Turnen: *gut*  
Schwimmen: *gut*  
Werkunterricht: *gut*  
Nadelarbeit: *gut*  
Hauswirtschaft: *gut*

Der Schüler *Hans-Ludwig* fehlte mit *15* Tagen Entschuldigung *15. III* 19 *49*  
Bemerkungen: *Sobernheim*

Der Schulleiter: *Paulus* D. .... Lehrer: *Paulus*

*Absehe!* **Evgl. Volksschule in Sobernheim** *1949*

## Schulentlassungszeugnis vom 15. III. 49

Der Schüler *Hans-Ludwig von Schweinitz*  
geboren am *26. Oktober 34* in *Kreuznach*  
Kreis *(Südliche)* *Evgl. Bekenntnisses*  
Sohn (Tochter) des *Hans Ludwig* Kreis *Kreuznach*  
hat die *8* klassige Volksschule in *Sobernheim* Kreis *Kreuznach*  
vom *104* bis zum *15. III* 19 *49*  
die Schule überhaupt vom *104* bis zum *15. III* 19 *49* besucht.

Der Schüler hat im letzten Jahr am Unterricht des *8* Jahrganges teilgenommen und wird nach  
erfüllter Vollschulpflicht heute mit nachfolgendem Zeugnis entlassen:

Führung: *gut* Fleiß: *gut*

Religion: a) Katechismus: *gut* Rechnen: *gut*  
b) Bibl. Geschichte: *gut* Raumlehre: *gut*  
Deutsch: a) Lesen: *gut* Zeichnen: *gut*  
b) Rechtschreiben: *gut* Musik: *gut*  
c) Aufsatz: *gut* Turnen: *gut*  
d) Handchrift: *gut* Schwimmen: *gut*  
Erdkunde: *gut* Werkarbeit: *gut*  
Naturkunde: *gut* Nadelarbeit: *gut*  
Naturlehre: *gut* Hauswirtschaft: *gut*

Der Schulbelohnung war *regelmäßig*

Bemerkungen: *Sobernheim* *15. III* 19 *49*  
Evgl. Volksschule Sobernheim Schulleiter: *Paulus*  
D. Klassenlehrer: *Hilffsmittel*  
*in Auftr. des Schulleiters* *Paulus* *Evgl. Volksschule Sobernheim*

### Volksschule in Sobernheim

Schulentlassungszeugnis von 15 March 1949 = School Leaving Certificate

Hat die 8 klassige Volksschule in Sobernheim Kreis Kreuznach = Has the 8 class elementary school in Sobernheim district of Kreuznach

After Graduating from school, Hans-Ludwig work with his family at the Hotel Tamara. He continued to sell items on the black market and use his profit to buy more food for the family.

### 1950 July to 1952 May: FotoLaboranten-Lehrling Apprenticeship

When Hans-Ludwig became 15 on October 1949, he “become self-supporting with my father's permission.” To accomplish this, he found an apprenticeship in Photography. “On May 1st, 1950 I started my apprenticeship at Strauch, owner Kurt Lohmann, Wiesbaden, Bahnhofstrasse 12, as a photo laboratory technician.”





This apprenticeship lasted 2 years and also included tutoring in other basic subjects, such as mathematics, geography, history, composition, and others.

In 1950, there was turmoil in the family. “My sister got me the apprenticeship when I lived with my sister then. But then my

father's wife (Ursula) took off, went to Africa, took the oldest son (Hemmi) with her. And my sister (Ingrid) moved back in with my father to help him and I moved back with her. But then the conditions became very difficult between my sister and my father and her boyfriend, so she moved. She had to move back into town because she was also a photographer and had to earn a living. I stayed with my father and eventually moved out and moved on my own too.” Hans-Ludwig moved in with his Apprenticeship tutor.



*Vati und Ria*

In 1950, Ursula divorced Vati. She had three children, Hemmi (5), Heise (3), and Mischi (2). She left Germany to join her father who had a farm in South Africa (city Karibib, area later became the country called Namibia). She took Hemmi, her oldest child, and left Heisi and Mischi behind. Ingrid and Hans-Ludwig did help with raising Heisi and Mischi, but luckily Ria was still part of the family and she took over the Mother role.

Hans-Ludwig apprenticeship is included in another compendium “Fotolaborant 1950-1952”.

Hans-Ludwig passed his examination as Photographer, probably just after 1 May 1952.

After the apprenticeship Hans-Ludwig worked as a photographer in Germany until March of 1957.

### 1952 May to 1956 June Fotolaborant

After Hans-Ludwig graduated from his Apprenticeship, he worked as a photographer until 1957. Details are included in the compendium “Hans Fotograf 1952-57” and “Album 1946-1957 Book A & B”.

“From apprenticeship I went to work for Helios, an AGFA color processing lab” which was at the Army Base in Kaiserslautern, Wiesbaden Germany. He worked there from 15 April 1952 until 18 August 1952. He was discharged because he failed to show up to work between 7 to 18 August 1952, and he had already used up his 24 days of vacation. Hans-Ludwig had decided that going on vacation with his friends was more important than work. He was used to taking camping and bicycle trips with his friends.

August 1952 was not a good time to lose a job. He had no money, no job, was not getting along with his Vati, and he had his pride. He kept trying to find another job, but without a good reference, it was difficult. He was getting more and more hungry. He sold his mattress just to get money for food. He was living on the streets. Then he bought a small bottle of alcohol. Tied a piece of bread to a length of string, soaked the bread with alcohol and sat on a bench in the center of town and waited for the pigeon to eat the bread. Once the pigeon swallowed the bread, he had just converted bread to protein. Hunting, city style. His starving was so bad that he actually contracted Tuberculosis. He never knew that this happened until he was tested years later for TB. On 31 October 1952, he finally found a job, being a presser at a Drycleaning and Laundry Plant. At least he had some money for food again. He recovered his health and the Tuberculosis became ‘encapsulated’ and remained that way for the rest of his life. He could no longer pass the ‘skin test’ for TB, instead he had to have a lung Xray every year.

He worked at the Drycleaners until 30 March 1953, then he finally found another photography job. He worked at the Central Exchange Wiesbaden Photo Finishing plant in Gruenstadt (south of Frankfurt), Germany Position: Custom Printer and Copier, later in Full Charge of Film Processing. He received a good reference from this job and found another photographer job at the Photo Finishing Plant Opelhouse.



He started at the Opel House on 1 April 1953 and worked there until 1 May 1954. This Opel House provided Hans-Ludwig with access to many available young women. One of the women, was his first true love. He had what was called a “BratKartoffelverhältnis” of Fried Potato Relationship. His pay was so low that often he would go hungry. When he would visit her at her family’s house, they would sit down to dinner. He could get a good meal, some good company,

and good girlfriend, but no fringe benefits, since she still lived at home. One evening her parents were not going to be home, so they arranged to be together in her room. Then her father came home early. Hans-Ludwig jumped out the window and ran down the street back to his own boarding house. Problem was, he had no cloths on, not even shoes. Luckily, it was night and miracle has it nobody was looking out their windows. He made it back to his boarding house, and ran up the stairs to his room. Safe. The next morning the landlady knocked on his door, and handed him a mop and bucket. On the stairway were his bloody footprints. He had cut his feet on the cobblestones and left a trail. He had to clean the stairways before going to work. He would never tell us if he ever returned to his girlfriend's house or if that relationship was over.

On 1 May 1954, Hans-Ludwig received a good letter of recommendation from OpelHouse. He was without a job again, but this time the Opelhouse was being liquidated and it was not his fault.

He quickly found another job back at the Army Western Exchange, Photo Finishing Plant from 1 June 1954 to 23 February 1957. Hans-Ludwig did well in this job and "by 1957 I had progressed to a foreman in a photo finishing plant." He left this job in February 1957 to emigrate to the USA.

Just as Hans-Ludwig found a new job, his older sister Ingrid married her long time boyfriend, Gunter Wolf on 4 June 1954. Both were Photographers.

While working in Photography, Hans-Ludwig also took on side jobs. "I was going around on in restaurants at Carnival and had to actually do little jobs. You know, I had a regular job and also was going around on weekends taking pictures of people and selling their pictures."

QUITTUNG über DM 17.000,-

In Worten DM *Sechzehntausend 00/100*

Von LUTHER-FILM-GMBH

für *Herrn v. Schwandt*  
*1. Begegnung auf Rhein-Donau-Fest*  
*Wiesbaden, Samstag, 11. August 1952*

empfangen zu haben, bescheinigt *11/8* den *11*. 1952

*Hans-L. v. Schwandt*  
 (Unterschrift)

Zu Lasten des Filmtiels bzw. der Abteilung

"MARTIN LUTHER"

Kassen-Nr. \_\_\_\_\_

Beleg-Nr. \_\_\_\_\_

Pos. Ziffer-Nr. \_\_\_\_\_

Geprüft: \_\_\_\_\_

Zur Zahlung angewiesen \_\_\_\_\_

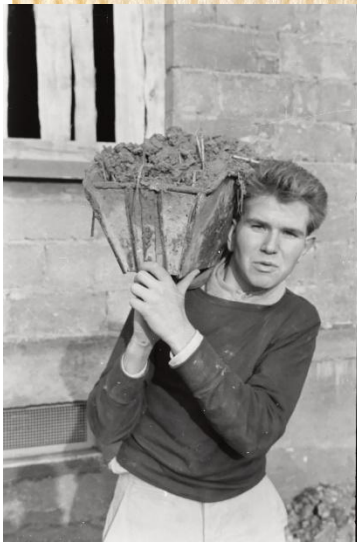
Gebucht \_\_\_\_\_

He was an extra in movies. "I wasn't taking pictures of, I was a Courier and a comparison and made a stand in the picture was with Martin Luther, not Martin Luther King with Martin Luther. Split away from the Catholic Church." Paid 17,000 DM on 11 August 1952.





He was also a model, often for products that his Sister Ingrid and her boyfriend were photographing. In this photo Hans-Ludwig is modelling the sweater.



Hans-Ludwig had found a new friend called Bye-Bye. Actual name was Manfred Zanger. Bye-Bye was a refugee from East Germany. He used to work for a railroad company. For some reason he was going to be accused of putting sugar in the grease used in the brakes for locomotive wheels. A friend came to his house late at night, to tell him, that the authorities were looking for him. He got up, and left East Berlin and somehow made it to West Berlin and could seek asylum. They meet in Wiesbaden and were the same age. They had several adventures together, especially involving girls. They were friends for life. One of the jobs that they both held, was to help Herr Hubachs to clean his bricks so that he could

rebuild his house. Even though it was 10 years since the end of the war, many bombed homes were still being rebuild. The first task was to remove the old mortar from the bricks. Nothing was left to waste. This was a good day job for young healthy men, and they would earn extra money.



Hans-Ludwig “accumulate enough finances or something on a motorcycle level at a moppet.” With this moppet, he traveled throughout Europe, including to Viareggio Beach Italy (1955) and Usedom Insel (September 1956) on the North Sea in the East German occupational zone. Mostly though he could take his girlfriend of the month into the countryside to a vineyard, or party in the park, and Karnevals (festival fairs). It was a girl magnet.

In 1955 Summer, he rode his moppet/motorcycle with friends from Wiesbaden Germany through the Alps into Italy and down the west coast to Viareggio Beach. There he made an instant girlfriend, Ruth. After he returned to Germany, he received a letter from Ruth. The letter is included in compendium “Album 1955 Hans Moped Italy”. Basically, she is thanking Hans-Ludwig for a wonderful vacation, but now that she back home, she is returning to her old boyfriend.

On 23 July 1955, Hans-Ludwig’s Vati remarried. His third wife was “Vera” Veronika Oehmichen on 23 July 1955 (Age 42) born 10 Nov 1913. Vati was 54 years old. They would later on 16 November 1957 have a son, Alexander. This marriage did not last either. Vera took her son and moved to Italy in 1959. They did not divorce.

In June 1956, Hans-Ludwig was not longer considered a Refugee. The program had ended. The only benefit that Hans-Ludwig had received was that he had his “Leaving Certificate” from the Volksschule. His Vati received some compensation for losing the estate, Alt Raudten. Vati then promptly lost most of the money on a bad investment and the rest by gambling in the Wiesbaden casino. If you were a resident of Wiesbaden, you were not allowed to gamble in the casino unless you were bringing foreign guest/gambler. Because Vati was still running the Hotel Tamara which attracted lots of Amis (American troops) he had an unlimited supply of foreign guests he could accompany to the casino. When Vati became ill in 1958, and the doctors determined it was due to the effects of the Dresden bombing, Vati started to receive disability pay, very similar to the USA Social Security for the disabled.

**1956 July until March 1957: Not a refugee**

**1956 August Leipzig Sport Fest**

Hans-Ludwig Biography



He did add, joining a Grünstadt swimming club and he was actually very good. In August 1956, they had been invited to a Sports and Turn (Gymnastics) Fest to be held in Leipzig. At that time Leipzig was part of the Deutsch Democratic Republic, DDR or East Germany and was under Soviet control. Hans' long time friend, Bye-Bye, was also on this team, he is on the left in the photo. The team took a bus to Gotha to cross the border into East Germany. Then they traveled by train to Markkleeberg, and then another bus to Leipzig. Everything was very controlled.

The team spent days exploring Leipzig. There were parades and of course the competition. The USSR and DDR was trying to showcase to all the young people, that communism was not

evil but an alternative to the chaos of the Democratic Bundes Republic Deutschland of West Germany. Hans-Ludwig received a medal for participating in the festival and several souvenirs. But he would never tell us how well he did in the swim meet.





double spies while in Leipzig? And many more questions? Eventually Hans-Ludwig did get his clearance.



Helga Pörtner's entry ticket to Soccer game at SportFest.

## Grünstadt

Hans-Ludwig continue to work at the Army Western Exchange, Photo Finishing Plant until 23 February 1957. By this time, he was living in Grünstadt, not far from Wiesbaden. He also continued with several of his side jobs of being a model, a movie extra, and other jobs that he could find. He also continued to take vacations with his friends.

Hans-Ludwig was not satisfied with his life. The ability of returning to Alt Raudten while maybe possible in the future, it was not anytime soon. "There was always hope that we might be able to go back. I went back many times. When it was under Polish control and the Russian and the communist control before the Iron Curtain came down with all the hope always hope. To go back. We were disowned. We always hoped."

Hans-Ludwig tried to begin his own photography business, but family members nearby would not help with financing. They believed that it was best that he should shoulder the responsibility of a business on his own. He went to visit his Tante Gabriele (Vati's sister) who was living in her large villa in Wiesbaden. Since she had left Alt Raudten and Silesia early in 1944, she still had her possession, and she had married well. So, she had means. They were to meet for Hans-Ludwig Biography

afternoon “Kaffee und Kuchen” (coffee and Cake) to discuss her possible support of his business venture. As soon as Hans-Ludwig arrived, she became outraged. His fingernails were not perfectly clean and presentable. He washed and scrubbed them repeatedly, but they were still off-colored and looked dirty. She told him not to come back until they were clean. Remember that during the Dresden bombing in February 1945, Hans-Ludwig had destroyed his fingernails when he fell down the cliff. They never grew back properly and for the rest of his life they were off-color.

When he tried to go to a bank and ask for financing, he was rejected. Because of the remains of the class system in Germany, the banks believed that anybody born into the privilege class automatically had access to money and did not need a loan. Hans-Ludwig said, "With my name I was expected to be a high school student, which I wasn't; I was expected to have a certain amount of wealth, which I didn't have." He was stuck.

In early 1955, he tried to go to Australia, “That offered to go to Australia. They will pay. The passage should offer jobs. Had to stay two years and then they had to give you an opportunity to go back at that time. I would have needed the permission of my father to leave Germany. I wasn't 21. He didn't give me permission. And had a job offer in Colombia, Bogota, Colombia. To work for as a photographer and my father again wouldn't give me his permission.”

When Hans became 21, he applied for visa to United States. “My income was insufficient to provide a home or to support a wife and children at a level I considered acceptable. My greatest desire was to start a family and to have a home. The income was very low. I could barely afford a moped or bicycle. The future did not look very good in Germany. I had 48 hour work week. The future didn't look., The United States looked very promising. Offered a lot of opportunities for people who are willing to work hard. I decided to increase my opportunities by immigrating to the USA..”

## **December 1956 Hamburg**

In December 1956, Hans-Ludwig took trip that would change his life. He took a train to Hamburg to see the floor show “Bikini” at Jungmühle Galopp Diele. While in the city, he explored the city and walked down to the port.  
Hans-Ludwig Biography





Train ticket that changed his life



Wanting to take a ship to ??

Once he had looked over the ships in the port, Hans-Ludwig had a renewed desire to take a ship - somewhere.

Then Hans-Ludwig had heard that the Lutheran Federation was taking applications from German citizens who had trades and wanted to go to America for a better future. The Lutheran Federation found sponsors in America for immigrants who had trades and these sponsors would have jobs available for them once they arrived. Hans-Ludwig contacted the Lutheran Foundation and received a list of possible reasons to emigrate to USA. So, Hans-Ludwig collected all the address of relatives and friends in the USA. With this approach he asked his Vati again and his Vati gave him support for emigrating to the USA. Since Hans-Ludwig was over 21 years old, he no longer needed his Vati's permission, but having his support was good for moral.

To emigrate to the USA, you had to prepare. You had to proof that you had no debt and no police record. You had to be registered where you lived. You also had to have a trade. Then you had to have a sponsor in USA.

The Lutheran Federation found a sponsor for Hans in Chicago Illinois to work in the area of photography and his visa arrived in early 1957.

He left Germany in March 1957.

More information is included in "Album 1946-1957 Book A and B"

**1957 March to 1958 October Emigration to USA**

Hans-Ludwig took this photo of the Flying Tiger Line which was run by USA military for transporting cargo, refugees, and military personal. Hans must have seen this plane in Germany.

In March 1957, Hans emigrated out of Germany to USA. He went by TWA plane, landing in Iceland for refueling, and finally landing in the USA in New York on 1 March 1957. "Flew here 3

days. We didn't have jets at that time. It took two days, three days, almost three days to get here. I went from Germany, went to Ireland, from Ireland to Iceland. From Iceland you went to uh. Somewhere on some island of Canada (Newfoundland). And from there flew down to New York. And was it the same group of people from start to finish. They were mostly migrants."

He brought with him a book he bought in Germany that had 500 words with flash cards in the English language and \$50.00 to \$100.00.

The first thing Hans-Ludwig did in New York was "I went up to the Empire State Building and. I was very much impressed."

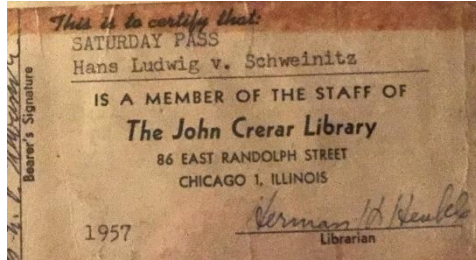
**1957 March to Summer Chicago**

On 2 March 1957, he traveled via train to Chicago. His sponsor was Mr Mathew Bastian, of Chicago Illinois. In Hans-Ludwig's own words "I was offered, supposedly had a job as a photographer there. But it was a very corrupt organization, American aid society, a very corrupt organization they had. Bribe sponsors who got money for it. And my sponsor was supposed to pick me up at the railway station. Never picked me up. Have a place to stay in the place to work and didn't show up, so I just walked the street till I found somebody that spoke German because I didn't speak English. And, then made some contact with some Germans in Chicago."

"Because this guy went, I went to him (Mr Mathew Bastian). He told me that I should be glad that he sponsored me, but I should find work. Then went out and

looked for a job by myself. Since I was not a member of the union, I couldn't get a job. Because in order to join the Union here to have a job for two years, the catch 22."

"So I just wondered. Found a German family with a boarding house (run by Mr & Mrs Schott). And then went out and joined the church immediately and found a job through the church. Worked in a scientific library as a photostat operator."



First employed by John Crerar Library, Chicago, Illinois. Photostat operator. Reason for leaving: personal betterment. "12 to 16 hours a day because there was the work backlog. And they just tried to beat the hell out of me because I was working hard on their backlog. And I worked there for three or four months. Then I got this higher paid job." Hans was being paid \$1.35 an hour, and that salary was decent for that era and that helped quite a bit since his rent at the boarding house was \$25.00 a month while doubling up in the room with another couple. He left for another job making blueprint paper.

Second job was with Huey Company Chicago Illinois. Coating photographic emulsions. Reason for leaving: financial betterment and difficult working conditions. "And so I got another job making a blueprint paper. You know what that is? Coating the emulsions, of course, that was. These huge rolls, which had to be cut and the drying rooms the motion had to be. Coated and had

Third job was with Keuffler Eusser, Chicago Illinois. Precision photo copying. Reason for leaving: no opportunity of advancement.

In April 1957, Hans received a temporary Drivers License, and began to travel around Tennessee and Pennsylvania.

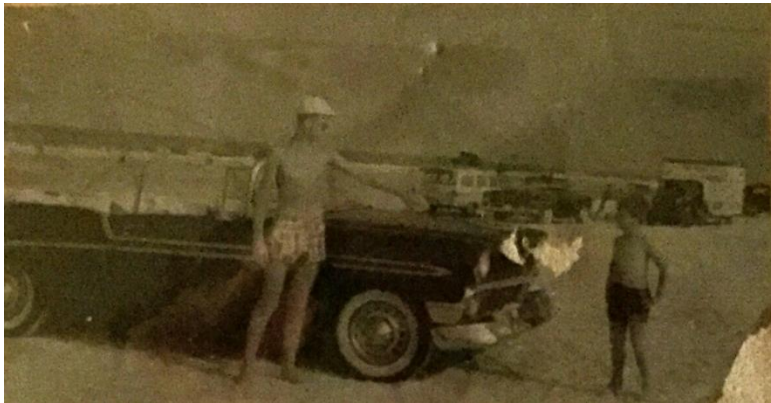
Hans-Ludwig did not know English, so he "Every study, every free minute I had. Everywhere I was, I used to have flash cards one side German ones that English. Then went to night school."

The draft office was looking for him about this time and he had no intentions in going to the military. Immigrants had to obtain green cards when they came into America and also had to let the government know if you moved. That



made it easy for the authorities to track him. He had just left a war, and had no interest in joining anything related to war. “My landlady's sister offered me, said. Why don't you come with me? To Florida drive down there and help me. Around the house. Drive the car. All of it. So I went to Daytona Beach, drove her down there. Took care of some of her household matters”.

### 1957 Summer Florida



So he stayed with Mr and Mrs Westkamp and became their chauffeur and general helper, while he continued to learn English. He also helped with their son.

“I was happy at Daytona Beach, you know where they had the race. And the girl

friends there anyway, was happy. Happy there but, Police start showing up.”

“Told me that they would deport me if I wouldn't accept the draft. Would have to join the army. I left after about two months and 1/2 in Florida. I went back to Chicago.”

### 1957 September Chicago

When I returned to Chicago, I “got another job at Williams Meyer Company Chicago Illinois. Advertising and Industrial Photography. Reason for leaving: drafted into the Armed Forces. “I didn't tell them they didn't know that it was an immigrant and that I came under the draft law. Got a well paid job at that time. About 3.50 dollars an hour. I was doing precision reproductions. To scale precision. Reproductions of maps. Two scale exactly. Of plans and stuff like that.”

“Then of course they got a hold of me again. I said I don't want to go in. I don't want the army. So, I went ahead and took the high school equivalency test. You needed to have a high school equivalency get into the Air Force. I passed it. Every Bimbo could go into the drafted into the army and the Air Force offered much better training and better career fields. One thing the law said at that time. If an immigrant comes with an immigration visa and has a green card to work, he is subject to the draft. But he cannot become an officer.”

**1957 October to 1958 January Air Force Basic Training**

In October 1957, Hans-Ludwig (now going by only Hans) joined a group of draftees and took a train from Chicago to San Antonio Texas. “When I got down there, I had everybody's money.” They spent the whole trip playing Poker, and Hans was very good at Poker.

On 18 October 1957, Hans began basic training for Air Force at Lackland AFB

in San Antonio, Texas. He military number was 16589642 and he was in Squadron 375, Flight 1309. More information about his Air Force career is in compendium “Hans AF Career”.

“I have a good memory and I was acing almost every test.” Hans found basic training easy because of his upbringing. He was used to caring for his clothes and shoes, and keeping his bed and personal items clean and neat. He also used his black-market skills by running a candy store out of his mattress because the other kids could not do without their chocolate. He was also careful with his own money and would loan others \$5 and have them pay him \$6 back.

While Hans was in basic training, his second step mother, Vera, had a son, Alexander, born 16 November 1957 in Wiesbaden.

After basic training, Hans was assigned to Mitchell Field Wisconsin.

**1958 January to 1958 November Wisconsin**

“I had in Germany, had paid for my own truck drivers license. I could drive everything which had more than one wheel. Once we got out of basic training, I was we were selected for career fields and I wound up driving petroleum, oil and lubricants tank trucks.” Hans was stationed to General Mitchell Air National Guard Base, Milwaukee Wisconsin. to 2373D ARFC Squadron

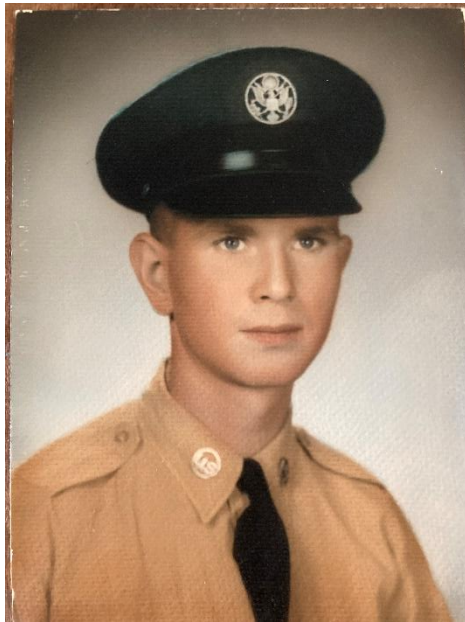
“I was stationed in Milwaukee and our pay was very low. And I lived in the YMCA. We didn't have barracks. In the military, we would go out in uniform. The

city was very friendly towards the military, so if we went out in the uniform on the weekend, and you went to a bar, immediately somebody would invite you for a beer or drink or something like that. Also, the churches were putting on get togethers with soldiers in uniform. Went there and you got Kool-Aid and cookies.”

In November 1957, Helga Pörtner immigrated to Milwaukee Wisconsin from Herford Germany. At first she lived with her Aunts and Uncles. But by January 1958, she had moved into the YWCA.

### 1958 March Helga

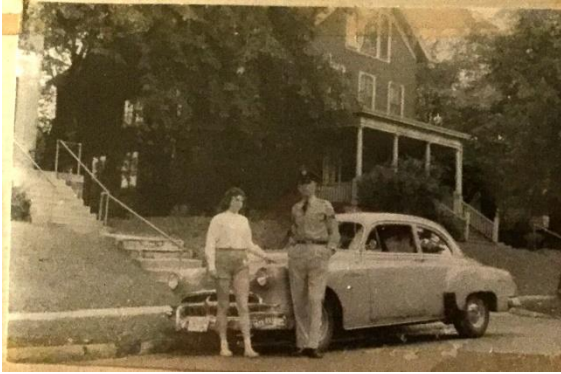
In late March 1958, the girls at the YWCA decided to put on a dance to attract eligible bachelors. They wore their tightest sweaters.



“Helga was living at the YWCA and there the girls they were putting on dances. On the weekend, also with Kool-Aid and cookies and invited the military there to dance with them because we had a steady income. I danced with her and she recognized that I could dance the dance, as most Americans couldn't dance like the waltz or slow waltzes. And then we got into talking and notice that I was German, that she was German.”

“I had a girlfriend in Chicago. I was traveling to Chicago all the time. But within a week I asked Helga, why do we live separately? Why don't we rent an apartment? So we were cohabitating. In other words, we were renters. We found the place furnished. And rented it. The landlady thought we were married since it was illegal and if I was in the military and I would be cohabitating, I would go to jail. One night we were raided, you know, the police came, somebody had turned us in. They talked to the Landlady, she said to go next door and of course next door there were also people living in sin. Our Landlady really believed that we were married. We were planning to marry, but it took so long to get the paperwork done in the Air Force and security”. The apartment was at 518 North 19th Street, Milwaukee Wisc





On 24 April 1958, Hans bought a used Pontiac. Hans and Helga, together, began to explore the open road. In one trip in October 1948, they went to Niagara Falls and Montreal Canada. Hans long time friend, Bye-Bye was married and living in Montreal Canada.

More detail about their courtship is in Helga's diaries from 1957 to 1958.

In September 1958, Hans received notification that his Vati had a heart attack at age 57. "And I got a compassionate reassignment to Germany. So I was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, and then Helga joined me a month later." They immediately announced that they were getting married on 1 November 1948. Hans was to be in Germany by 21 November and Helga was to follow in December.

### 1958 November 1 Marriage



To be married, they had to get a blood test to confirm that they were not cousins. And also get a Marriage Certificate at the Milwaukee County Clerk office. We were always told that on 30 September 1958, Hans went to the Milwaukee County Clerk, with the intent of registering for a wedding. He was either so embarrassed or his English was still so inadequate, that he registered for a Small Game Hunting License instead. But

Helga's diaries from 1958 only state that they both went to the Clerk's office and were amazed that you could buy a Marriage license and fishing license at the same office.

When their Landlady received her invitation, she was shocked, they were not married and living under her roof in sin and against the law? But she attended their wedding and had a wonderful time.

Hans was assigned to Rheine Main AFB Germany, in Wiesbaden West Germany. Very close to where his Vati lived in Wiesbaden. Helga followed Hans a few months later.

The rest of their story is in another Biography compendium, the albums, or other specialized compendiums.

## Family Dates

1871: Hans' Opa Hans „Hermann“ Heinrich Wilhelm von Schweinitz born 1871 died 1947 Wiesbaden

1875: Hans' Oma Gabriele von Tresckow born 1875 died 1962 Wiesbaden

1899: Hans Aunt (Sister of his Vati) Sigrid Melitta born 19 September 1899 in Alt Raudten, died 10 October 1975 in Wiesbaden

1901: Hans' Vati Hans "Wilhelm" Hermann Egon Tassilo von Schweinitz Born 21dec1901 died 18jan1969 in Wiesbaden

1902: Hans' Mutti Sigrid Freiin von Zedlitz und Leipe born 2dec1902, died 3sep1942. Buried in park on the so-called "temple mount".

1908: Hans' aunt (Sister of his Vati) Gabriele Annie Sophie Helene born 25 April 1908 at Alt Raudten. Died 1992

1927: Hans' Vater married Sigrid on 7 July 1927 in Könitz.. Wilhelm Hans von Schweinitz (Opa) Married to Sigrid Freiin von Zedlitz und Leipe

1928: Hans' sister Ingrid Sigrid von Schweinitz born 3April1928 died 2018

1942: Hans' Mutti Sigrid Freiin von Zedlitz und Leipe born 2dec1902, died 3sep1942. Buried in park on the so-called "temple mount".

1944: Hans' Vati (age 43) married Ursula von Frankenberg-Luttwitz (age 20) on 15 October 1944. They divorced in 1950. Ursula was born 26 March 1924.

1945: Hans' brother (Hemmi) Kurt Balthasar born 31 July 1945 to Ursula in München

1946: Hans' sister Therese Maria (Heise) born 15 December 1946 Wiesbaden to Ursula

1947: Hans' Opa Hans „Hermann“ Heinrich Wilhelm died in Wiesbaden 22 June 1947

1948: Hans' Brother Michael born to Ursula on 27Feb1948 in Wiesbaden

1950: Hans' Vati married Ursula von Frankenberg-Luttwitz on 15 October 1944. They divorced in 1950. Ursula was born 26 March 1924.

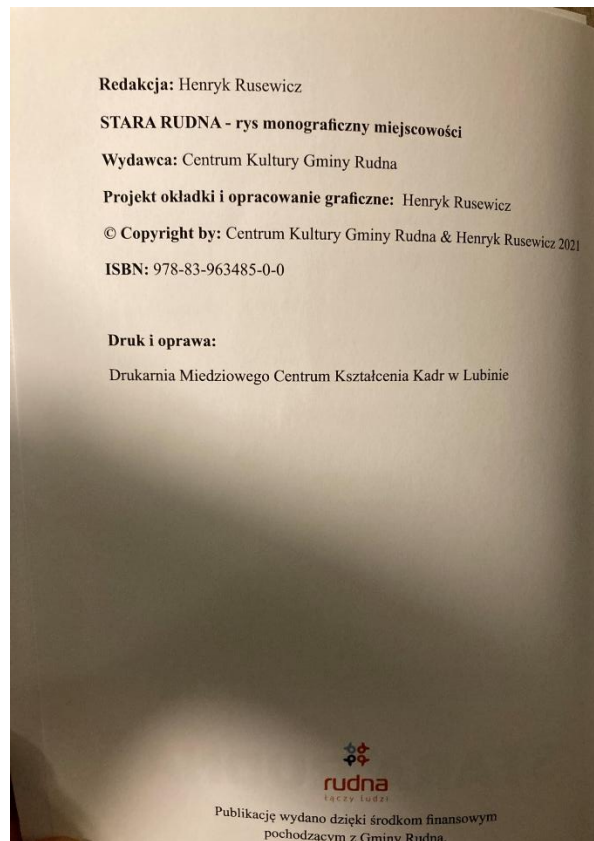
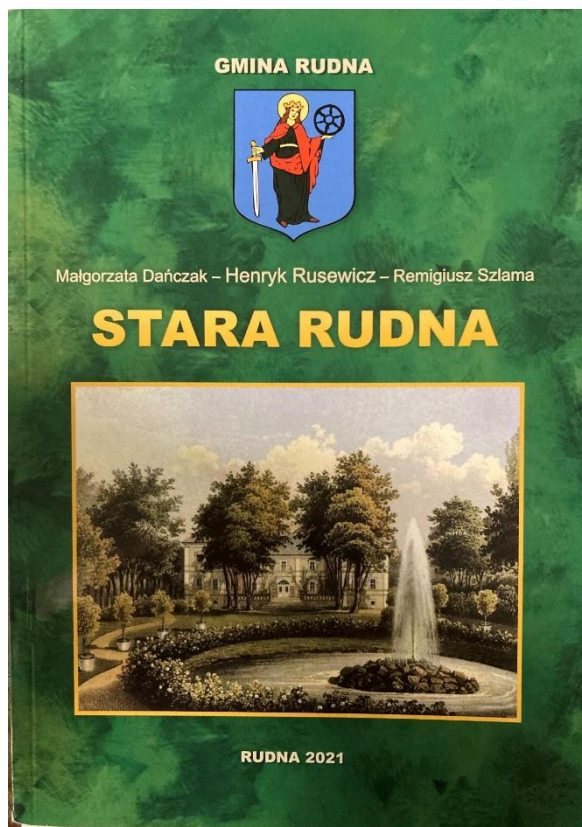
1955 Hans' Vati married Veronika (Vera) Oehmichen in Wiesbaden on 23 July 1955, age 42. Vera Born 10 November 1913, Died 31 July 1995.

1956: Hans' Sister Theresa Maria (Heise) born to Vera on 15Dec1956 in Wiesbaden

1957: Hans' Brother Alexander born to Veronika 16Nov1957 Wiesbaden

## Excerpts from Stara Rudna with Translations

Stara Rudna book 2021 written by Malgorzata Danczak



Page 69

W 1913 roku we wsi mieszkało 287 osób, w 1927 roku - 323, a w 1939 roku w Starej Rudnej wraz z młynem Kirschmühle zamieszkiwało 297 osób w 87 gospodarstwach o łącznej powierzchni gruntów 711 ha. Sołtysem był wówczas Paul Schulz. We Wsi znajdował się kościół ewangelicki, ewangelicka Powszechna Szkoła Ludowa, sklep ogólnospożywczy Köpkego oraz gospoda „Stary Browar” (Gasthof zur Alten Brauerei), której właścicielem był wówczas Otto Salisch. Ta nieistniejąca już dzisiaj gospoda z obszerną salą znajdowała się przy głównej

Hans-Ludwig Biography



drodze, przed stawem. Mieszkańcy mieli wówczas do dyspozycji 224 aparaty telefoniczne.

In 1913, 287 people lived in the village, in 1927 - 323, and in 1939, 297 people lived in Stara Rudna, together with the Kirschmühle mill, on 87 farms with a total land area of 711 ha [711 hectares]. Paul Schulz was the village head at that time. In the village there was an Evangelical church, the Evangelical General People's School, Köpke's grocery store and the "Stary Browar" inn (Gasthof zur Alten Brauerei), which was then owned by Otto Salisch. This inn, which no longer exists today, with a spacious room, was located on the main road, in front of the pond. At that time, residents had 224 telephones at their disposal.

Pg 70/71

Mapka Starej Rudnej z naniesionymi numerami domów i opisem według odręcznego planu sporządzonego przez Ernę Tietze - Gritschke, na podstawie wspomnień z 1960 roku, byłego mieszkańca wsi Leopolda Beyla

Lp.	Gospodarz - obiekt	Lp.	Gospodarz - obiekt
1	rolnik Kneifel	27	Albert Klein
2	rolnik Goldmann	28	pomnik Johannes Locha
3	sprzedawczyni (sklepowa) El-friede Wittig	29	Wiedner
4	rolnik Schupke	30	ferma drobiu Hertrampf
5	rolnik Pohl	31	rolnik Ida Weigelt
6	murarz Tschäge	32	stolarnia
7	rolnik / rzeźnik Dehmel	32	kolejarz Wartig
8	Hoffmann	33	sklep spożywczy Langeo
9	rolnik Kabus	34	pani Pietsch, mleczarnia
10	pastor Günther Stephan	35	piwnica lodowa
11	szkoła, nauczyciel Friedrich Klemm	36	gospoda Otto Salischa
12	Gritschke	36	złotnictwo/mechanika precyzyjna - Bischoff
13	kuźnia Gritschkego	37	remiza strażacka
14	mistrz krawiecki Keller	38	komando jeńców francuskich
15	rolnik Gebhardt	39	kolejarz Pietsch
16	murarz-tylnik Tschäpe	40	ogrodnik w majątku, Leutehaus
17	kolejarz Kessler	41	Beyl
18	rolnik Schliebs	42	rolnik Bury
19	rolnik August Peukert	43	pałac, park
20	kościół, cmentarz, pomnik wojenny	44	dom inspektora Ullmanna
21	kolejarz Albert Linke	45	kołodziej Keller i inni
22	sołtys Paul Schulz	46	młyn, piekarnia Gruberta
23	Skoruppa (?)	46	Zargornik i Raschke
24	rolnik Kahl	47	staw
25	gospoda Berneckera,	48	stangret (woźnica) Krause
25	przedszkole	49	dom ogrodników i leśników
26	Lehnert		

40: gardener at the Leutehaus estate

Hans-Ludwig Biography

43 Palace Park

44 Inspector Ullmann's house

45 wheelwright Keller and others

48 coachman (carrier) krause

49 gardener and foresters' house

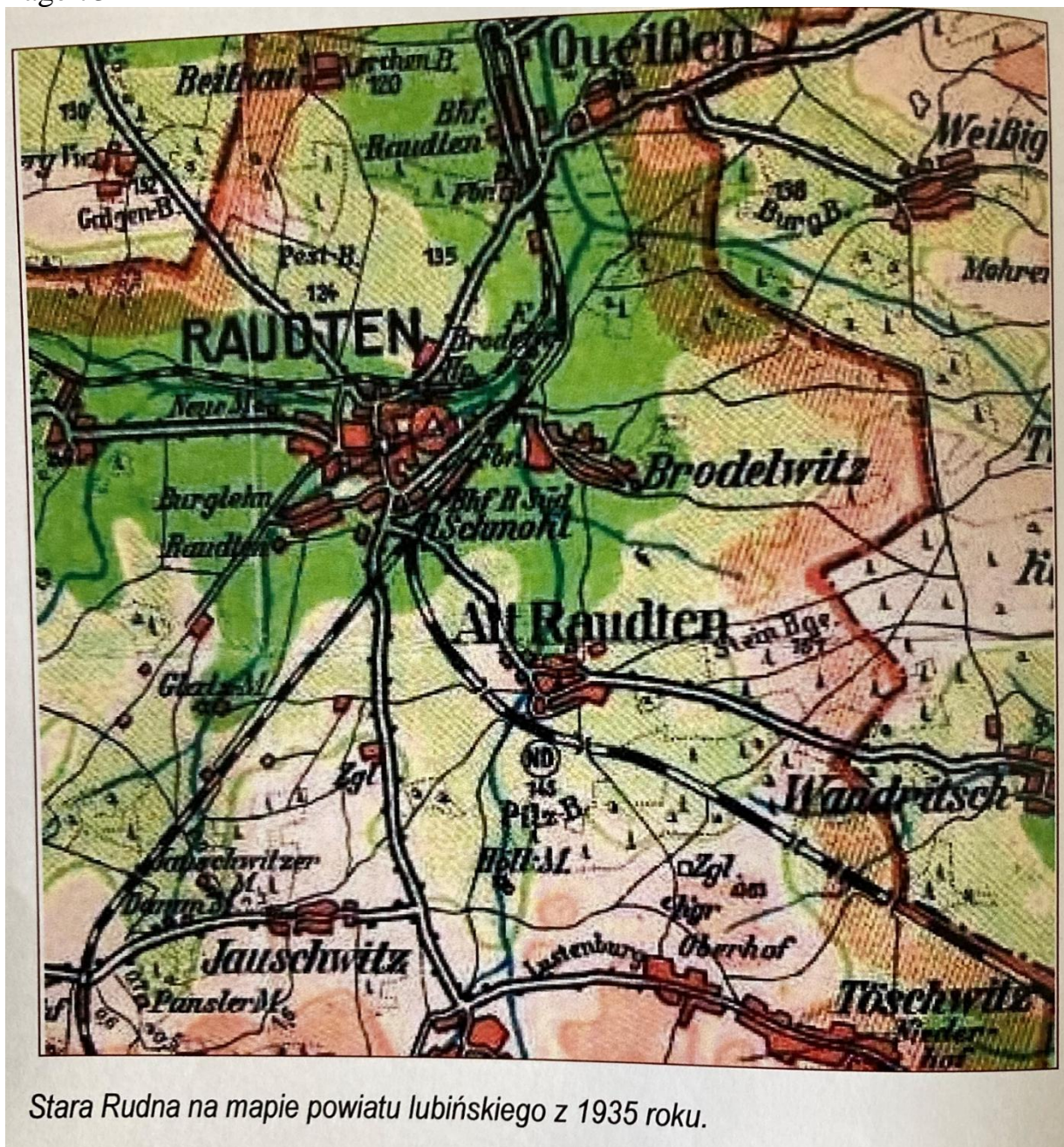




1935 map of Alt Raudten



Page 73



*Stara Rudna na mapie powiatu lubińskiego z 1935 roku.*

I września 1939 r. Niemcy zaatakowały Polskę. Rozpoczęła się II wojna światowa. Po klęsce W I wojnie światowej i upokarzającym Niemców, Traktacie Wersalskim, karmione nienawiścią do Polski i Francji społeczeństwo przyjęło ten fakt z euforią i wiarą W szybkie zwycięstwo.

On September 1, 1939, Germany attacked Poland. World War II began. After the defeat in World War I and the humiliating Germans, the Treaty of Versailles, the

Hans-Ludwig Biography

society, fed with hatred towards Poland and France, accepted this fact with euphoria and faith in a quick victory.

Późną jesienią 1939 roku do Niemiec zaczęto przywozić polskich jeńców wojennych, a od wiosny 1940 roku, także jeńców i ludność cywilną z innych, podbitych krajów. Był to sposób pozyskiwania taniej siły roboczej dla niemieckiego przemysłu i rolnictwa. Była to też jedna z form eksterminacji ludności z podbitych przez III Rzeszę terytoriów. Z niewolniczej pracy bardzo chętnie kolzystali właściciele gospodarstw rolnych. W całych Niemczech.

In the late autumn of 1939, Polish prisoners of war began to be brought to Germany, and from the spring of 1940, also prisoners and civilians from other conquered countries. It was a way of obtaining cheap labor for German industry and agriculture. It was also one of the forms of extermination of the population from the territories conquered by the Third Reich. Owners of large farms throughout Germany were eager to take advantage of unemployed work.

Page 73

Część z nich przebywała w różnego rodzaju obozach i komandach, a część cieszyła się większą swobodą, za pracę dostawała nawet jakieś namiastki wynagrodzenia. Ci pierwsi pracowali w fabrykach, kopalniach i na budowach. Druga grupa zatrudniana była przeważnie w wielkich majątkach ziemskich, a nawet u indywidualnych rolników. Byli traktowani różnie, w zależności od charakteru i usposobienia „swoich” pracodawców. Oczywiście robotnicy tacy pracowali też w majątku Schweinitzów w Starej Rudnej. Byli wśród nich Francuzi, Rosjanie i Polacy.

Some of them stayed in various camps and commandos, and some enjoyed more freedom and even received some substitutes for their work. The former worked in factories, mines and construction sites. The second group was mainly employed by large estates and even by individual farmers. They were treated differently, depending on the character and disposition of "their" employers. Of course, such workers also worked on the Schweinitz estate in Stara Rudna. Among them were French, Russians and Poles.

O problemach, warunkach codziennego życia w czasie wojny oraz przymusowej pracy u miejscowych bauerów, a także w dobrach Schweinitzów świadczą liczne relacje uczestników tych wydarzeń zebrane przez nieżyjącego już, znanego miłośnika oraz badacza historii ziemi lubińskiej, Jana Bilińskiego. Materiały te były publikowane na przełomie lat siedemdziesiątych i osiemdziesiątych XX

Hans-Ludwig Biography



Wieku W „Gazecie Lubińskiej“ oraz W „Kalendarzu Ziemi Lubińskiej 1989 “. Oto kilka z nich:

The problems, conditions of everyday life during the War and forced labor at the local bayers, as well as on the estate of the Schweinitz family, are evidenced by numerous accounts of participants of these events collected by the late, well-known lover and researcher of the history of the Lubin region, Jan Biliński. These materials were published at the turn of the 1970s and 1980s in "Gazeta Lubińska" and in "Kalendarz Ziemi Lubińskiej 1989". Here are a few of them:

Stefan Marchwiński - ur. 1922 - z Miedzna koło Częstochowy do Starej Rudnej przybyłem 25.04.1940 r., pracowałem W majątku Schweinitza. 17.01.1945 r. wyraźnie słychać było odgłosy walk koło Radoszyc. Zbiórka ewakuacyjna koło stacji W Polkowicach. Po sformowaniu kolumny, dalsza droga na zachód.

Stefan Marchwiński - born 1922 - I came from Miedzno near Częstochowa to Stara Rudna on April 25, 1940, I worked on the Schweinitz estate. On January 17, 1945, the sounds of fighting near Radoszyce could be clearly heard. Evacuation meeting near the station in Polkowice. After forming a column, continue west.

Karol Miskowiec - ur. 1915 r. - tuodziłem się W Michałkowicach, pow. Ostrawa, od 05.03.1940 r. pracowałem W Rudnej, od 1942 roku - W Starym Lubinie. Słyszałem pogłoskę o zabiciu W parku lubińskim policjanta, gdy siedział na ławce. Mój bauer Karl Hoffmann posiadał 500 ha ziemi, ewakuowaliśmy się 11.01.1945 r. do Zwickau. W Starej Rudnej W 1941 roku dziedzic jadący samochodem, na szosie zabrał zakonnicę z dwoma Walizami. Gdy się zorientował, że jest przebrana, podjechał pod postertmek policji W ratuszu, a Wachmaistrzy ujęli szpiega angielskiego. W Lubinie jeńcy polscy byli W baraku koło cukrowni, po nich pomieszczenie zajmowało 30. jeńców francuskich, dwóch uciekających złapano. W samej cukrowni trzymano około 30 jeńców radzieckich. W dniu lotnika VII 1943 r. na miejscowym lotnisku, za opłatą można było polatać samolotem.

Karol Miskowiec - born 1915 - I was born in Michałkowice, powiat. Ostrava, from March 5, 1940 I worked in Rudna, from 1942 - in Stary Lubin. I heard a rumor about a policeman being killed in a Lubin park while he was sitting on a bench. My Bauer Karl Hoffmann owned 500 ha of land, we evacuated on January 11, 1945 to Zwickau. In Stara Rudna in 1941, a squire driving a car picked up a Nun with two suitcases on the road. When he realized that she was disguised, he drove to the police station in the town hall, and the guards arrested the English spy. In Lubin, Polish prisoners were in a barracks near the sugar factory, after them the room was



occupied by 30 French prisoners, two of those who escaped were caught. About 30 Soviet prisoners of war were held in the sugar factory itself. On Airman's Day in July 1943, at the local airport, you could fly by plane for a fee.

Page 74

Lucjan Sobera - ur. 1923 r.; - z Miedzna koło Częstochowy do Starej Rudnej przybyłem 15.04.1940 r., pracowałem W majątku. Pierwsza żona dziedzica von Schweinitz, lekarka, dbała o wyżywienie i zdrowie obcokrajowców - robotników przymusowych. Zaraziła się dyferytem. Odwoziłem ją do pociągu. Zegnając męża powiedziała: - już nigdy nie zobaczę mojego ukochanego pałacu, Zmarła W szpitalu lubińskim W wieku 40 lat. Dnia 21.07.1943 r. odwołany zostałem od normalnej pracy. Zaprząłem konie do wozu o wysokich burtach z położoną deską. Zajeżdżałem W ustalone miejsce za młynem, gdzie stała duża grupa obcokrajowców, ustawionych W trójboku. O godz 10.15 przyjechały samochody, z jednego wysiedli mundurowi, z innego skazaniec, Franciszek Hojdyła, którego na deskę Wprowadził i pętlę założył cywil. Wtedy z polecenia rządcy trzymałem konie za uzdy. Po odczytaniu wyroku, na wóz wszedł rządcą i ujął lejce, gdy na mnie krzyknął, abym odskoczył, sam zaciął konie batem. Wtedy na gałęzi zawisł skazaniec. Podczas szarpnięcia, spadła mu z głowy czapka oraz jeden but. Po ogólnej informacji, za co Polak został powieszony, na rozkaz grupa rozeszła się, a Niemcy po zabraniu ciała odjechali. Dziedzic ewakuował się 22.01. przez Halle do Wiednia. Von Schweinitz przed 1978 rokiem odwiedził z synem Starą Rudnę, był przy grobie pierwszej żony, który zachował się na Wzgórku W dużym parku.

Lucjan Sobera - born 1923; - I came from Miedzno near Częstochowa to Stara Rudna on April 15, 1940, I worked on the estate. The first wife of heir von Schweinitz, a doctor, took care of the food and health of foreign forced laborers. She became infected with dysentery. I was taking her to the train. Saying goodbye to her husband, she said: - I will never see my beloved palace again. She died in the Lubin hospital at the age of 40. On July 21, 1943, I was dismissed from normal work. I harnessed the horses to a high-sided cart with a board on it. I arrived at a designated place behind the mill, where a large group of foreigners stood in a triangle. At 10.15 a.m. the cars arrived, the uniformed officers got out of one, and the convict, Franciszek Hojdyła, who was led onto the board and put on a noose by a civilian, got out of another. Then, on the orders of the steward, I held the horses by their bridles. After reading the verdict, the steward got into the cart and took the reins, while he shouted at me to jump away, he himself whipped the horses. Then the condemned man hung on the branch. During the jerk, his hat and one shoe fell off his head. After general information about why the Pole was hanged, the group dispersed on the order, and the Germans left after taking the body. The heir

Hans-Ludwig Biography

evacuated on January 22. via Halle to Vienna. Before 1978, Von Schweinitz visited Stara Rudna with his son, he was at the grave of his first wife, which has been preserved on the Hill in the large park.

Stanisław Stępniaak - ur. 1927 r. - do Starej Rudnej przybyłem z rodzicami, pracowałem W majątku von Schweinitz. W majątku mieszkał stary dziedzic, maj or pruski, postrach Wszystkich. Młody dziedzic ożenił się powtórnie W 1944 roku. W przeciwieństwie de pierwszej zony, druga była zła i ponLu<sup>o</sup>a. Wiosną 1943 roku wieźli śmy Wozami sadzeniaki W pole. Na Widok idącej grupy jeńców radzieckich, nasze dziewczyny zepchnęły nieco ziemniaków na szosę. Jeńcy zaczęli zbierać. Strażnicy za to zastrzelili dwóch i ranjli kilku innych jeńców. Następnego dnia wiozłem śruby do podkładów kolejowych dla tej samej grupy jeńców. W trakcie Wyładunku rozmowa o wydarzeniu z poprzedniego dnia. Wtedy jeden z jeńców pdwiędział: "lepsza śmierć szybka od śmierci głodowej, codziennie Zabiera kilku". Raz W trakcie brania słomy zauważyłem dwóch zbiegów radzieckich. Zaniósłem im jedzenie. Poszli dalej. Inni polacy Wspominali o podobnych odkryciach W ciągu 1944 roku.

Stanisław Stępniaak - born 1927 - I came to Stara Rudna with my parents, I worked on the von Schweinitz estate. The estate was inhabited by an old squire, a Prussian king, a terror to all. The young heir remarried in 1944. Unlike the the first wife, the second was bad and miserable. In the spring of 1943, we were transporting seed potatoes into the field in wagons. When we saw a group of Soviet prisoners walking, our girls threw some potatoes onto the road. The prisoners began to collect. The guards shot two and wounded several other prisoners. The next day I was carrying bolts for railway sleepers for the same group of prisoners. During the Unloading, a conversation about the previous day's event. Then one of the prisoners whimpered: "A quick death is better than starvation, he takes several people every day." Once, while collecting straw, I noticed two Soviet fugitives. I took them food. They moved on. Other Poles mentioned similar discoveries during 1944.

Page 75

Walki W okolicy zaczęły się, co było słyhać, dopiero 23.01.1945 r. z kierunku Wądroża. 26.01.45 do wsi wjechało wojsko niemieckie. W osobowym siedział pułkownik, bez jednej ręki. Dostał sanie z wołami. Do wieczora zwozili do pałacu

Hans-Ludwig Biography

wielu rannych, lżej ranni szli do Rudnej. Niemcy zalecili na noc przejść do Rudnej, a sami cofnęli się za tory kolejowe, skąd w ciągu nocy ostrzeliwali rejon Wądroża. Rano 28.01.1945 r. wojsko radzieckie we wsi. Nagły szturm zaskoczył Niemców, bez oporu odwrót, koło stawu padło ich około 50., część dostała się do niewoli. Następnego dnia atak niemiecki z kierunku Mleczna. Na widok Niemców uciekali żołnierze radzieccy oraz cywile do wsi Wądroże.

Fighting in the area began, which could be heard only on January 23, 1945, from the direction of Wądroże. On January 26, 1945, the German army entered the village. The colonel was sitting in the passenger seat, missing one arm. He was given a sleigh with oxen. Until the evening, they took many wounded people to the palace, and on a lighter note they went to Rudna. The Germans recommended moving to Rudna for the night, and they retreated behind the railway tracks, from where they fired at the Wądroże area during the night. On the morning of January 28, 1945, the Soviet army in the village. The sudden attack surprised the Germans, they retreated without resistance, about 50 of them died near the pond, some were taken prisoner. The next day, the German attack from the direction of Mleczna. Upon seeing the Germans, Soviet soldiers and civilians fled to the village of Wądroże.

Zacięte walki w okolicach Rudnej toczyły się ze zmiennym szczęściem dla obu walczących stron już od 28 stycznia, kiedy to do miasteczka wkroczyły wojska 121. Dywizji Strzeleckiej (Piechoty) z 13. Armii Ogólnowojskowej. Impet radzieckiego natarcia jednak stopniowo malał, a wzrastał opór Niemców. Okoliczne wioski kilkakrotnie przechodziły z rąk do rąk.

Fierce fighting in the vicinity of Rudna had been going on with varying luck for both fighting sides since January 28, when the troops of the 121st Rifle Division (Infantry) from the 13th General Army entered the town. However, the momentum of the Soviet attack gradually decreased and German resistance increased. Several nearby villages changed hands many times.

O świcie 3 lutego 1945 r. niemiecka Dywizja Grenadierów Pancernych „Brandenburg” wchodząca w skład Korpusu Pancernego „Gross Deutschland” wyprowadziła silne kontruderzenie z rejonu Rynarcic, Żelaznego Mostu i Pielgrzymowa. W wyniku którego wojska radzieckie zostały odrzucone około 10 km na wschód, na przedpola wsi Wądroże i Działów. Niemcy odbili Juszowice



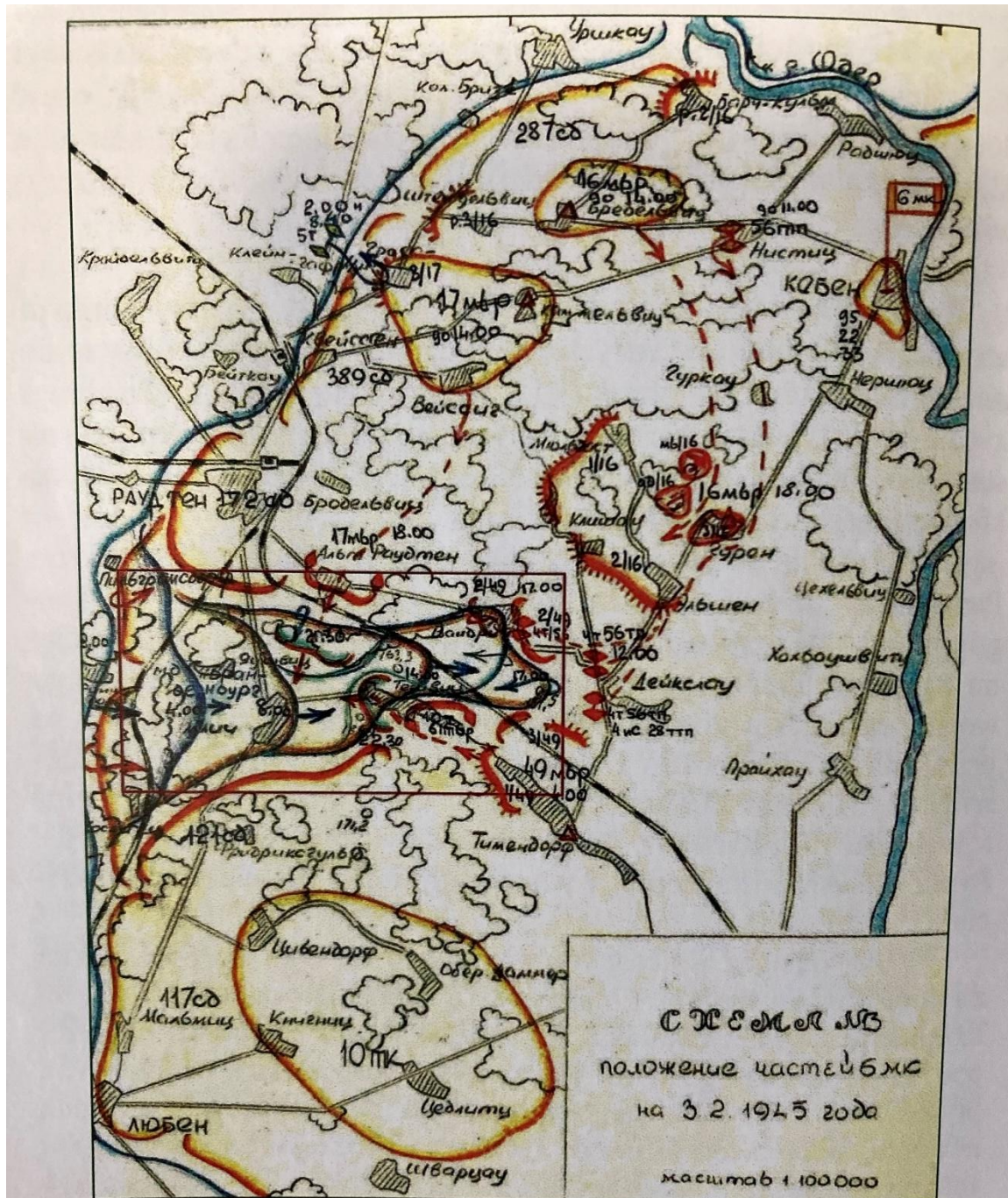
(Jauschwitz), Mleczno (Mlitsch), zachodnią część Toszowic (Töschwitz) i Wądroża (Wandritsch). W godzinach wieczornych oddziały 13 Armii i 4. Armii Pancerniej wyhamowały impet niemieckiego natarcia.

At dawn on February 3, 1945, the German Panzergrenadier Division "Brandenburg", part of the Panzer Corps "Gross Deutschland", launched a strong counterattack from the area of Rynarcice, Żelazny Most and Pielgrzymów, as a result of which the Soviet troops were thrown back about 10 km to the east, on the outskirts of the villages of Wądroże and Dzieszław. The Germans recaptured Juszowice (Jauschwitz), Mleczno (Mlitsch), the western part of Toszowice (Töschwitz) and Wądroże (Wandritsch). In the evening, units of the 13th Army and the 4th Panzer Army stopped the momentum of the German attack.

Page 75/76

Na odsiecz walczącym woj skom 147. Dywizji Strzeleckiej z rejonu Rudnej ruszyła 17. Brygada Zmechanizowana Gwardii z 6. Korpusu Zmechanizowanego Gwardii, 4. Armii Pancerniej Gwarcüi pod dowództwem generała Leluszenki. Główną siłę uderzeniową brygady stanowił 126. Samodzielny Pułk Pancerny. W godzinach nocnych, w niedzielę 4 lutego 1945 r. radziecka koltunna czołgów ruszyła w kierunku wsi Mleczno. Na skrzyżowaniu szosy Rudna - Mleczno z drogą polną prowadzącą z Juszowic w kierunku wschodnim radzieckie czołgi z piechotą na pancerzach wpadły w niemiecką zasadzkę. W wyniku ostrzału z panzerfaustów oraz dwóch niemieckich czołgów Panzerkampwagen V (PzKpfv V Panther) 126. Samodzielny Pułk Pancerny stracił aż 10 czołgów T-34/ 85 (6 spalonych, 4 uszkodzone). W walce tej, W trafionym przez nieprzyj acielski pocisk czołgu spłonął dowódca pułku mjr Iwan Aleksiej ewicz Tkaczuk.

The 17th Guards Mechanized Brigade from the 6th Guards Mechanized Corps, 4th Guards Tank Army under the command of General Lelushenko moved to the relief of the fighting troops of the 147th Rifle Division from the Rudna area. The main striking force of the brigade was the 126th Independent Armored Regiment. At night, on Sunday, February 4, 1945, a Soviet tank troop moved towards the village of Mleczno. At the intersection of the Rudna - Mleczno road with a dirt road leading east from Juszowice, Soviet tanks with armored infantry fell into a German ambush. As a result of fire from Panzerfausts and two German Panzerkampwagen V (PzKpfv V Panther) tanks, the 126th Independent Tank Regiment lost as many as 10 T-34/85 tanks (6 burned, 4 damaged). During this battle, the regiment's commander, Major Ivan Alexeievich Tkaczuk, was burned in a tank hit by an enemy shell.



Ze zbiorów Centralnego Archiwum Ministerstwa Obrony Federacji Rosyjskiej

Kontruderzenie wojsk niemieckich i położenie wojsk walczących stron w dniu 3 lutego 1945 r.

Kontruderzenie wojsk niemieckich I położenie wojsk walczących stron w dniu 3 lutego 1945 r.

Control zones of German troops and the position of the troops on February 3, 1945.

Hans-Ludwig Biography



Page 77

Iwan Aleksiejewicz TKACZUK (24.02.1919 - 04.02.1945), major wojsk pancernych, dowódca 126. Samodzielnego Pułku Pancernego 17. Brygady Zmechanizowanej Gwardii, Bohater Związku Radzieckiego. Do wojska został powołany w 1940 roku, w 1941 roku ukończył Szkołę Pancerną w Orle. 23 stycznia 1945 r. ze swoją brygadą forsował Odrę pod Chobienią. 4 lutego 1945 r. podczas walk w okolicach Starej Rudnej - Mleczna spłonął w swoim czołgu. Pochowany został na wojennym cmentarzu żołnierzy radzieckich w Górze Śląskiej. Pośmiertnie awansowany do stopnia podpułkownika.

Ivan Alekseevich TKACZUK (24/02/1919 - 04/02/1945), major of armored forces, commander of the 126th Independent Armored Regiment of the 17th Brigade of the Mechanized Guards, Hero of the Soviet Union. He was drafted into the army in 1940, and in 1941 he graduated from the Pancerna School in Orel. On January 23, 1945, with his brigade he crossed the Oder near Chobień. On February 4, 1945, during the fighting near Stara Rudna - Mleczna, he burned down in his tank. He was buried at the war cemetery of Soviet soldiers in Góra Śląska. He was posthumously promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Page 77/78

5 lutego 17. Brygada Zmechanizowana Gwardii zajęła pozycje obronne na południowo zachodnim i południowym skraju lasu położonego 1 kilometr na wschód od wsi Mleczno. Około godziny 1.00 W nocy, po silnym ostrzale moździerzowym, do natarcia z kierunku Mleczna ruszyły dwa niemieckie bataliony piechoty wspierane ogniem czołgów, dział pancernych i transporterów opancerzonych. Atak ten udało się żołnierzom brygady odrzucić. Dwie godziny później, około godz. 3.00 Niemcy podjęli kolejną próbę. Tym razem uderzenie na rozpoznane pozycje radzieckie było skuteczne. Niemieccy żołnierze przebili się przez linie obronę 3. Batalionu Zmotoryzowanego i wyszli na tyły brygady. Tam jednak czekała na nich niespodzianka - zasadzka przygotowana przez 56. i 126. Pułk Pancerny z fizylierami na pancerzach czołgów. Zaskoczeni, niemieccy żołnierze rozproszyli się po lesie.

On February 5, the 17th Guards Mechanized Brigade took up defensive positions on the southwestern and southern edge of the forest located 1 kilometer east of the village of Mleczno. Around 1 a.m. At night, after heavy mortar fire, two German infantry battalions, supported by fire from tanks, armored guns and armored personnel carriers, launched an attack from the direction of Mleczna. The brigade's

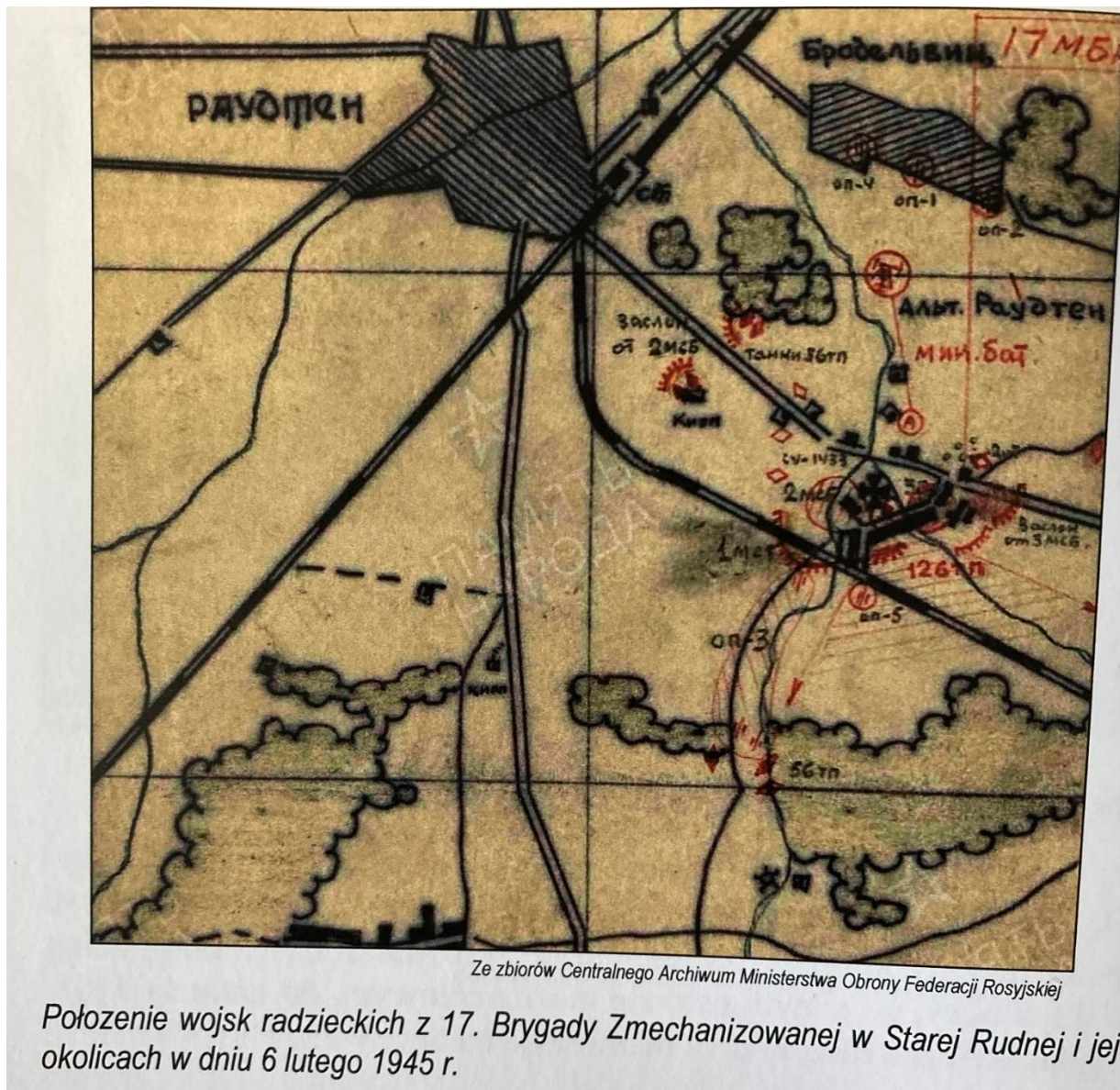
Hans-Ludwig Biography



soldiers managed to reject this attack. Two hours later, around 3.00 The Germans made another attempt. This time the attack on the identified Soviet positions was effective. German soldiers broke through the defensive line of the 3rd Motorized Battalion and went to the rear of the brigade. However, there was a surprise waiting for them - an ambush prepared by the 56th and 126th Tank Regiments with fusiliers on tank armor. Surprised, German soldiers scattered throughout the forest.

O godzinie 12.00 do akcji wyruszył 15. Pułk Strzelecki ze 147. Dywizji Strzeleckiej i do godz.16.00 zajął rubież obronna przed pozycjami brygady. W tej sytuacji 2. i 3. Batalion Zmotolizowany oraz 126. Pułk Pancerny zajęły pozycje obronne W Starej Rudnej.

At 12.00 the 15th Rifle Regiment of the 147th Rifle Division went into action and by 4.00 p.m. occupied the defensive line in front of the brigade's positions. In this situation, the 2nd and 3rd Motorized Battalions and the 126th Pancerna Regiment took up defensive positions in Stara Rudna.



Położenie wojsk radzieckich z 17. Brygady Zmechanizowanej W Starej Rudnej i jej okolicach w dniu 6 lutego 1945 r.

Location of Soviet troops from the 17th Mechanized Brigade in Stara Rudna and its surroundings on February 6, 1945.

Page 79

Dmitrij Daniłowicz Lełuszenko, (ur. 2 listopada 1901 r. w Nowokuźniecku, zm. 20 lipca 1987 r. w Moskwie ) - radziecki dowódca wojskowy, generał armii, dwukrotny Bohater Związku Radzieckiego (1940, 1945) i Bohater Czechosłowackiej Republiki Socjalistycznej (1970). W marcu 1944 roku został dowódcą 4. Armii Pancерnej (17 marca 1945 r. została przemianowana na 4.

Hans-Ludwig Biography

Gwardfiłską Armię Pancerną), którą dowodził do końca wojny. Dowodząc to armią brał udział w oswobodzeniu prawobizeżnej Ukrainy, operacji Iwowsko-sandomierskiej, wschod\ niokarpackiej, wiślańsko-odrzańskiej, śląskiej i berlińskiej.

Dmitrij Danilovich Lelushenko, (born November 2, 1901 in Novokuznetsk, died July 20, 1987 in Moscow) - Soviet military commander, army general, two-time Hero of the Soviet Union (1940, 1945) and Hero of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (1970) . In March 1944, he became the commander of the 4th Tank Army (on March 17, 1945, it was renamed the 4th Guards Tank Army), which he commanded until the end of the war. Commanding the army, he took part in the liberation of right-wing Ukraine, the Ivov-Sandomierz operation, the Eastern Carpathian operation, the Vistula-Oder operation, the Silesian operation and the Berlin operation.

Wasilij Fiodorowicz Orłow (ur. 28 lutego 1916 r. - zm. 18 marca 1945 r) - radziecki pułkownik gwardii, Bohater Związku Radzieckiego. Od grudnia 1944 roku dowódca 6. Korpusu Zmechanizowanego Gwardii 4. Armii Pancерnej Gwardii 1 Frontu Ukraińskiego. Brał udział w wyzwoleniu Końskich i Stąporkowa oraz w operacji dolnośląskiej. Zmarł 18 marca 1945 r. od ran odniesionych podczas walk o Opole w ramach operacji górnośląskiej (opolskiej).

Vasily Fedorovich Orlov (born February 28, 1916 - died March 18, 1945) - Soviet colonel of the Guard, Hero of the Soviet Union. From December 1944, commander of the 6th Guards Mechanized Corps of the 4th Guards Tank Army of the 1st Ukrainian Front. He took part in the liberation of Końskie and Stąporków and in the Lower Silesian operation. He died on March 18, 1945 from wounds suffered during the fighting for Opole as part of the Upper Silesian (Opole) operation.

Leonid Dmitrijewicz Czuriłow (un 30 maja 1907 r. - zm. 18 września 1993 r.) - radziecki podpułkownik gwardii, Bohater Związku Radzieckiego. Dowódca 17. Brygady Zmechanizowanej Gwardii 4. Armii Pancерnej Gwardii 1. Frontu Ukraińskiego. 25 stycznia 1945 r. brał udział w forsowaniu z marszu Odry w rejonie Chobieni i zdobyciu oraz obronie przyczółka na lewym (zachodnim) brzegu rzeki. Jego Brygada brała udział w walkach w Rejonie Starej Rudnej.

Leonid Dmitrijevich Churilov (born May 30, 1907 - September 18, 1993) - Soviet lieutenant colonel of the Guard, Hero of the Soviet Union. Commander of the 17th Guards Mechanized Brigade of the 4th Guards Tank Army of the 1st Ukrainian Front. On January 25, 1945, he took part in crossing the Oder river in the Chobień



area and capturing and defending a bridgehead on the left (western) bank of the river. His Brigade took part in the fighting in the Stara Rudna area.

Page 80



Ze zbiorów Centralnego Archiwum Ministerstwa Obrony Federacji Rosyjskiej

Поłożenie wojsk niemieckich i radzieckich między Lubinem i Rudną w dniu 8 lutego 1945 r.

Поłożenie wojsk niemieckich i radzieckich między Lubinem i Rudną w dniu 8 lutego 1945 r.

The location of German and Soviet troops between Lubin and Rudna on February 8, 1945.

Page 81

Ostatecznie pełną kontrolę nad Rudną i okolicznymi wioskami Rosjanie przejęli 8 lutego 1945 r. Wszystkie majątki ziemskie, w tym także i w Starej Rudnej zostały przejęte przez Armię Czerwoną. Ułożone w nich oddziały podlegały komendantowi Wojskiemu, majorowi Miszynowi, który urzędował w Lubinie.

Ultimately, the Russians took full control over Rudna and the surrounding villages on February 8, 1945. All landed estates, including those in Stara Rudna, were taken over by the Red Army. The troops located there were subordinated to the War Commander, Major Miszyn, who held office in Lubin.

Jeszcze W 1945 roku kilka majątków ziemskich przekazano stronie polskiej. Były to m.in. majątki W Juszowicach, Mlecznie, Brodowie i Toszowicach. Ze strony polskiej przejmował je urzędnik biura powiatowego Nowicki, a przekazywali ze strony radzieckiej major Wietrow, kapitan Barwinow, porucznik Rebozinko i porucznik Kuronow zjednostki nr 55405 stacjonującej W poniemieckich koszarach (obecnie Zespół Szkół nr 1 przy ul. Kościuszki) W Lubinie. Dokładny spis W języku rosyjskim obejmował wszystkie przekazywane obiekty i urządzenia, a nawet narzędzia i płody rolne (ziemniaki, słomę czy nawozy) jak: pałace, oficyny mieszkalne, stajnie, obory, lokomobile, transformatory, młocarnie, kosiarki, traktory, meble, łopaty, miotły, grabie itp. Dodatkowym protokołem przekazano 9 koni, które były chore lub kulawe. Pozostałe zwierzęta zatrzymano jako zapasy żywnościowe dla armii. Według Wspomnień niemieckiego mieszkańca Starej Rudnej, przy omłotach Rosjanie pracowali cepami, zaś woły od kieratów stały W oborze nad stawem.

In 1945, several landed estates were transferred to the Polish side. These included: estates in Juszowice, Mleczno, Brodów and Toszowice. On the Polish side, they were taken over by Nowicki, an official of the district office, and handed over from the Soviet side by Major Wietrow, Captain Barwinow, Lieutenant Rebozinko and Lieutenant Kuronow of unit No. 55405 stationed in the former German barracks (currently School Complex No. 1 at ul. Kościuszki) in Lubin. A detailed inventory In Russian, it included all transferred objects and equipment, and even tools and agricultural products (potatoes, straw and fertilizers) such as: palaces, residential outbuildings, stables, barns, locomobiles, transformers, threshing machines, mowers, tractors, furniture, shovels, brooms, rakes, etc. An additional protocol was given to 9 horses that were sick or lame. The remaining animals were kept as food supplies for the Army. According to the Memoirs of a German resident of Stara Rudna, the Russians worked with flails at the threshing floor, and the oxen on the treadmills stood in the barn by the pond.

Majątek Wraz z pałacem W Starej Rudnej został przekazany Polakom dopiero W końcu 1947 lub na początku 1948 roku i został włączony najpierw do spółdzielni produkcyjnej, a później PGR-u, którego kierownikiem był Wówczas Stanisław Ziętek. W dobrym stanie pałac W Starej Rudnej przetrwał tylko kilka lat.

Niezagospodarowany i nieużywany szybko stał się obiektem grabieży i dostarczycielem materiałów budowlanych, i to nie tylko dla miejscowej ludności napływowej. Zarówno mieszkańcy Starej Rudnej jak i Okolicznych wiosek czerpali z tego, czego potrzebowali w codziennym życiu: stoly, krzesła, szafy, nawet małe, piękne rzeczy, czasem ramy okienne.

The estate, including the palace in Stara Rudna, was handed over to the Poles only at the end of 1947 or at the beginning of 1948 and was incorporated first into the production cooperative, and later into the State Agricultural Farm, headed by Stanisław Ziętek at that time. The palace in Stara Rudna, in good condition, survived only a few years. Undeveloped and unused, it quickly became an object of plunder and a supplier of building materials, and not only for the local immigrant population. Both the inhabitants of Stara Rudna and the surrounding villages drew from what they needed in everyday life: tables, chairs, wardrobes, even small, beautiful things, sometimes window frames.

Page 81/82

Wśród pierwszych powojennych osadników w Starej Rudnej przeważali repatrianci z dawnych Kresów Wschodnich, pochodzący głównie z województw południowych: lwowskiego, tarnopolskiego, stamślawowskiego oraz w mniejszym stopniu z poleskiego i Wołyńskiego, ale także mieszkańcy tzw. Polski Centralnej (kieleckie, rzeszowskie, warszawskie) oraz żołnierze 1. i 2. Armii Polskiej, którzy szukali swoich rodzin i nie mogli lub nie chcieli wracać do domu, ponieważ ich rodzinne strony zostały włączone do Rosji Radzieckiej.

Among the first post-war settlers in Stara Rudna, the majority were repatriates from the former Eastern Borderlands, coming mainly from the southern voivodeships: Lviv, Tarnopol, Stamslav and, to a lesser extent, from Polesie and Volhynia, but also residents of the so-called Central Poland (Kielce, Rzeszów, Warsaw) and soldiers of the 1st and 2nd Polish Army who were looking for their families and could not or did not want to return home because their hometowns were incorporated into Soviet Russia.

Najpierw było poszukiwanie gospodarstwa, później wywieszano biało-czerwoną flagę, aby pokazać, że dom jest zajęty. Często przywiezione ze sobą stare meble zostawały w wagonach, bo okazało się, że tutaj były znacznie lepsze. I tak rozpoczynano nowe życie. Dla Kresowian to był prawdziwy koniec świata. Z centralnej Polski przybyły rodziny szukające lepszych warunków życia. Domy, które zajęli samowolnie, musiały być spłacane państwu na raty. Repatrianci z



kresów, dostali gospodarstwa za darmo, W ramach odszkodowania za mienie pozostawione na wschodzie, otrzymali nawet Wsparcie finansowe na remonty.

First, there was a search for a farm, then a white and red flag was hung to show that the house was occupied. Old furniture brought with them was often left in the wagons because it turned out that they were much better here. And so a new life began. For the people of Kresowice it was the real end of the world. Families came from central Poland looking for better living conditions. The houses they took over arbitrarily had to be repaid to the state in installments. Repatriates from the borderlands received farms for free. As compensation for the property left in the east, they even received financial support for renovations.

Bardzo poważnym problemem, z którym trzeba było się pogodzić byli panoszący się wszędzie sowieccy żołnierze. Niebezpiecznie było wchodzić im W drogę, gdyż czuli się zupełnie bezkarni. Potrafili nachodzić mieszkańców żądając wódki, a żądania te nieraz poparte były groźbami. W takiej sytuacji niewiele mogły zrobić dopiero organizuj ące się władze polskie.

A very serious problem that had to be dealt with were the Soviet soldiers everywhere. It was dangerous to get in their way because they felt completely unpunished. They could harass residents, demanding vodka, and these demands were often supported by threats. In such a situation, there was little that the Polish authorities who were just getting organized could do.

W sprawozdaniu statystycznym dla starostwa powiatowego W Lubinie, z dnia 10 sierpnia 1945 r., ówczesny burmistrz Rudnej, Jan Boguc, wskazywał, iż W Starej Rudnej było osiem gospodarstw W stanie nienaruszonym, a dwanaście poważnie uszkodzonych. Inny dokument wskazuj e, że już W styczniu 1946 roku W Starej Rudnej było 37 gospodarstw o powierzchni do 15 hektarów, z czego 7 gospodarstw było w dobrym stanie, 30 gospodarstw zostało zniszczonych W około 30%. Domy ze starymi numerami niemieckimi: nr 10: zniszczony W około 45%, nr 12: zniszczony W około 45%, nr 13: zniszczony W około 60%, nr 19: zniszczony W około 65%, m- 25; zmszczony W około 65%.

In the statistical report for the district office in Lubin, dated August 10, 1945, the then mayor of Rudna, Jan Boguc, indicated that there were eight farms in Stara Rudna intact and twelve seriously damaged. Another document indicates that in January 1946, there were 37 farms in Stara Rudna with an area of up to 15 hectares, of which 7 farms were in good condition, 30 farms were destroyed,

approximately 30%. Houses with old German numbers: No. 10: approximately 45% destroyed, No. 12: approximately 45% destroyed, No. 13: approximately 60% destroyed, No. 19: approximately 65% destroyed, m-25; avenged About 65%.

Page 82/83

W 1946 roku przeprowadzono spis ludności. Z tego okresu zachowało się tylko kilka zapisów. 1 sierpnia 1946 r. we wsi było 13 rodzin (42 osoby): 5 rodzin zamieszkałych w gospodarstwach (14 osób), 8 rodzin (28 osób) bez gospodarstw. Dalsze informacje z 15 stycznia 1947 r. mówią, że w tym czasie we wsi mieszkało 34 osoby (31 nowo przybyłych i 3 Niemców). Trzy miesiące później populacja się zmieniła, było 29 osób, tj. dziesięć rodzin polskich i jedna niemiecka. Dwanaście domów potrzebowało pilnie remontu (25 % zniszczeń), 6 domów miało mniej sze uszkodzenia. Zagrody te zostały oczyszczone i przygotowane do zasiedlenia, podobnie jak dwie inne z 20. hektarowymi areałami ziemi.

In 1946, a census was carried out. Only a few records have survived from this period. On August 1, 1946, there were 13 families (42 people) in the village: 5 families living on farms (14 people), 8 families (28 people) without farms. Further information from January 15, 1947 says that at that time there were 34 people living in the village (31 newly arrived and 3 Germans). Three months later, the population had changed, there were 29 people, i.e. ten Polish families and one German. Twelve houses were in urgent need of renovation (25% damage), 6 houses had minor damage. These farmsteads were cleaned and prepared for settlement, as were two others with 20 hectares of land.

Równoległe z zasiedlaniem terenów powiatu lubińskiego przez przesiedleńców z Polski Centralnej oraz repatriantów z Kresów Wschodnich II RP, od lipca 1946 roku trwała zorganizowana akcja Wyszczepiania Niemców. Jeszcze w kwietniu 1947 roku w gminie pracowało wiele osób narodowości niemieckiej, uznanych za fachowców niezbędnych dla obsługi i prawidłowego funkcjonowania Wielkich gospodarstw rolnych i ich zaplecza. Część z nich zatrudniona była w majątku w Starej Rudnej.

In parallel with the settlement of the areas of the Lubin district by displaced persons from Central Poland and repatriates from the Eastern Borderlands of the Second Polish Republic, an organized action of Displacement of Germans was carried out from July 1946. In April 1947, many people of German nationality

Hans-Ludwig Biography

worked in the commune, recognized as specialists necessary for the operation and proper functioning of large farms and their facilities. Some of them were employed at the estate in Stara Rudna.

Do 1947 roku W Starej Rudnej, W domu nad stawem (W kierunku Brodowa) mieszkała trzyosobowa rodzina polskich autochtonów. Była to Anna Marszałek z dwiema córkami. Prawdopodobnie ojciec rodziny został zastrzelony W 1945 roku. W posiadaniu tej rodziny było 30 arów ziemi uprawnej.

Until 1947, a three-person family of Polish autochthons lived in Stara Rudna, in a house by the pond (towards Brodów). It was Anna Marszałek with her two daughters. The father of the family was probably shot in 1945. This family owned 30 ares of arable land.

Z dokumentu z 27 maja 1947 r. wynika, że We wsi było jeszcze trzech Niemców, ale już 45 Polaków. Miesiąc później przybyło następnych pięciu Polaków. Mieszkali oni W 15 gospodarstwach, ~ każde z 2-3 hektarami ziemi i 12 gospodarstwach z 2-10 hektarami. Raport z dnia 27 października 1947 r. Wymieniał 9 rodzin repatriantów (40 osób) i 2 rodziny (12 osób) przesiedleńców, nie wspominał już o autochtonach. Można zatem przypuszczać, iż rodzina Marszałków opuściła Starą Rudną przed jesienią 1947 roku. W dniu 8 czerwca 1948 r. Burmistrz Józef Zarębski poinformował, że „Niemcy nie mieszkają już na terenie gminy, a przesiedlenie jest zakończone”.

A document from May 27, 1947 shows that there were still three Germans in the village, but already 45 Poles. A month later, five more Poles arrived. They lived in 15 farms, each with 2-3 hectares of land and 12 farms with 2-10 hectares. The report of October 27, 1947 listed 9 families of repatriates (40 people) and 2 families (12 people) of displaced people, but did not mention the indigenous people. It can therefore be assumed that the Marszałek family left Stara Rudna before the fall of 1947. On June 8, 1948, Mayor Józef Zarębski announced that "Germans no longer live in the commune and the resettlement is complete."

Page 84

W 1947 roku we wsi mieszkały też dwie obywatelki radzieckie, które wyszły za Polaków: Anna Huzar i Anna Kucharzyszyn. Jedna przybyła z gubemii Smoleńskiej, druga - z guberni Kurskiej.

Hans-Ludwig Biography



In 1947, two Soviet citizens who married Poles also lived in the village: Anna Huzar and Anna Kucharzyszyn. One came from the Smolensk Governorate, the other - from the Kursk Governorate.

Page 84/85

Nadawanie aktów własności zasiedlonych przez osadników gospodarstw i domów rozpoczęło się W grudniu 1948 roku, chociaż praktycznie niektórzy zasiedlali wybrane gospodarstwa już od połowy 1945 roku. Tytuły własności ziemi nadawano użytkownikom gospodarstw, a tym którzy nie otrzymali ich W normalnym trybie przydzielano je teraz. W tym czasie panowało jeszcze powszechne przekonanie, zwłaszcza wśród „kresowiaków”, że ich przebywanie na Dolnym Śląsku ma charakter tymczasowy i część osadników podchodziła do tego procesu z dużą rezerwą. Wierzyli, że wrócą do siebie. Nie wrócili, rzeczywistość okazała się zupełnie inna. Ich dzieci i wnuki urodzone już tutaj postrzegają te sprawy zupełnie inaczej, czują się tu u siebie, tu jest ich mała ojczyzna, ich dom.

The granting of ownership deeds to farms and houses inhabited by settlers began in December 1948, although practically some people had been settling selected farms since mid-1945. Land titles were given to farm users, and those who did not receive them were now assigned them in the normal way. At that time, there was still a widespread belief, especially among the "borderlands", that their stay in Lower Silesia was temporary and some settlers approached this process with great reserve. They believed they would get back together. They didn't come back, the reality turned out to be completely different. Their children and grandchildren, born here, perceive these matters completely differently, they feel at home here, this is their little homeland, their home.

Ciekawie przedstawiała się też sprawa z żywym inwentarzem napływowych mieszkańców Starej Rudny. Na początku we wsi były 3 konie, 3 krowy i 1 świnia, natomiast pod koniec 1947 roku uprawiano 69 hektarów gruntów omych, nadal były 3 konie, ale już 15 krów i 5 świń.

The matter with the livestock of the migrant inhabitants of Stara Rudna was also interesting. At the beginning, there were 3 horses, 3 cows and 1 pig in the village, but at the end of 1947, 69 hectares of arable land were cultivated, there were still 3 horses, but already 15 cows and 5 pigs.

Po decyzji komunistycznego rządu Polski, pod pretekstem współpracy z powstańczą armią ukraińską UPA oraz po nie do końca wyjaśnionej śmierci kontrowersyjnego generała Karola Swierczewskiego, od 1947 roku, na zasadzie odpowiedzialności zbiorowej za antypolską działalność UPA na terenach Beskidu Niskiego i Bieszczad, zamieszkujący tam Łemkowie stali się elementem wrogiem, więc ich przesiedlano na tzw. Ziemie Odzyskane.

After the decision of the communist government of Poland, under the pretext of cooperation with the insurgent Ukrainian army of the UPA and after the not fully explained death of the controversial General Karol Swierczewski, from 1947, on the basis of collective responsibility for the anti-Polish activities of the UPA in the areas of the Low Beskids and Bieszczady, the Lemkos living there became a hostile element, so they were resettled to the so-called Recovered Territories.

Łemkowie to potomkowie pasterzy wołoskich, którzy w XIV wieku wędrowali łukiem Karpat ku zachodowi i do końca XVIII stulecia zasiedlali obszary górskie, m.in. Bieszczad i Beskidu Niskiego. Kultura ludowa Łemków była wynikiem krzyżowania się wpływów tzw. wołoskich, bałkańsko-rumuńskich i ruskich z polskimi, słowackimi, a także węgierskimi. Nie jest to ludność ukraińska, choć bardzo często za taką była postrzegana. W dniu 9 września 1944 roku został podpisany między PKWN i rządem USRR układ o przesiedleniu na tereny radzieckie m.in. ludności ukraińskiej. Od tej pory nie pojawia się już nazwa Łemkowie ani Łemkowszczyzna. Lud zamieszkujący Beskid Niski został uznany za część narodu ukraińskiego.

Lemkos are descendants of Wallachian shepherds who in the 14th century migrated westward along the arc of the Carpathians and until the end of the 18th century inhabited mountainous areas, including Bieszczady and Beskid Niski. The Lemko folk culture was the result of the intersection of influences of the so-called Wallachian, Balkan-Romanian and Ruthenian with Polish, Slovak and Hungarian. These are not Ukrainian people, although they were often perceived as such. On September 9, 1944, an agreement on resettlement to Soviet territories was signed between the Polish Committee of National Liberation and the government of the Ukrainian SSR, among others. Ukrainian population. From then on, the name Lemkos or Lemkowszczyzna no longer appears. The people living in the Beskid Niski Mountains were recognized as part of the Ukrainian nation.

W latach 1944 -1946 na teren Ukraińskiej SRR zostało przesiedlone 60 - 70% ludności łemkowskiej. 24 kwietnia 1947 r. został wyznaczony początek Akcji „Wisła”, która tak faktycznie była operacją czysto wojskową. Mowa jest, rzecz jasna o ludności ukraińskiej współpracującej z UPA, do której Łemkowie zostali wcześniej zaliczeni. W czasie Akcji „Wisła” na tereny zachodnie i północne przesiedlono 30 - 35 tysięcy Łemków. Stanowili oni 20% ludności przesiedlonej w ramach akcji. Zwykłym scenariuszem było w czasie przesiedlenia: wczesnym rankiem do wsi przyjeżdżały uzbrojone oddziały wojska i Milicji Obywatelskiej; ludność miała dwie godziny na spakowanie i pod eskortą cała wieś na furmankach lub pieszo była pędzona w kiemniku stacji kolej owej, gdzie ładowano ich do bydłowych wagonów i wysyłano w nieznanym dla nich kierunku.

In the years 1944-1946, 60-70% of the Lemko population was resettled to the territory of the Ukrainian SSR. April 24, 1947 marked the beginning of Operation Vistula, which was in fact a purely military operation. We are, of course, talking about the Ukrainian population cooperating with the UPA, to which the Lemkos were previously included. During Operation "Vistula", 30 - 35 thousand Lemkos were resettled to the western and late areas. They constituted 20% of the population resettled under the action. The usual scenario was during the resettlement: early in the morning, armed units of the army and the Citizens' Militia arrived in the village; the population had two hours to pack and, under escort, the entire village was herded in carts or on foot to the next railway station, where they were loaded into cattle wagons and sent to an unknown direction.

Także W powiecie lubińskim trwało przymusowe osiedlanie ludności łemkowskiej w ramach akcji „Wisła”, która tak naprawdę była, przeprowadzoną na szeroką skalę, operacją czysto woj skową. Przez długi czas rodziny te nie mogły opuszczać miejsca zamieszkania bez oficjalnej zgody. Do roku 1956 nie pozwalano im wracać do swojej małej ojczyzny, choć wierzono, że po śmierci Stalina przyjdzie odmiana. Przez wiele lat prowadzono rejestr, W którym zapisywano wszystko, co dotyczyło Łemków; jak się zachowywali, z kim się spotykali itd. Traktowano ich jak ludzi drugiej kategorii. Co prawda w 1997 roku mimo istniejących kontrowersji akcja ta została oficjalnie potępiona, ale jakiś niesmak pozostał.

Also, in the Lubin district, the forced settlement of the Lemko population took place as part of Operation "Vistula", which was in fact a large-scale, purely military operation. For a long time, these families could not leave their place of residence without official permission. Until 1956, they were not allowed to return to their small homeland, although it was believed that a change would come after



Stalin's death. For many years, a register was kept in which everything related to the Lemkos was recorded; how they behaved, who they dated, etc. They were treated like second-class people. It is true that in 1997, despite the existing controversies, this action was officially condemned, but some disgust remained.

W 1989 roku powstało W Legnicy Stowarzyszenie Łemków w Polsce. Co roku 22 lipca na terenie Bieszczad, a na Dolnym Śląsku dwa tygodnie później odbywa się zjazd Łemków pod nazwą Watra (co znaczy „ognisko”), gdzie spotykają się tysiące Łemków, którzy wbrew przeciwnościom zachowali własną kulturę i odrębność. Spotkania te mają na celu krzewienie kultury i języka łemkowskiego wśród coraz młodszych pokoleń Łemków, którzy znają życie przodków na Łemkowszczyźnie tylko z opowiadań.

In 1989, the Lemko Association in Poland was established in Legnica. Every year on July 22, in the Bieszczady Mountains, and two weeks later in Lower Silesia, there is a Lemko convention called Watra (meaning "bonfire"), where thousands of Lemkos meet who, against all odds, have retained their own culture and distinctiveness. These meetings are aimed at promoting Lemko culture and language among increasingly younger generations of Lemkos, who know the life of their ancestors in the Lemko region only from stories.

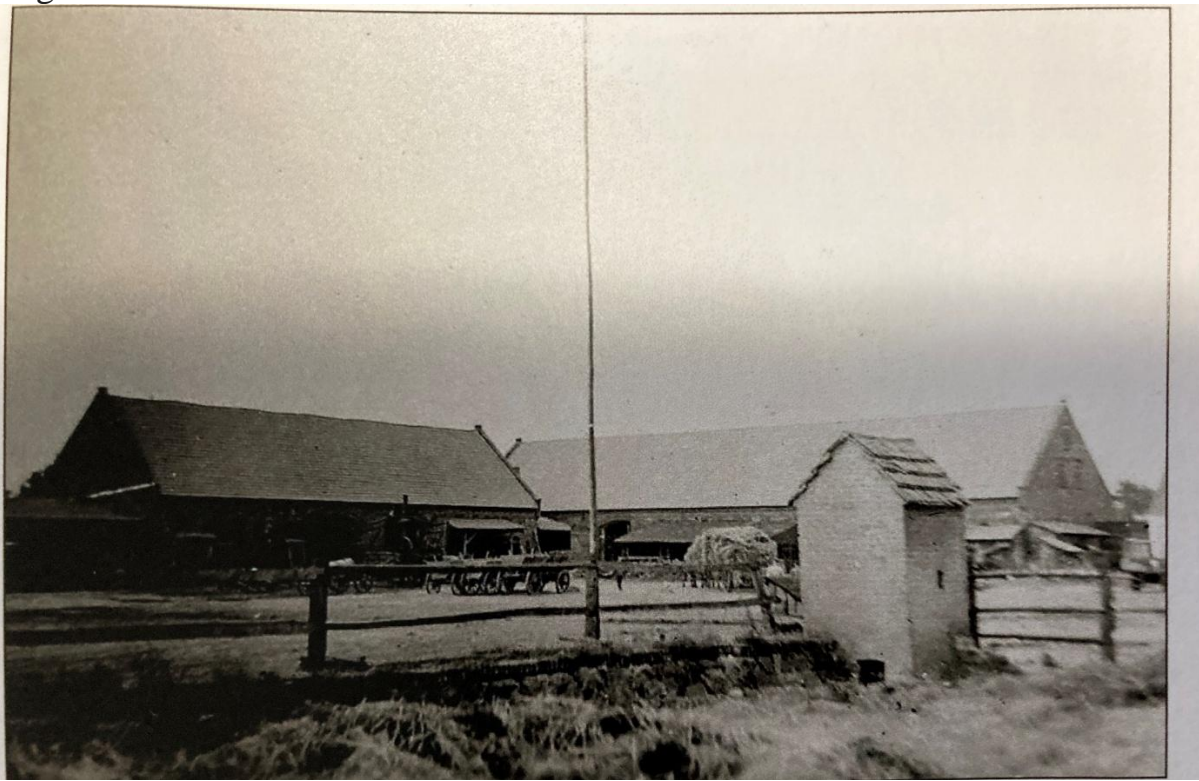
W miarę napływu nowych osadników powoli zaczęła się stabilizować sytuacja społeczno-polityczna oraz gospodarcza wsi. Stopniowo zaczęto organizować różne gałęzie życia publicznego mieszkańców.

With the influx of new settlers, the socio-political and economic situation of the village slowly began to stabilize. Gradually, various branches of residents' public life began to be organized.

W Starej Rudnej nie zorganizowano szkoły dla miejscowych dzieci, ale już od września 1945 roku Publiczna Szkoła Powszechna działała w oddalonej około 2 km Rudnej. Wówczas naukę rozpoczęło 27 uczniów. W czerwcu 1946 roku było ich już 135. Kierowniczką szkoły została pani Janina Chomenko. Pierwsze lekcje odbywały się w przystosowanej dla potrzeb szkolnych izbie prywatnego mieszkania, przy której urządzaniu pomagali rodzice z utworzonego Komitetu Rodzicielskiego. W roku szkolnym 1946/1947 Publiczna Szkoła Powszechna uzyskała budynek przy ul. Ścinawskiej.

There was no school for local children in Stara Rudna, but from September 1945 a Public Primary School operated in Rudna, approximately 2 km away. At that time, 27 students started their studies. In June 1946, there were already 135 of them. Mrs. Janina Chomenko became the head of the school. The first lessons took place in a room of a private apartment adapted for school purposes, with the arrangement of which was assisted by parents from the established Parents' Committee. In the school year 1946/1947, the Public Primary School acquired a building at ul. Ścinawska.

Page 87



Tak wyglądały zabudowania gospodarcze przypałacowego folwarku Schweśniizów przed wojną, a tak

This is what the outbuildings of the Schweśniiz family farm next to the palace looked like before the war



w latach siedemdziesiątych XX wieku. Do dnia dzisiejszego nie zachował się żaden z obiektów widocznych na tych fotografiach.

in the 1970s. None of the objects visible in these photographs have survived to this day.

Page 88

Zdecydowana większość zabudowań dawnego majątku dworskiego uległa zniszczeniu. Do istniejących budynków, naprzeciwko pałacu, wybudowano dwie chlewnie. W chwili dzisiejszej po dawnych zabudowaniach gospodarczych nie ma nawet znaku, gdyż po upadku PGR-ów powojennie chlewnie i przedwojenne obory zrównano z ziemią, a teren rozplantowano. Dziś pozostał tylko wałący się miejscami betonowy płot wokół dawnego okólnika dla świń. Przedwojenna owczarnia znajdująca się nad stawem w kierunku Brodowa, została zamieniona na chlewnie. Spaliła się ona w pożarze na początku lat osiemdziesiątych XX wieku. Pożar strawił także stodoły z sianem.

The vast majority of the buildings of the former manor estate were destroyed. Two pigsty houses were built next to the existing buildings, opposite the palace. Today, there is no sign of the former farm buildings, because after the collapse of the State Agricultural Farms, the pigties and pre-war barns were razed to the ground and the area was planted. Today, all that remains is a concrete fence around the former pig shed, which is crumbling in places. The sheepfold located by the pond in the direction of Brodów was turned into a pigsty. It burned down in a fire in the early 1980s. The fire also destroyed hay barns.

Hans-Ludwig Biography



Dla pracowników PGR - u, którzy byli tu ściągani z różnych stron Polski, wybudowano czworaki - przed pałacem i na wzgórzu W kierunku Toszowic. Obecnie są one zamieszkiwane przez byłych pracowników PGR, którzy przybyli tu z Pomorza, Mazowsza, Lubelszczyzny, a nawet Mazur.

For the State Agricultural Farm employees who were brought here from various parts of Poland, four-story houses were built - in front of the palace and on the hill towards Toszowice. Currently, they are inhabited by former state farm employees who came here from Pomerania, Mazovia, the Lublin region and even Masuria.

Z danych z 1991 roku wynika, że W Starej Rudnej mieszkało wówczas 49 pracowników PGR.

Data from 1991 show that 49 state farm employees lived in Stara Rudna at that time.

## **Time Lines Important Dates and Tales**

### **Events and History Hans**

D1340: Black Plague, In 1340, the total population of Europe was 54 million; by 1450, it would be 37 million, a 31% drop in only a century. [24] In addition to the earlier social and economic decline, the Black Plague is identified as the superficial cause, which struck Europe and wiped out a full third of the population in short space of 1348–1350. [2] [24] It has been described as "a pandemic of plagues such as the world had not seen since the sixth century and was not destined to see again till the 1890s ." [62] It was actually three related diseases: bubonic plague and septicemic plague, carried by fleas hosted by the black rat, and pneumonic plague, the especially fast and lethal airborne variant. [62] The few areas that escaped included Poland, [63] Hungary, [64] Rouergue in France, [64] Liège in Belgium, [63] and the county of Béarn in the Pyrenees. [63] It has been suggested that these areas were spared due to the predominance of O- Blood type, which had only recently taken root in the heartlands of Europe, although this hypothesis has yet to be proven. [64]

- 1800: Manifest destiny was a settler-colonial belief in the 19th-century United States that White American settlers were destined to expand across North America. It was an early expression of American imperialism in the United States of America.[3][4][5] There were three basic tenets to the concept:[6][7] The inherent superiority of white Americans and their institutions The mission of the United States to redeem and remake the West in the image of the agrarian East An irresistible destiny to accomplish this essential duty
- D1919: On 1919 June 28, in the final version of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was required to give up all its colonies. With the exception of German Southwest Africa, where some descendants of German settlers still live today (the German Namibians), all Germans were required to leave the colonies.
- D1932: On 1932 February 25 Adolf Hitler became a German Citizen. He had been born in Austria and immigrated to Germany in 1913 but did not renounce his Austrian citizenship until 1925.
- D1933: On 1933 January 30 Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor in the Weimar Republic.
- D1933: On 1933 March 23 the Weimar Republic (1919-1933) of was replaced by German Reich.
- 1933-45: The ideologies found at the root of Hitler's implementation of Lebensraum modeled that of German colonialism of the New Imperialism period as well as the American ideology of manifest destiny . Hitler had great admiration for the United States' territorial expansion and saw the destruction of Native American peoples and their cultures that took place during the United States' westward expansion as a template for German expansion.
1934. Hans Oct 26 Hans Ludwig born to Sigrid
- 1934: Hans Baptism 31 Oct 1934
- 1934: Hans Birth Certificate 26 October 1934, copy verified on 4 May 1944
- 1934: Hans Born in Liegnitz 26 October 1934 Hans Ludwig
- D1934: Hans photo Hans' Oma Gabriele (1875-1962 died in Wiesbaden)
- D1934: On 1934 August 2 – Adolf Hitler becomes *Führer* of Germany, or head of state combined with that of Chancellor, following the death of President Paul von Hindenburg.
- D1934: On 1934 January 26 A 10-year German–Polish declaration of non-aggression is signed by Nazi Germany and the Second Polish Republic
- D1934: On 1934 January 30. In Nazi Germany, the political power of federal states such as Prussia is substantially abolished by the "Law on the Reconstruction of the Reich" (Gesetz über den Neuaufbaudes Reiches). This is important because all power is now only in the federal government.

- D1934: On 1934 June 30–July 2 – Night of the Long Knives in Germany: Nazis purge the Sturmabteilung (SA), the left-wing Strasserist faction of the Nazi Party, and prominent conservative anti-Nazis, in a series of political murders. Many of those murdered were from Noble families which had ties to the von Schweinitz families or were members of the von Schweinitz family.
- 1936: Germany signed pact with Japan. Nazi Germany, which was an anti-communist régime, formalised its ideological position on 25 November 1936 by signing the Anti-Comintern Pact with Imperial Japan . [25] Fascist Italy joined the Pact a year later. [23] [26]
- 1938: Reichskristallnacht Nov 1938 (Crystal night)
- 1939: WW II started for Germany 1 September 1939
- 1939: Germany (Hitler) signed a non-aggression agreement with Soviet Union, Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. On 1 September 1939 Germany invaded Poland , starting World War II . On 17 September, the Soviet Union invaded Eastern Poland , and, as a result, Poland was partitioned among Germany, the Soviet Union and Lithuania.
- 1939: Hans. In 1939, five years after Hans Ludwig was born (1934) Alt Raudten estate had 91 households (families) with 297 residents.
- 1939: WWII from 1 September 1939- 2 September 1945
- 1940: Hans Appendix in 1940 at age 6
- 1941: Germany began war with Soviet Union, Operation Barbarossa on 22 June 1941. The war was fought between Germany, its allies and Finland , against the Soviet Union and its allies. The conflict began on 22 June 1941 with the Operation Barbarossa offensive, when Axis forces crossed the borders described in the German–Soviet Nonaggression Pact , thereby invading the Soviet Union. The war ended on 9 May 1945, when Germany's armed forces surrendered unconditionally following the Battle of Berlin (also known as the Berlin Offensive ), a strategic operation executed by the Red Army. Some historians say Stalin was fearful of war with Germany, or just did not expect Germany to start a two-front war , and was reluctant to do anything to provoke Hitler. Others say that Stalin was eager for Germany to be at war with capitalist countries. Another viewpoint is that Stalin expected war in 1942 (the time when all his preparations would be complete) and stubbornly refused to believe it would come early.
- 1941: Germany declares war on US 11 December 1941
- 1941: Most World War II historians recognize the name Henning Von Tresckow. Henning was a Lieutenant Colonel in the German Army and after he witnessed the killings of captured soldiers in the Red Army in 1941, he decided at that time Hitler had to be stopped. Henning later became an officer in the Army Group Centre. While there Henning recruited senior army officers to help him overthrow Hitler's
- Hans-Ludwig Biography



government. In 1943 a makeshift bomb was placed on an airplane carrying Hitler, but the bomb failed to explode. Hitler was to attend another meeting on July 20th, 1944 and a recruitment of Henning, Claus von Stauffenberg, carried a briefcase bomb into the meeting. The bomb exploded while Hitler was inside, killing four men and only injuring Hitler's right arm. This plot was famously named Valkyrie. Henning lived during the same generation as Hans' father and was the son of a brother of Hans' paternal grandmother. <sup>25,26</sup>

1941: started for US 7 December 1941 with Pearl Harbor

1942: Civilian correspondence between Germany and USA stopped.

1942: The monument Wittekind auf dem Wilhelmsplatz was taken down to be melted for its metal to support the war effort. In 1959 it was another monument was put in its place.

1942: first ground operations in European continent 8 November 1942

1942: First US Army Air Forces operations over European continent began 29 September 1942

1942: Hans diphtheria

The most interesting changes occurred in Germany, where diphtheria was endemic before World War II and where an alarming rise in the incidence of diphtheria was seen beginning in 1941 (table 2). Frequent references were made to the spread of malignant diphtheria in Germany in the early 1940s, the course of which was so rapid that serum therapy, even at a very early stage of disease development, had no effect [53,58].

Unexpectedly, the proportion of adult patients rose concomitantly with the overall rise in diphtheria incidence (table 3). In 1942, about 237,037 died. Furthermore, among all diphtheria deaths reported, those involving adults also increased (from 12% in 1939 to 48% in 1943) [19460]. On the other hand, increasing enrollment in schools, summer camps, and meetings of children, adolescents, and adults from different neighborhoods and social backgrounds probably contributed to wider circulation of *C. diphtheriae* within these age groups. Likewise, migration and displacement of many people during World War II probably enhanced the circulation of diphtheria organisms and contributed to the shift toward more adult cases [15]. In many areas of Germany late in World War II, conditions were far from normal. People were at work during the day and in overcrowded bomb shelters at night. They were under constant stress, which was reinforced by shortages of food, water, and electricity. Some of these conditions enhanced the transmission of infection.

1942: Hans Mother Sigrid died 3 September 1942 of Diphtheria

1942: Hans Ursula was Nanny in 1942 Ursula von Frankenberg-Lüttwitz born 26 mar 1924

1942: Hans' Mutti Sigrid Freiin von Zedlitz und Leipe died 3 September 1942 in Alt Raudten

1942-1945: Easter Front between Germany and USSR from 22 June 1941 to 9 May 1945.

Hans-Ludwig Biography

- 1943: Bomber's Baedeker - Target Book Strategic Bombing in the Economic Warfare against German Towns. First version was approved and released. First version targeted 392 towns with populations above 15,000 inhabitants.
- 1943: 8 September 1943 Italy the other member of the Axis powers surrendered
- 1943: Henning von Tresckow attempt on Hitler's life on 13 March 1943. On the return flight from a front visit, Hitler visited the headquarters of the Army Group Center in Smolensk. During the visit there were several attempts on his life: During lunchtime, Tresckow, Boeselager, and others planned to get up at a sign and fire pistols at Hitler. The commander-in-chief of the Army Group, Field Marshal Günther von Kluge, knew about the plan but decided not to intervene. However, the plan was abandoned when it became clear that Hitler would not be present. Kluge forbade the attack, citing his fear of a possible civil war erupting between the SS and the army. See also 20 July 1944 plot Valkyrie
- 1943: Most World War II historians recognize the name Henning Von Tresckow. Henning was a Lieutenant Colonel in the German Army and after he witnessed the killings of captured soldiers in the Red Army in 1941, he decided at that time Hitler had to be stopped. Henning later became an officer in the Army Group Centre. While there Henning recruited senior army officers to help him overthrow Hitler's government. In 1943 a makeshift bomb was placed on an airplane carrying Hitler, but the bomb failed to explode. Hitler was to attend another meeting on July 20th, 1944 and a recruitment of Henning, Claus von Stauffenberg, carried a briefcase bomb into the meeting. The bomb exploded while Hitler was inside, killing four men and only injuring Hitler's right arm. This plot was famously named Valkyrie. Henning lived during the same generation as Hans' father and was the son of a brother of Hans' paternal grandmother. <sup>25,26</sup>
- 1944: 26 November, US Eighth Air Force: Using 1,000 B-17 and B-24 bombers and 25 fighter groups attacked oil refinery, marshalling yards, and 7 "Targets of opportunity" which included Herford. US lost over 35 bombers, but US fighters claimed over 100 air victories.
- 1944: 5 December Operation Aphrodite: Two B17 (#39824 and 30353) bombers were targeting Herford's marshalling yard on 5 December 1944, but because of cloud cover, so the planes were directed to alternate target of Haldorf where both planes crashed outside of town. Haldorf now is a community within Edermünde which is about 150 km away from Herford and near Kassel
- 1944: Bomber's Baedeker - Target Book Strategic Bombing in the Economic Warfare against German Towns. Second version released. Towns with populations with as few as 1,000 inhabitants are now also targeted so the list of towns increased to 518.
- 1944: Henning von Tresckow on 21 July 1944 suicide. 13 March 1943 attempt on Hitler's life during flight. Again on 20 July 1944 Valkyrie. Relationship to Anna

- 1944: 15 October, US Eighth Air Force: bombed Hannover and Munster-Kassel areas
- 1944: 2 November, US Eighth Air Force: as liberation and conquest of Germany accelerated, five separate forces using 1,100 heavy bombers bombed synthetic oil plants and "targets of opportunity" around Bielefeld. Supposedly over 160 German fighter planes were claimed to be destroyed. US lost 40 heavy bombers.
- 1944: 26 October, US Eighth Air Force: bombed ordnance and storage depot at Bielefeld, Munitions yard Munster, military vehicle plant near Hannover, Mittelland Canal at Minden, and city of Hannover
- 1944: 6 November, US Eighth Air Force: Six separate forces using 1,000 heavy bombers bombed Airfields, Marshalling yards, and "targets of opportunity" in northwest Germany. Sixteen fighter groups afford close escort and later strafe ground targets in northwest Germany.
- 1944: Hans Ursula married Opa in 15 Oct 1944 divorced 1950?
- 1944: Hans' Vater married Ursula von Frankenberg-Luttwitz on 15 October 1944. They divorced in 1950. Ursula was born 26 March 1924.
- 1944: Most World War II historians recognize the name Henning Von Tresckow. Henning was a Lieutenant Colonel in the German Army and after he witnessed the killings of captured soldiers in the Red Arm in 1941, he decided at that time Hitler had to be stopped. Henning later became an officer in the Army Group Centre. While there Henning recruited senior army officers to help him overthrow Hitler's government. In 1943 a makeshift bomb was placed on an airplane carrying Hitler, but the bomb failed to explode. Hitler was to attend another meeting on July 20th, 1944 and a recruitment of Henning, Claus von Stauffenberg, carried a briefcase bomb into the meeting. The bomb exploded while Hitler was inside, killing four men and only injuring Hitler's right arm. This plot was famously named Valkyrie. Henning lived during the same generation as Hans' father and was the son of a brother of Hans' paternal grandmother. <sup>25,26</sup>
- 1944: Operation Valkyrie on 20 July 1944. The plot to assassinate Hitler was on 20 July 1944, the name Operation Valkyrie—originally referring to part of the conspiracy—has become associated with the entire event. In the aftermath and clean up, 7,000 people were arrested and 4,980 were executed. If Lt Col Viktor had been involved, it was a well kept secret from the family. The family story about why Lt Col Viktor was chosen, was because in 1945 he had no wife or children. Any act towards surrender was considered treason by Hitler, and would have resulted in execution. But Hitler's enforcement arm, Gestapo, did not just stop with executing the military Officer, they also executed his wife and children. So being a bachelor, he was probably 'volunteered' for the assignment or he may have willingly taken on the assignment. The family does not know how General von Vietinghoff convinced Lt Col Viktor von Schweinitz. Lt Col Viktor von Schweinitz and others arrived in Caserta Italy on 28 April 1945. From 28-



- 29 April 1945, an unconditional surrender document was drafted. On 29 April 1945, Lt Col Viktor von Schweinitz signed the Instrument of Surrender on behalf of General von Vietinghoff.
- 1945 47 May 1945 German high command surrenders unconditionally all land, sea, and air forces at Reims effective 9 May 1945.
- 1945: 14 March US Eighth Air Force: bombed 2 rail bridges and a Marshalling yard near Herford
- 1945: End of WW II 8 May 1945 for Europe theater
- 1945: 12 Apr 1945, FDR died
- 1945: 20 April 1945: Soviet artillery began shelling Berlin at 11 a.m. on Hitler's 56th birthday.[1] Preparations were made to evacuate Hitler and his staff to Obersalzberg to make a final stand in the Bavarian mountains, but Hitler refused to leave his bunker.
- 1945: 29 April 1945: At the royal palace in Caserta, two German officers signed the terms of surrender of German forces in Italy. Hostilities would cease at noon on May 2.
- 1945: 2 September 1945: WWII ended in Pacific theater also, WWII end complete
- 1945: 30 April 1945: Death of Adolf Hitler: Adolf Hitler and his wife Eva Braun committed suicide at around 3.30 p.m. while the Red Army was a short distance from the Führerbunker. In accordance with Hitler's last Will and Testament, Karl Dönitz and Joseph Goebbels took on Hitler's roles as Head of State and Head of Government of Germany respectively.
- 1945: 8 May 1945 End of WWII in Europe, WWII in Pacific theater would continue until 2 Sep 1945
- 1945: Attempts on Hitler's life: 42 documented attempts. All attempts occurred in the German Reich, except where noted. All attempts involved citizens of the German Reich, except where noted. No fewer than 42 plots have been uncovered by historians.[2] However, the true number cannot be accurately determined due to an unknown number of undocumented cases. Wikipedia
- 1945: Berlin, Battle of Berlin 16-25 April 1945. Russian army. No plans were made by the Western Allies to seize the city by a ground operation. [29] The Supreme Commander [Western] Allied Expeditionary Force, General Eisenhower, lost interest in the race to Berlin and saw no further need to suffer casualties by attacking a city that would be in the Soviet sphere of influence after the war, [30] envisioning excessive friendly fire if both armies attempted to occupy the city at once. [31] Stalin had wanted to settle the score since Hitler's breach of their non-aggression pact. On 15 April 1945, the Soviet Union fired a massive barrage of some one million artillery shells, one of the largest in history, onto the German positions west of the Oder.
- 1945: Berlin. After the Vistula–Oder offensive of January–February 1945, the Red Army had temporarily halted on a line 60 km (37 mi) east of Berlin. On 9

March, Germany established its defence plan for the city with Operation Clausewitz. When the Soviet offensive resumed on 16 April, two Soviet fronts ( army groups ) attacked Berlin from the east and south, while a third overran German forces positioned north of Berlin.

1945: Berlin. On 12 April 1945, Hitler, who had earlier decided to remain in the city against the wishes of his advisers, heard the news that the American President Franklin D. Roosevelt had died. [27] This briefly raised false hopes in the Führer bunker that there might yet be a falling out among the Allies and that Berlin would be saved at the last moment

1945: Dresden 13 and 14 February 1945. On 13 February 1945, bad weather over Europe prevented any USAAF operations, and it was left to RAF Bomber Command to carry out the first raid. It had been decided that the raid would be a double strike, in which a second wave of bombers would attack three hours after the first, just as the rescue teams were trying to put out the fires. [51] As was standard practice, other raids were carried out that night to confuse German air defences . Three hundred and sixty heavy bombers ( Lancasters and Halifaxes ) bombed a synthetic oil plant in Böhlen , 60 mi (97 km) from Dresden, while 71 de Havilland Mosquito medium bombers attacked Magdeburg with small numbers of Mosquitos carrying out nuisance raids on Bonn , Misburg near Hanover and Nuremberg . [52] The sirens started sounding in Dresden at 21:51 (CET). The first attack, bombs were released at 22:13, the last at 22:28, delivering 881.1 tons of bombs, 57% high explosive, 43% incendiaries. The second attack, three hours later. The German sirens sounded again at 01:05, but these were small hand-held sirens that were heard within only a block. [59] Between 01:21 and 01:45, 529 Lancasters dropped more than 1,800 tons of bombs. On the morning of 14 February 431 United States Army Air Force bombers of the Eighth Air Force 's 1st Bombardment Division were scheduled to bomb Dresden near midday. The bombing started at 12:17 and finished by 12:30. On 15 February Dresden was bombed between 12:00 and 12:10. Between 100,000 and 200,000 refugees [97] fleeing westward from advancing Soviet forces were in the city at the time of the bombing. the number of dead recovered by that date was 20,204, including 6,865 who were cremated on the Altmarkt square, and they expected the total number of deaths to be about 25,000. [93] [94]. Most died from lack of oxygen.

1945: Dresden Dresden's air defences had been depleted by the need for more weaponry to fight the Red Army, and the city lost its last massive flak battery in January 1945. By this point in the war, the Luftwaffe was severely hampered by a shortage of both pilots and aircraft fuel; the German radar system was also degraded, lowering the warning time to prepare for air attacks. The RAF also had an advantage over the Germans in the field of

electronic radar countermeasures. [81]. Over 90% of the city center was destroyed.

1945: Dresden The bombing of Dresden was a joint British and American aerial bombing attack on the city of Dresden , the capital of the German state of Saxony , during World War II . In four raids between 13 and 15 February 1945, 772 heavy bombers of the Royal Air Force (RAF) and 527 of the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) dropped more than 3,900 tons of high-explosive bombs and incendiary devices on the city. [3] The bombing and the resulting firestorm destroyed more than 1,600 acres (6.5 km<sup>2</sup>) of the city centre. [4] Up to 25,000 people were killed

1945: Early and 8 February 1945: Early in 1945, the German offensive known as the Battle of the Bulge had been exhausted, as was the Luftwaffe 's failed New Year's Day attack . The Red Army had launched its Silesian Offensives into pre-war German territory. The German army was retreating on all fronts, but still resisting. On 8 February 1945, the Red Army crossed the Oder River , with positions just 70 km (43 mi) from Berlin . [23] A special British Joint Intelligence Subcommittee report, German Strategy and Capacity to Resist , prepared for Winston Churchill 's eyes only, predicted that Germany might collapse as early as mid-April if the Soviets overran its eastern defences. Alternatively, the report warned that the Germans might hold out until November if they could prevent the Soviets from taking Silesia .

1945: End of WW II September 2 for Pacific theater (now end of all of WWII)

1945: Hans 25 August 1945 poster and expulsion

1945: Hans Aug Hans Refugee ID Aug 1945 to 5 June 1956

1945: Hans Berlin wikipedia

1,500 bombers of the Eighth Air Force, protected by some 1,000 fighters attacked the Berlin railway system on the forenoon (British: morning) of 3 February 1945 in the belief that the German Sixth Panzer Army was moving through Berlin by train on its way to the Eastern Front,[39] thinking the Sixth Panzer Army would use the Tempelhof rail yards for the move.[40] This was one of the few occasions on which the USAAF undertook a mass attack on a city centre. Lt-General James Doolittle, commander of the USAAF Eighth Air Force, objected to this tactic, but he was overruled by the USAAF commander, General Carl Spaatz, who was supported by the Allied commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Eisenhower and Spaatz made it clear that the attack on Berlin was of great political importance in that it was designed to assist the Soviet offensive on the Oder east of Berlin, and was essential for Allied unity.[41][42]

1945: Hans Bombing of Dresden in World War II Feb 13, 1945 – Feb 15, 1945

1945: Hans Brother Kurt Balthasar (Hemmi) born to Ursula

1945: Hans Dresden bombed 13-15 February 1945

1945: Hans Dresden wikipedia

The bombing of Dresden was a joint British and American aerial bombing attack on the city of Dresden, the capital of the German state of Saxony, during World War II. In four raids between 13 and 15 February 1945, 772 heavy bombers of the Royal Air Force (RAF) and 527 of the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) dropped more than 3,900 tons of high-explosive bombs and incendiary devices on the city.[3] The bombing and the resulting firestorm destroyed more than 1,600 acres (6.5 km<sup>2</sup>) of the city centre.[4] Up to



25,000 people were killed.[1][2][a]

1945: Hans Hemi born during flight in 31 July 1945 Kurt Balthasar to Ursula in Muenchen

1945: Hans January family fled towards Berlin from Wikipedia

1945: Hans On April 29th, 1945 Lieutenant Colonel Viktor von Schweinitz, uncle of Hans von Schweinitz, was authorized to sign the surrender of Germany in Caserta Italy. (See Figure 3) With this signing the Lieutenant Colonel was negotiate the framework of surrender of German soldiers and how they were to be treated as prisoners of war while they were kept in Italy. If an agreement was not met during the signing the German soldiers were to hide in the hills without surrender. They were told to surrender or be slaughtered and they eventually agreed to a full surrender.<sup>24</sup>

1945: Hans Turned south to Dresden

1945: Hans Went north to Wiesbaden

1945: Hans. Size of estate Alt Raudten area of 377.45 ha = 931.56 acres

1945: Hans. Berlin From Wikipedia

No plans were made by the Western Allies to seize the city by a ground operation.[29] The Supreme Commander [Western] Allied Expeditionary Force, General Eisenhower, lost interest in the race to Berlin and saw no further need to suffer casualties by attacking a city that would be in the Soviet sphere of influence after the war,[30] envisioning excessive friendly fire if both armies attempted to occupy the city at once.[31] The major Western Allied contribution to the battle was the bombing of Berlin during 1945.[32] During 1945 the United States Army Air Forces launched very large daytime raids on Berlin and, for 36 nights in succession, scores of RAF Mosquitos bombed the German capital, ending on the night of 20/21 April 1945 just before the Soviets entered the city.[33]

1945: Hans. From quora.com

General George S. Patton did not continue on to Berlin after reaching the city of Pilsen in Czechoslovakia during World War II for several reasons. One reason was that the city of Berlin was already being approached by Soviet forces from the east, and there was an agreement among the Allied powers that the Soviet Union would take Berlin. Additionally, the Western Allies, including the United States, had already agreed on zones of occupation in Germany, with Berlin being divided into sectors controlled by the four Allied powers. Therefore, it was not part of the Western Allies' military strategy to capture Berlin. Instead, the focus shifted to securing the areas assigned to the Western Allies in the post-war division of Germany.

1945: Hans. January–March 1945

Main articles: Vistula–Oder Offensive, East Pomeranian Offensive, Silesian Offensives, East Prussian Offensive, and Vienna Offensive

The Soviet Union finally entered Warsaw on 17 January 1945, after the city was destroyed and abandoned by the Germans. Over three days, on a broad front incorporating four army fronts, the Red Army launched the Vistula–Oder Offensive across the Narew River and from Warsaw. The Soviets outnumbered the Germans on average by 5–6:1 in troops, 6:1 in artillery, 6:1 in tanks and 4:1 in self-propelled artillery. After four days the Red Army broke out and started moving thirty to forty kilometres a

Hans-Ludwig Biography

day, taking the Baltic states, Danzig, East Prussia, Poznań, and drawing up on a line sixty kilometres east of Berlin along the River Oder. During the full course of the Vistula–Oder operation (23 days), the Red Army forces sustained 194,191 total casualties (killed, wounded and missing) and lost 1,267 tanks and assault guns.

On 25 January 1945, Hitler renamed three army groups. Army Group North became Army Group Courland; Army Group Centre became Army Group North and Army Group A became Army Group Centre. Army Group North (old Army Group Centre) was driven into an ever-smaller pocket around Königsberg in East Prussia.

A limited counter-attack (codenamed Operation Solstice) by the newly created Army Group Vistula, under the command of Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler, had failed by 24 February, and the Red Army drove on to Pomerania and cleared the right bank of the Oder River. In the south, the German attempts, in Operation Konrad, to relieve the encircled garrison at Budapest failed and the city fell on 13 February. On 6 March, the Germans launched what would be their final major offensive of the war, Operation Spring Awakening, which failed by 16 March. On 30 March the Red Army entered Austria and captured Vienna on 13 April.

1945: Hans' brother (Hemmi) Kurt Balthasar born 31 July 1945 in München

1945: Hitler's most fanatically loyal troops were preparing to make a lengthy, last-ditchstand in the natural fortresses formed by the rugged alpine mountains of southern Germany and westernAustria. If they held out for a year or more, dissension between the Soviet Union and the Western Alliesmight have given them political leverage for some kind of favorable peace settlement.

1945: January 5 1945: On 5January 1945, two North American B-25 Mitchell bombers dropped300,000 leaflets over Dresden with the "Appeal of 50 Germangenerals to the German army and people".

1945: Nationalsozialismus for Herford was over, it had existed from 1933 to 1945.

1945: Occupation process by USA. When Allied soldiers arrived in a town, its leaders and remaining residents typically used white flags,bedsheets, and tablecloths to signal surrender. The officer in charge of the unit capturing the area,typically a company or battalion, accepted responsibility over the town. Soldiers posted copies of GeneralEisenhower's Proclamation No. 1 , which began with "We come as a victorious army, not as oppressors."The proclamation demanded compliance with all orders by the commanding officer, instituted a strictcurfew and limited travel and confiscated all communications equipment and weapons. After a day ortwo, specialized Office of Military Government, United States (OMGUS) units took over. Soldiersrequisitioned housing and office space as needed from residents. At first, this was done informally withoccupants evicted immediately and taking with them few personal possessions, but the process becamestandardized, with three hours' notice and OMGUS personnel providing receipts for buildings' contents.The displaced residents nonetheless had to find housing on their own. [27]

1945: Patton statement As with Prague, Patton's request to secure Berlin wasdenied. Sadly, after Patton finally reached the ravaged city, he wrotehis

- wife on July 21, 1945, "for the first week after they took it (Berlin), I all women who ran were shot and those who did not were raped. could have taken it (instead of the Soviets) had I been allowed."
- 1945: Suicides by Nazi Germany. This is a list of suicides in Nazi Germany. Many prominent Nazis, Nazi followers, and members of the armed forces died by suicide during the last days of World War II. Others killed themselves after being captured. Those who committed suicide includes 8 out of 41 Nazi Party regional leaders who held office between 1926 and 1945, 7 out of 47 higher SS and police leaders, 53 out of 554 army generals, 14 out of 98 Luftwaffe generals, 11 out of 53 admirals in the Kriegsmarine, and an unknown number of junior officials. [1] Henning von Tresckow on 21 July 1944. Wikipedia
- 1945: Yalta Conference 4-11 February 1945. The Yalta Conference had already determined that both Germany and Berlin would be divided into four zones of occupation
- 1945-56: Hans Refugee ID Aug 1945 to June 1956, when received?
- 1946: Hans Fischzucht Wiesbaden, first homestead after flight
- 1946: Hans Sister Theresa Maria (Heise) born to Ursula
- 1946: Hans' sister Therese Maria born 15 December 1946 Wiesbaden
- 1946: Term Iron Curtain is used to describe divide between USSR and Europe
- 1947: Hans Settled in Wiesbaden Germany
- 1947: Hans' Opa Hans „Hermann“ Heinrich Wilhelm died in Wiesbaden 22 June 1947
- 1947-1948 Morgenthau plan was in effect, but never approved by US or UK
- 1948: 3 Apr 1948 Marshall Plan signed into effect (approved by US congress)
- 1948: 3 Apr 1948 Marshall plan was modelled after the rebuilt of the US south after the Civil war. Rebuild enemy instead of make enemy pay retribution, like after WW one.
- 1948: Hans Brother Michael born to Ursula on 27 Feb 1948 in Wiesbaden**
- 1949: Der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (May 1949–)
- 1950: Hans Fotolaborant ID 1950 Apprenticeship began 1 May 1950  
On May 1st, 1950 I started my apprenticeship at Strauch, owner Kurt Lohmann, Wiesbaden, Bahnhofstrasse 12, as a photo laboratory technician.
- 1950: Hans My father married a third time, after his second wife had left him to join her father who had a farm in South-west Africa.
- 1950: Hans Opa's 2nd wife Ursula took Hemmi to South Africa (city Karibib in later called Namibia) and was divorced in 1950, left Heisi and Misch.
- 1952: Hans May, Heizi goes on trip to Schweiz
- 1952: Hans Passed examination as Photographer, probably just after 1 May 1952.**
- 1952-1957: Hans Photographer in Germany, Central Exchange Photo Finishing plant (1953-1957) in Grünstadt south of Frankfurt, AGFA Color Photo Laboratory in Wiesbaden for four months (1952-1953)**



**1952-53: Hans OpelHaus**

1953: Hans German Driver's License 1953-68

1954: Hans Ini married Guenter 4June1954

1954: Hans' sister Ingrid married Gunter Wolf on 4 June 1954. Both were into Photography

1954-57: Hans Goes into apprenticeship photography

1955 Hans' Vater married Veronika Oehmichen in Wiesbaden Born 10 November 1913, Died 31 July 1995.

1955: Hans Opa married third wife "Vera" Veronika Oehmichen on 23 July 1955 (Age 42) born 20 Nov 1913

1955: Hans Reisepass 1955-65

1955: Hans Wandergewerbeschein 1955

1956: 5Apr1956 "A sentence of death can be imposed on any German who wears a German military uniform according to a revised ordinance issued by the Allied control commission. The ban on uniforms has not been strictly enforced so far because it was often the only clothes discharged soldiers had to wear. In the future it will be enforced more strictly."

**1956: Hans Fischzucht Wiesbaden, first homestead after flight, photo with lawn chairs- restaurant**

**1956: Hans Hotel Tamara Wiesbaden, SchumannStraße 16**

**1956: Hans Sister Theresa Maria (Heise) born to Ursula on 15Dec1956 in Wiesbaden**

**1957: Hans Brother Alexander born to Veronika 16Nov1957 Wiesbaden**

**1957: Hans Immigration visa to United States 1957**

1957: Hans March arrived in Chicago and worked in various jobs including commercial photographer. Huey Company Chicago Illinois. Coating photographic emulsions. Reason for leaving: financial betterment and difficult working conditions. Keuffler Eusser, Chicago Illinois. Precision photo copying. Reason for leaving: no opportunity of advancement. Williams Meyer Company Chicago Illinois. Advertising and Industrial Photography. Reason for leaving: drafted into the Armed Forces.

**1957: Hans Oct began basic training for Air Force**

1957: Hans' brother Alexander born 16 November 1957 Wiesbaden

19570301 Hans arrives in NY city from Germany. Came via TWA Plane

19570301 Hans Immigration visa to United States 1957

19570301 Hans In March 1957, Hans emigrated out of Germany to USA. He went by TWA plane, landing in Iceland for refueling, and finally landing in the USA in New York.

19570302 Hans His sponsor was Mr Mathew Bastian, of Chicago Illinois. So, from New York, Hans traveled via train to Chicago. ticket 2 march 1957

19570302 Hans takes train from NY city to Chicago IL. His sponsor was Mr Mathew Bastian, of Chicago Illinois

Hans-Ludwig Biography

- 19570303 Hans with Mr & Mrs Schott in Chicago 1957 Summer
- 19570401 Hans received a temporary Drivers License, and began to travel around the USA. He visited Tennessee, and Pennsylvania, and finally went to Daytona Florida. There he stayed with Mr and Mrs Westkamp. Hans became their chauffeur and general helper, while he learned English.
- 19570401 Hans receives temporary Driver's license
- 19570501 Hans on beach in Chicago along Lake Eire
- 19570601 Hans travels around US, including PA, Tenn, FL Daytona Florida. There he stayed with Mr and Mrs Westkamp. Hans became their chauffeur and general helper, while he learned English
- 19571018 -196211xx: Hans Aviation Fuels Specialist
- 19571018 Hans 18Oct-Nov1957 By November 1957, Hans was in AF basic training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas. He military number was 16589642 and he was in Squadron 375, Flight 1309.
- 19571018 Hans AF first performance report 18 October 1957
- 19571018 Hans at Lackland AFB San Antonio for Basic training, He military number was 16589642 and he was in Squadron 375, Flight 1309
- 19571018 Hans Date of Entry in United States Air Force Service: 18 October 1957
- 19571018 Hans Entered USAF Grade E1 fast track to E3 (Airman Basic, Airman, Airman First Class) signed up for 4 years
- 19571018 Hans Oct 1957-Aug 1962 Location: Lackland AFB, Mitchell Field and 7310th Materiel Squadron, Rhein Main AB Germany Position: Fuel Specialist
- 19571018 Hans October 1957 entry in US Air Force. Basic military training. OJT to the 5 level in 64350A Fuels Supply. Assigned to POL (petroleum, oil and lubricants) until 1962. Air Force directed retraining to the Precision Photo Processing Field in 1966. Technical school and OJT in this field and award of the 23490 AFSC (Air Force Specialty Code). Overseas assignments, 4 years in Germany, 3 years in England and 1 year in S.E.A. (South East Asia - Thailand).
- 1958: Hans married Helge on 1 November 1958 in Milwaukee Wisconsin USA
- 1958: Hans wedding
- 19580101 Hans After Basic training Hans was assigned to 128th Air Refueling Wing, General Mitchell Air National Guard Base, Milwaukee Wisconsin. Squadron 2473D ARFC
- 19580101 Hans is stationed to General Mitchell Air National Guard Base, Milwaukee Wisconsin. to 2373D ARFC Squadron
- 19580218: Hans received his GED on 18 February 1958.
- 19580301 Helga attends YWCA dance and meets Hans

- 19580301: Helga Meet Hans and courting, Dance march 1958 at YWCA, Milwaukee Wisc
- 19580324 Hans bought car in Milwaukee
- 19580424 Hans April, 24 1958 Hans bought a used Pontiac. Hans and Helga, together, began to explore the open road. In one trip they went to Niagara Falls and Montreal Canada.
- 19580701 Hans at Milwaukee Wisc AFB
- 19580901 Album The time frame is from September 1958 to December 1959 (or winter of 1959-1960).
- 19580901 Hans Date of Grade: Hans Airman first class AIC
- 19580901 Hans In September 1958, although Hans stayed in the barracks on base, somehow he became known as Hans Pörtner, and signed a lease along with Helga for an apartment in Milwaukee. They were not yet married. Therein lays a story.
- 19580901 Hans moved in with Helga into Apt in Milwaukee, 518 North 19th Street, Milwaukee Wisc
- 19580930 Hans bought Hunting license instead of Marriage License
- 19580930 Hans On 30 September 1958, Hans went to the Milwaukee County Clerk, with the intent of registering for a wedding. He was either so embarrassed or his English was still so inadequate, that he registered for a Small Game Hunting License instead. How this was remedied is a story lost to history.
- 19581001 Hans and Helga travel to Canada to visit By-By and go to Niagara falls
- 19581001: Hans and Helga Vacation Montreal Canada, Niagara Falls, Bye-Bye
- 19581101 Hans and Helga are married
- 19581101 Hans and Helga Marriage Certificate 1 November 1958
- 19581121 Hans GE - Germany FR for 36 months 1958Nov21 to 1962Nov20
- 19581121 Hans receives order to move to Rheine Mein AFB, Wiesbaden, West Germany
- 19581121 Hans Return to Germany in 1958
- 19581130 Hans leaves US through McQuire AFB NJ to Germany Rhein Main
- 1959: Hans Assignment Wiesbaden Germany
- 1961: Berlin wall and other sections are erected to define the Iron Curtain.
- 1961: Hans became US citizen
- 1962: Hans' Oma Gabriele v. Tresckow died 11 November 1962 in Wiesbaden
- 1969: Hans' Vater Hans Wilhelm Hermann Egon Tassilo died 18 January 1969 in Wiesbaden.
- 1992: Hans' aunt (Sister of his Vater) Gabriele Annie Sophie Helene died 11 December 1992 in Bad Reichenhall.
- D1350: Hans. The beginning or base of the trees are slightly different. The Schweinitz family either started in 1185 or 1350 or between or before. All



six versions of the Family tree have a base. But they do not all start the same. What is common to all six is that the family started with Hans (or Hanke, or Haucke or Hauke) in 1350.

D1841: Hans and Helga found a poster that is a chart of the 112 Silesian Nobles as of 14 September 1841. The complete poster is in the last section of this booklet. The Schweinitz Coat of Arms is located on chart, third to the right of the eagle. The caption on the bottom of the chart is "Abbildung des, ihrer Majestaet der Koenigin Elisabeth von Preussen, von 112 Schlesiens edelfrauen am 14 September 1841 zu Breslau, allerunterthaenigst ueberreichten wappenteppichs." Illustration of the her Majesty the Queen Elisabeth of Prussia, of 112 Silesian nobles on September 14th, 1841 in Breslau, as depicted on Coat of Arms."

The banner under the Schweinitz Coat of Arms states "Er ist unsere hülfe und Schild" which means "He is our help and shield". It is from the bible Psalm 33:20-22

D1899: Hans Aunt (Sister of his Vater) Sigrid Melitta born 19 September 1899 in Alt Raudten, died 10 October 1975 in Wiesbaden

D1901: Hans Wilhelm Hermann Egon Tassilovon Schweinitz (Opa) Born 21dec1901 died 18jan1969

D1901-1969 Wilhelm Hans von Schweinitz (Opa), Married to Sigrid Frelin von Zedlitz und Leipe, Ursula von Frankenberg-Lüttwitz, Veronica Oehmichen

D1902: Hans' mother Sigrid Freiin von Zedlitz und Leipe born 2dec1902, died 3sep1942. Buried in park on the so-called "temple mount".

D1908: Hans' aunt (Sister of his Vater) Gabriele Annie Sophie Helene born 25 April 1908 at Alt Raudten. Died 1992

D1919: Hans, in August. In August 1919, at the beginning of the Weimar Republic (1919–1933), Germany's first democratic constitution officially abolished royalty and nobility, and the respective legal privileges and immunities appertaining to an individual, a family or any heirs, but most were able to keep at least some of their estates, including castles, forests and large stretches of agricultural land. Former hereditary titles are permitted as part of the surname (e.g., the aristocratic particles von and zu), and these surnames can then be inherited by a person's children.

D1919: Treaty of Versailles in the final version of the Treaty of Versailles , Germany was required to give up all its colonies. [132] With the exception of German Southwest Africa, where some descendants of German settlers still live today (the German Namibians), all Germans were required to leave the colonies.

D1919-1933: German had the Weimar Republic, in 1933 Hitler came into power

D1927: Hans' Vater married Sigrid on 7 July 1927 in Könitz

D1928: Hans' sister Ingrid Sigrid born 3 April 1928 born to Sigrid

D1933: Hans Grand Oma Gabriele von Tresckow 1875-1962

D1933: Hans Grand Opa Hans Hermann Heinrich Wilhelm von Schweinitz 1871 to 1947

D1933: Hans Oma Sigrid von Zedlitz und Leipe 1902-1942

D1933: Hans Opa Hans Wilhelm Hermann Egon Tassilovon Schweinitz (Opa) 1901-1969

D1933: Hans Opa's Sister Gabriele Annie Sophie Helene 1908-1992

D1933: Hans Opa's Sister Sigrid Melitta 1899-1975

D1933-1945 : Nationalsozialismus

D1933-1945: Germany Nazi period Chancellor Adolf Hitler.

D1934: Hans On 2 August 1934 Hitler declared himself "Führer and Reichskanzler" and required all the military officers to resign. The Officers then joined the Wehrmacht and took the "Führereid (Hitler oath) where they swore an oath of allegiance and binding loyalty to Adolf Hitler himself.

"I swear to God this holy oath  
that I shall render unconditional obedience  
to the Leader of the German Reich and people,  
Adolf Hitler, supreme commander of the armed forces,  
and that as a brave soldier I shall at all times be prepared  
to give my life for this oath."

The difference is important: The officers were swearing allegiance to Hitler instead of the people, country, or constitution. If any officer made a statement in opposition to Hitler, that statement was treason. Any act that could be construed by Hitler as against his wishes, was treason.

D1934: Hans' Father born 21dec1901 was 33 years old

D1934: Hans' Mother sigrid was age 32 years old

D1934: Hans' Sister already 6-7 years old born in 1928

### **Time Line Helga**

1903: Helga Father was born. 1Jan

1904: Helga Mother was born. 12June

1927: Helga Father and Mother married 23 September

1928: Helga Rolf (oldest brother) born 26 June

1930: Helga Margret (oldest sister) born 10Sept

1936: Helga Rolf (oldest brother) dies 8 June

1937: Helga born 9 March

1938: Helga Diethard born 13 June

1939: Helga Oma Johanne Gößling came in July 1939 from American

1941: Helga Started of Kindergarten

1942: Helga Vacation at Steinhuder Meer near Hannover, rented cottage

1943: Helga Father left for basic training Military Service 11Mar

- 1943: Helga start Volksschule right after Easter Sunday
- 1944: Helga 7 November photo taken of Rennstraße Herford in ruins.
- 1944: Helga Father came home for Christmas
- 1944: Helga Lived in Onkel August's house with family, late Fall
- 1944: Helga Oma Johanne stayed in basement, instead of going to bunker, 15 October
- 1944: Helga Went to live with Tante Hanna in Shotmar/Bad Salzuflen, Summer
- 1945 Helga Gustav Gößling: It was not until this time after the war that we learned of Gustav's death 1944. Probably from the Red Cross.
- 1945: Helga 31 March last time sirens were used for Air Raid in Herford. 480 buildings completely destroyed, 2,380 buildings partially destroyed, 137 people dead.
- 1945: Helga Bomb went off in manure pile, spring
- 1945: Helga 16 to 20 May 1945 in the Herford area the American Liberators were replaced by British troops and the "der Britischen Besatzungszone" (British Occupation Zone) began.
- 1945: Helga 20 April 1945: Certification that house owned by American Gustav by Obergürgermeister
- 1945: Helga 22 Jan 1945: Official correspondence to Ella Portner from Reigierungspräsident
- 1945: Helga 3 & 4 April: American Liberation. American tanks come into Herford and the neighboring town of Bielefeld
- 1945: 30 April 1945 Hitler committed suicide.
- 1945: Helga American liberators and British Occupying forces arrived April-May in Herford
- 1945: Helga Father walked into back yard and came home, July
- 1945-1949: Helga In der Britischen Besatzungszone May 1945-May 1949 Herford
- 1946: Helga Father filling in forms. Had received letter (13 Aug 1946) where "They" were going to investigate his Nazi Party past. On 28 Nov 1946 received letter where "they" explained their findings (matched what Father had filled in on form) and also included that he had purchased material zzzzzzz look at pink letter more.
- 1946: Helga 25 April 1946 Certification that house owned by American Gustav again by Obergürgermeister
- 1946: Helga 26 Feb 1946: Denied war related damage retribution because house owned by Gustav in Milwaukee by Stadtkämmerer.
- 1946: Helga 26 Feb 1946: Official correspondence to Ruldof Portner from Reigierungspräsident
- 1947: Helga Espelkamp children summer camp, meet Christel Schuppener
- 1947: Helga Oma Johanne Gößling went back in to America April 1947
- 1947: Helga Teacher Miss Düwel convinced parents about Gymnasium

- 1948 Helga Spring first year of Gymn is "Sexta B" photo  
1948: Helga enter Gymnasium school time Spring  
1948: Helga Aug "Spielgemeinschaft" play group would put on plays, skits, and also just paly together.  
1949: Helga "Kinderheim" vacation summer health camp in Langeoog Island in North Sea  
1950: Helga Renate (youngest sister) born 7 August  
1951: Helga Confirmation in church  
1951: Helga School day trip to Porta Westfalica  
1951: Helga With Otto Wagenpfeil nach Würzburg und Regensburg in 1951  
1952 Helga Enterance ticket to Landestheater Detmold 2.4.1952  
1952 Helga Priwall camp on Baltic See  
1952/1953: Helga Youth hostel pass  
1953 Helga June Gymnasium class photo UIIb  
1953: Helga Bicycle trip through the Lüneburg Heath with Hella, AnneMarthe, Gisela  
1953: Helga Mother dying on 1 July 1953 in Herford  
1953: Helga traffic ticket for crossing at red light in Hamburg 19Aug1953  
1954/1955: Helga Hitchhiking trip with Ilse Peemüller  
1954: Helga Margret gets married to Hans-Gerd Bruhn 3 Dec  
1955 Helga Summer, Anne-Marthe Schröder, Wolf-Dieter and I were heavily into camp fire poetry.  
1955: Helga school trip to Marburg  
1956 Helga Excuse from Dr Werner for back injury from basketball  
1956 Helga Took evening courses to add knowledge not taught in school, on currency stability.  
1956 Helga Trip to Bonn. As president of Student Council took trip to Bonn with other student presidents to protest against what Minister Kaiser had said.  
1956: Helga June Trip to Sportsfestival in Leipzig in "east" Germany  
1956: Helga Margret has Andreas  
1957 Helga Tarquinia Italy, Villa with group of British artists  
1957 Helga Arbitur  
1957 Helga Arbitursball, escort was Herr Huber  
1957 Helga Last Gymn class photo OIb  
1957 Helga on 1Feb1957 wrote to Amerikanische Konsulat requesting forms to emigrate to USA.  
1957 Helga on 22Mar1957 Father wrote a letter of reference agreeing to Helga emigrating to USA.  
1957 Helga took ship "Italia" to America  
1957 Helga Youth Hostel pass



- 1957: Helga Letter admitting Helga in to the Abitur, final exam for Gymn dated 7Feb1957
- 1957: Helga by Oct/Nov was in Milwaukee
- 1957: Helga Meet Hans and courting
- 1957: Helga University
- 19570201 Helga on 1Feb1957 wrote to Amerikanische Konsulat requesting forms to emigrate to USA.
- 19570201 Helga writes to Amerikanische Konsulat requesting forms to emigrate to USA.
- 19570301 -1958 Album Wisconsin, March 1957-Oct1958 FL, PA, Wisconsin, HH courtship
- 19570308 Helga Abitur 8 March 1957
- 19570308 Helga graduates from Gymnasium with Abitur, Herford West Germany
- 19570322 Helga on 22Mar1957 Father wrote a letter of reference agreeing to Helga emigrating to USA.
- 19570322 Helga's father writes letter of reference agreeing that Helga has his permission to emigrate to USA.
- 19570401 Helga enters University Bedefeld
- 19570401: Helga University Beidfeld
- 19571101 Helga boards liner "Italia" from Bremerhaven West Germany for New York City US
- 19571101 Helga took ship "Italia" to America, November 1957
- 19571107 Helga emigrates to US, and enters New York City, then takes train to Milwaukee Wisc to stay with relatives
- 19571107 Helga Immigration documents to United States 7 November 1957
- 19571108 Helga by mid Nov was in Milwaukee
- 1958: Helga Wedding
- 19580101 Helga moves to YWCA in Milwaukee Wisc, and takes on various jobs. 626 North Fashion Street, YWCA Residence, Milwaukee Wisc.
- 19580301 Helga attends YWCA dance and meets Hans
- 19580301: Helga Meet Hans and courting, Dance march 1958 at YWCA, Milwaukee Wisc
- 19580901 Album The time frame is from September 1958 to December 1959 (or winter of 1959-1960).
- 19581201 Helga Return to Germany in 1958
- 19581215 Helga leaves for West Germany

## **Tales**

DT1185: Hans. Family The beginning or base of the trees are slightly different.

The Schweinitz family either started in 1185 or 1350 or between or before.

All six versions of the Family tree have a base. But they do not all start the same. What is common to all six is that the family started with Hans (or Hanke, or Haucke or Hauke) in 1350.

DT1210: Hans. In the middle of a jungle swamp area, the first documented

settlement took place here around 1210. The venerable building was built on a grid of huge oak piles by the provincial governor Count von Nostitz.

When it is unknown. From this it passed to a Baron von Sack

DT1290: Hans Family. Early family name “Suentexas” mentioned in

documentation. Came into Silesia area over 600 years ago as settlers.

Eventually name became “Schweidnitz” and grew to over 160 estates in Silesia. Land was fallow and had to be cleared. Over time built churches in Seifersdorf, Friedenskirche in Jauer, and in Schweidnitz. Silesia sometimes belonged to Prussia, sometimes Poland, sometimes to Bohemia and Austria, and sometimes to Germany.

DT1688-1772: Hans. Anna Maria von Sack married Ludwig von Schweinitz, and

through this marriage Alt Raudten went from the von Sack family into the Klein Krichen branch of the von Schweinitz Family.

DT1776: Hans. Alt Raudten became part of the von Schweinitz family by

inheritance to Ludwig “Rath” von Schweinitz (1723-1786). The garden laid

out here by Baron von Sack and its venerable, old trees, cascades and

fountains will certainly be carefully cared for and preserved by the piety of

the subsequent owners at all times. The 56-acre park was famous and a must

see. According to the French pattern, it was hewn out of the jungle and

ended at the more than 1000-year-old grandmother's oak, which still had

green branches until 1945, but still today? Favored by the marshy jungle

soil, a tree growth thrived here, as seldom; an avenue of spruce trees over 40

meters high, some of 11 solid meters, gave the impression of being in a

cathedral.

DT1790-1875: Hans. Between 1790-1875, the Klein Krichen branch was divided

into three branches, one being Alt Raudten.

DT1835: Hans. The Alt Raudten branch of the Klein Krichen main branch began

with the second born son of Ludwig von Schweinitz (1790-1875),

“Hermann” Hans von Schweinitz (1835-1887). Herman was the first son to

born at Bielwiese on 13 August 1835 and died at Alt Raudten on 8 October

1887. Still need to research how Herman Hans received the estate of Alt

Raudten and when. Hermann’s first born son, Hans Hermann Heinrich

“Wilhelm” von Schweinitz was born 17 March 1871 in Bielwiese and died

on 22 June 1947 in Wiesbaden. “Wilhelm” inherited Alt Raudten from his

dad “Hermann”. On 1 October 1897, “Wilhelm” married Gariele von

Tresckow (Born 4 March 1875, died 11 November 1962) and later passed the estate on to his first born son "Hans" Wilhelm Hermann Egon Tassilo von Schweinitz born 21 December 1901 in Alt Raudten and died 18 January 1969 in Wiesbaden. On 7 July 1927 "Hans" married Sigrid Freiin von Zedlitz und Leipe (born 12 February 1902, died 3 September 1942) and on 26 October 1934 they had "Hans" Ludwig von Schweinitz (died 2015 in USA). In January 1945 the von Schweinitz family had to flee and abandon Alt Raudten. At that time the family included: "Hans" Ludwig (11 years old), Vater "Hans" Wilhelm Hermann Egon Tassilo, Mutti Sigrid had died in 1942, GrandPapa Hans "Hermann" Heinrich Wilhelm, GrandMutti Gabriele v. Trisckow, and many other aunts and uncles.

DT1919: Hans, in August. In August 1919, at the beginning of the Weimar Republic (1919–1933), Germany's first democratic constitution officially abolished royalty and nobility, and the respective legal privileges and immunities appertaining to an individual, a family or any heirs, but most were able to keep at least some of their estates, including castles, forests and large stretches of agricultural land. Former hereditary titles are permitted as part of the surname (e.g., the aristocratic particles von and zu), and these surnames can then be inherited by a person's children.

DT1920: Hans. At the end of the 1920s, as a result of the world crisis, the von Schweinitz estate decreased significantly.

DT1933: Hans And how did one become to own an estate or to become a land owner? How did your family reach that status?

Usually the way became land owners, they bought land which was called especially some of the swamp areas in Eastern Europe. Which of the before Germany even existed was considered worthless land and they could buy it from they bought it for very little, just like people here in Texas bought land for 20-30 dollars an acre. They bought the land, they came, they. Came from northern Italy and had some money and. They moved as a group. Into that area and bought land, and then they cultivated the land, drained it. It will swamp areas. And made it useful, which was not.

Part of the knowledge of the local people, just like here in Texas, some of the land now is being used. The agriculture was never before used for agriculture. Farming or any other use? So they had the knowledge and they took advantage of the knowledge and established themselves, found 3-4 hundred years. So we're very well off, always supported whoever was ruling. Area where the Austrian Hungarian empire. The Prussian empire. And then later on came. The emperors and the Kings, they always supported whoever was the ruler and they supplied. The list of personnel and the and armies, and they gave military support.

DT1933: Hans And the system was set up on the estate that. You could not get a mortgage, you could only live off the net income. In other words, if we deliver, Purdue had no in net income they had, they could not get a loan, it was impossible. Put it at debt on the property.

So what they were doing. When they no longer when they were partying, a lot, loss of knowledge. To efficiently manage. The agriculture and livestock. We would hire somebody, but then. Family members who would party and have hunts. And parties and travel.

Then they would. Lease out the land. Lease it to the government or large corporations and just collect that money, which of course if large corporations. They don't care. Take care of the land. They go to a single crop. They leach out the land, they don't care well the way.

The owners take care of the land they used for crop rotation. Let the land rest recover. They don't just plant cut. No, just potatoes or then the land becomes useless after.

DT1933: Hans Any family member allowed to stay, always have a home

DT1933: Hans estate grew potatoes (pig feed and food), sugar beets (cash crop), and corn (animal feed). Corn used whole plant cut up a silage.

DT1933: Hans estate, ground is heavy with iron, water is tinted red.

DT1933: Hans Field with clay, high heat tiles/ceramics later good for superconductors.

DT1933: Hans Fields heavy deep black soil, engines on side, plow on rope/chains. Grew Potatoes, beets, and corn. Corn for animals.

DT1933: Hans Fish pond

DT1933: Hans hill of clay and sand – ceramic, high heat, never minded

DT1933: Hans Self sufficient

DT1933: Hans So they were living off the income of the land they had leased out. And that worked for a while. But then, after the First World War. Through Messiah treaties. They were allowed to take on mortgages again. And get money so their mortgage to land. Eventually they couldn't make the mortgage payments and the property was foreclosed and the family lost the estate, which was later repurchased by my father before my birth in 1934.

DT1933: Hans So when you were growing up, who all lived in your family home?

00:08:22 Speaker 1(Hans): In our home. The system was set up that way that any family member had the right to live in that estate. In other words, if some of the previous generations as a family members moved out. Through marriage and husband died away. Or somebody could move back. It was multi generation and also several members of the families. Frequently moved back because they lost the husband. Or their wives. And they moved back on the estate.

And then when they again, when they were able to. Move away or by



themselves property or land and move it away. And also the first born son usually inherited the estate. And the other members of the family children, usually the children. Families at that time had 10 or more children. And the sons. When they were not. Part of the estate. They would become officers in the military. And they remain that way or they go and they became politically active, they became.

DT1933: Hans Who lost estate Opa Wilhelm or grand opa wilhelm?

DT1934: Hans 00:13:35 Speaker 2(Aditi): So what did the family do in between the years that they lost the estate and repurchased it?

00:13:47 Speaker 1(Hans): My father had a pretty good training. University training in business. He was managing. In other states. He got into investments. Hauling coal on the auto river. He made some money on the stock market. He married money. And then he repurchased the estate family estate in the early 30s.

00:14:30 Speaker 2(Aditi): So would you call him a self-made man?

00:14:38 Speaker 1(Hans): Uh, that's a pretty restrictive name. He had help. Self-made the American definition of self-made is somebody who had did everything of himself. He had help.

00:14:58 Speaker 2(Aditi): What was your father's name?

00:15:01 Speaker 1(Hans): Hans Wilhelm Tassilo.

DT1934: Hans was born on October 26, 1934, in Liegnitz, Germany, in the province of Silesia (Schlesien). His father was Hans Wilhelm von Schweinitz, his mother was nee Sigrid Freiin von Zedlitz-und-Leipe. He had a happy childhood living on the ancestral estate Schloss Alt-Raudten, but his mother died when he was eight years old.

DT1934: Hans. On October 26th 1934, joy went through the estate of a wealthy land baron in Silesia; because, his wife had given birth to her first son and the continuation of the family seemed to be secured. I was this boy, who was expected to carry on the tradition and take the responsibility to manage the estate which had been a family possession for over five centuries.

DT1934-42: Hans Oh, I grew up on a family estate. The family was for years very successful in. Cultivating land, which was considered useless.

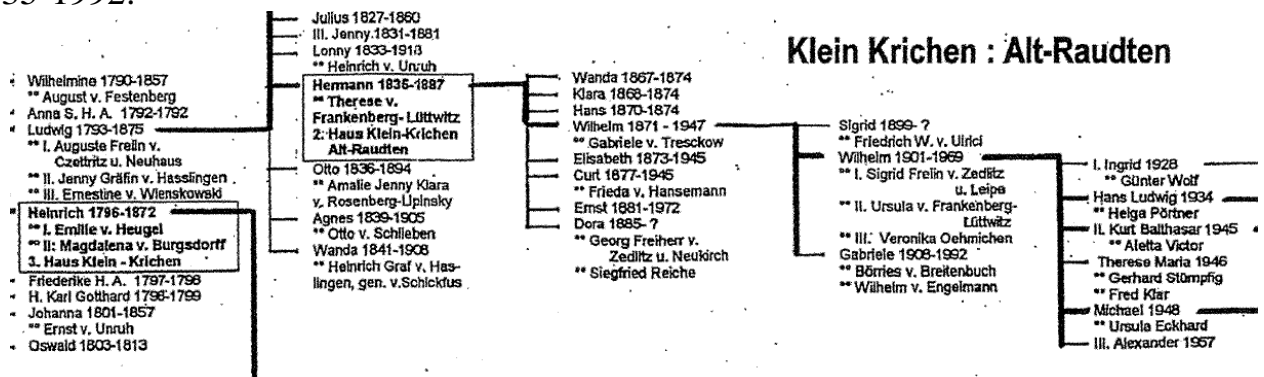
Especially in the. Oder Valley, which was swamp areas. They drained the swamp lands. They were trained in growing crops. And animals, livestock. And instead of having small potatoes, they would grow small. Beets, they would grow larger ones. Of course, potatoes didn't come to that area. Till in the 17th, 18th century, before it was primarily corn. And grains growing there and we're very successful.

The farmers became very jealous and that could not compete and so eventually they started to work for these estates. Which the owners were trained in growing their agricultural products using. Planting different types

of crops, diversifying, not growing, just one type of crop, but they always have something. Grown like like sugar beets when there was an overproduction of sugar beets, they would have. Other types of crops, or if there was an overage of of cattle or an overage of uh sheep or. The result diversified that there were very little affected by droughts or. Crop or single type of income that's so diversified, but they were cash poor. Were totally self-sufficient. Most of these big estates.

DT1934-42: Hans The people in the estate were. Of course it was a was a family. We usually 3-4 generation homes. And then the farm workers were attracted. To work on the estate and on these large estates. Of course they were the supporting. And Craftsman like blacksmith. Whether they're all. Part came under the control of the estate owners. And it attracted more and more of these people who could not. Make a living on their own, but it was a lot of people were business with themselves. They were not dependent on employment, they were dependent on whatever they were producing. So on the estate, was your family responsible for looking after the people? Yes, very much. There was no retirement system. There was no Social Security and there was no health care. The family was responsible for them from birth. Till they died, when they became old. They were doing work, whichever they could do. There was no 48 hour week. But they would get allowances. Which called deputat. They would get farm products like they would get a pig. Or they will get so many bushels of potatoes or. They would get enough to get paid very much cash. But there was no retirement system. There was no pension. All this wasn't established. Till on the Bismarck later on in Europe. And that was 1850 or. Before that, there was no such thing as Social Security or health care, or. So all the medical, all the retirement and everything, they were totally dependent on the estates on their family.

DT1835-1992:



T1933: Hans Downstairs Easy access for children

T1933: Hans Estate prior 1934

T1933: Hans Great hall heating for winter parties

T1933: Hans Kitchens cooking for holidays, extra for village

T1933: Hans Leave food on serving dish. No real reffridgeration, leftovers danger

T1933: Hans Park open to public on Sunday

T1933: Hans PHoto parlor room in Alt Raudten

T1933: Hans Pigs and pig breeding

T1933: Hans potatoes, fields black earth, deep, no tractors, steam engine on side, pullies for plow, hand 24/7 harvest, bomfires

T1933: Hans size of estate, items from Alt Raudten compendium

T1933: Hans Sold old oak trees to raise funds

T1933: Hans Storage in basements below kitchen

T1933: Hans village, railroad station

T1933: Hans what are sugar beets

T1934-41: Hans had playmate Heinrich. He was from Africa, German colony that was lost because of WWI and the treaty of Versailles. Germany lost all African colonies (six principal) except for German South-West Africa (now Namibia) and lost all areas under German control. In Namibia, only half the settlers were allowed to stay.

T1934-42: Hans Lots of trips with mother Sigrid

T1934-42: Hans Playmate from Africa because Germany lost colony

T1934-42: Hans Relationship with Mother

T1934-42: Hans Trips with Mother

DT1934-42: Hans Up to the age of 7 years my childhood was happy and carefree with a great amount of freedom to ideas and action.

T1934-45: Hans 00:14:58 Speaker 2(Aditi): What was your father's name?

00:15:01 Speaker 1(Hans): Hans Wilhelm Tassilo.

00:15:04 Speaker 2(Aditi): And when and where was he born?

00:15:07 Speaker 1(Hans): He was born same place he was born on the estate. As far as I remember.

00:15:15 Speaker 2(Aditi): And what are your memories of him as when you were growing up? What are your memories of the man he was? What kind of a father was he?

00:15:28 Speaker 1(Hans): He was very strict. And without his. Training and all that. So I would have not succeeded.

00:15:46 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did he spend a lot of time with you?

00:15:51 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, that's relative because we did spend time together after the war, considerable time. Before the war, he was busy managing the estates and I had my weak kids were playing. We're pretty much on our own. The interaction with adults was very. We children were not allowed to dominate adult life.

T1934-45: Hans 00:16:23 Speaker 2(Aditi): What was your mother's name?

00:16:26 Speaker 1(Hans): Secret Ingeborg frying potatoes or glipper?

00:16:33 Speaker 2(Aditi): And when and where was she born?

00:16:40 Speaker 1(Hans): She was born. I have it somewhere. It says it slipped my mind.

00:16:47 Speaker 2(Aditi): OK. Do you remember much about her parents, your grandparents from your mother's side?

00:16:54 Speaker 1(Hans): Oh yes, I used to. They had lived in England. They came back from England. My mother's grandparents. Grandmother was not of nobility. And he left and went to England and lived in England. And then they came back from England. After the nobility was abolished after her First World War. Then he grandfather became very successful in training. Hunting ammunition and also a margarine. And he built another banner house, some not far from US, where we lived.

I knew the grandmother. She was quite well off, she. Was one of the major stockholders in the block. Family is some of them are ceramics. Which later on became famous for missile nose cones.

When she was quite wealthy and I knew her with her very well and I knew my grandfather very well, we used to spend vacations with them.

00:18:30 Speaker 2(Aditi): What sort of a woman was your mother? What sort of relationship did you share with her?

00:18:35 Speaker 1(Hans): A very, very close relationship I would. Always, always bring her flowers and. In a very close relationship with her.

00:18:46 Speaker 2(Aditi): Were there things you did together?

00:18:48 Speaker 1(Hans): Yes, we would travel together.

00:18:54 Speaker 2(Aditi): Where all did you go?

00:18:57 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, we went to. Capital at that time, we went to the Circus Bush circus. There we went to other states. Together we went to. To hunts together and.

00:19:20 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did she hunt?

00:19:23 Speaker 1(Hans): And she was also she was taking care of poultry. She taught me how to cut off the head of the chickens, chop off the head up and let the chickens run around like headless.

00:19:37 Speaker 2(Aditi): You must have been very young at that point.

00:19:40 Speaker 1(Hans): About 4-5 years.

T1934-45: Hans 6<sup>th</sup> december st nicholos, gifts in winter boot, dried fruit, fruit, candy, nuts, small gift

T1934-45: Hans Bedroom on 2nd floor in corner

T1934-45: Hans chestnuts nuts good for ammo in sling shot.

T1934-45: Hans Christmas sparkles

T1934-45: Hans Christmas tree with candles and tinsel

T1934-45: Hans estate park open to public on Sundays. They came in from back entrance arch.



T1934-45: Hans Hans's life experiences are something everyone reads in books about Germany and the horrible wars and atrocities associated with that country. Hans grew up in nobility while living in large manor homes with moats around some of them. While growing up Hans was sent to a boarding school operated by Arians (pre-Hitler Youth). "I had to kneel before Hitler's picture on my knees and promise I would not wet the bed"<sup>8</sup>, Hans told me.

T1934-45: Hans Learning from Opa,

T1934-45: Hans Mother Would you say you were closer to your mother than you were to your father? Did your mother like to cook?

00:19:57 Speaker 1(Hans): Yes, she was in charge. Of all the cooking. All the preservatives, there were no canning at that time. They were preservatives with the jars we would pickle and smoke. And freeze or with packing ice salt. Because of the cold and severe winters in this area, we've always had. Food reserves for sometimes for a year or more. And they would do all these things. Like a cabbage and. Fruit would be put in jars with the rubber band in the rubber around it. Preserved and and honey and. So very little was bought. Most of it was produced on the estates itself. Very few things were bought.

If the shoes were made the. Taylors came to the house. Shoes were made. Sweaters were knitted. Then the rule used again. So there was very little purchasing going on. All of us are all self-sufficient, self supporting. And there was still till. The end of the war.

T1934-45: Hans out in fields with farm horses and workers

T1934-45: Hans pig farmers, going around with them

T1934-45: Hans Relationship with father

T1934-45: Hans room was towards the front overlooking the moot and what was the draw bridge. On right upper floor. Crest over front entrance.

DT1934-45: Hans Stara Rudna used to have its own church, which was a Catholic temple, later an Evangelical one. It was built before 1500 and rebuilt in the early 17th century. Oriented, single-nave with a three-sided separated presbytery. The interior is covered with barrel vaults with lunettes. On the walls preserved tombstones from the early 15th century. It is located on a clear hill, surrounded by the remains of a wall and a still legible cemetery from before 1945. Today, no longer used, it shows the state of preservation. only slightly better than the palace.

T1934-45: Hans Toys in a little box. We had, for example, we had these little blocks you could set together, you know, make different pictures. You had yo-yo. We have sweatshops. Trade Center already out because of the steel for the spring. Was not rarely available, they were usually broke. But we had a lot of homemade choice. How can I explain that? We used to take a piece

of wood. And hollowed it out. And then they had this like from a. Bicycle pump that that slide the handle. And we put. Wet it down. Newspaper or something in there? Stuffed it down so that will sit long and stuffed it down to the end. And then the second one behind it and then pumped it and popped out so further. It was kind of a fun thing we used to play with.

00:40:55 Speaker 2(Phillip) Kind of like those cork pop guns that they have now. OK, so homemade pop guns.

00:41:03 Speaker 1(Hans) And then we have slingshots. We use it. We also had. Would love to have them. Practice them. We have marbles.

00:41:18 Speaker 2(Phillip) That's what I was getting ready to ask. If you had marbles. Business I played, I played marbles as a child too.

00:41:21 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh, yeah, that was. We've been playing it a different way, they. They played here in the states.

00:41:27 Speaker 2(Phillip) Oh, I'm sure you did.

00:41:28 Speaker 1(Hans) A different way we used to have a little shoe box and hole in that is 5. Especially Big Blue marble over this whole. You got one that's flew there, you know, you could collect it and the other collection later you could. Where you have. To get close to it was shoot in. A certain direction. Of course, that was. Slingshots. Let's see what? Bow and the air. We will make ourselves. Of course a.

00:42:20 Speaker 3(Helga) Not at that time.

00:42:21 Speaker 1(Hans) If we had that ring, we would run in the street after.

00:42:26 Speaker 2(Phillip) Oh yeah, is that the one you chased with the OR you? You lead with a stick, OK? Yeah, I know what you're talking about. They they used to, they used to play that in in the 20s, in the in the Chicago well in the 20s, in the states the you'd always see the kids rolling the. The steel ring with.

00:42:51 Speaker 1(Hans) That's on the bicycle Rivers reports for the.

00:42:54 Speaker 3(Helga) And these little things. That's well around real fast you have.

00:42:58 Speaker 2(Phillip) It that would be the top, yeah.

00:43:02 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, we had that in there. It's something very, very special was if you had a teddy bear because that was an American thing.

00:43:12 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh Oh yeah.

00:43:12 Speaker 3(Helga) And although a German company style made rocking horse. And all the teddy bears have little. Button in the ear button ear.

00:43:24 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, this came after the war. Of the nickis. Like we have up there.

00:43:30 Speaker 3(Helga) Or Mickey and Nick Mickey. Yeah, but the Kitty bed, Charlie.

00:43:36 Speaker 1(Hans) We have some of these old clothes.

00:43:40 Speaker 2(Phillip) Did you have a teddy bear as a child? A rocking horse or a rocking.

00:43:47 Speaker 1(Hans) Yeah, parking horse.

00:43:49 Speaker 2(Phillip) Rocking horse spring loaded? Or was it the? Just a normal wooden rocking.

00:43:56 Speaker 1(Hans) Bicycles. We had a little. Little little car pedal cars. Of course we had building blocks made out of box with building blocks that could build things.

T1934-45: Hans Toys Tell me some of the things you did for entertainment games you played.

00:22:55 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, we didn't have uh uh. Nintendo or that that then sure, one of the most prized toys we had was. A pocket knife. And a long string. And that was about it, that the toys I had would fit in the shoebox.

00:23:24 Speaker 2(Aditi): And how did those three things get you into trouble?

00:23:29 Speaker 1(Hans): Of multiple troubles we would we would chalk or something we would use with hopscotch, we play. Strings, we we would you know. The slingshots we use to harass the girls. Take a tomato and shoot it on their \*\*\*\*. Take them jump.

00:24:00 Speaker 2(Aditi): Would they tell on you? Would they tell on you to their mothers?

00:24:04 Speaker 1(Hans): What good would that do? The parents are not interfere with the kids problem we had. Establish our own. Authority or pecking order.

T1934-45: Hans toys, string and piece of wood, making own toys

T1934-45: Hans walking in woods with stories

T1934-45: Hans walks through the park, over bridges, follies (diane), paths shape of "Goose claws", massive oaks and Chestnut trees. Learned about nature, mushrooms, flowers, nuts and trees. Footpaths markers were made of stone.

DT1934-45: Hans was born in October 1934, into a world of privilege and upper class social standing. He lived with his family in a Manor house big enough to be considered a castle, it even had a moot and drawbridge. In 1934, the Manor house was surrounded by an estate that was then in Silesia portion of Poland. This section of Poland would sometimes become part of the Germany Empire and sometimes become Poland, as history documented. Many famous Germans came from this very region, such as Wernher von Braun, Richard Wagner, and Johann Sebastian Bach. Not only were both his

parents in the Manor, but lots of other family members. There were always aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents around. There was also a large house staff to care for the family's needs. Hans even had his own nanny. He lived in this environment for the first 11 years of his life, and his experiences influenced his outlook greatly. Especially when he added what happened in his 8th year. His mother died from influenza. Then in his 11th year (early 1945), the whole family was forced out of the manor house with only a few hours warning, and they had to flee West.

T1934-45: Hans was there a sick room in manor house

T1934-45: Hans Were they friends of the family? Were there people on the estate?

00:24:29 Speaker 1(Hans): I was very much restricted. I was actually not allowed to play. With the children of the farmhands.

00:24:38 Speaker 2(Aditi): And why is that?

00:24:39 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, there was a separation of. The Society I always had playmates. Which would be. Uh, living on the estate sometimes where children from the cities. Who were evacuated because of the bombing. Raids on the cities.

And then they were my playmate. For a while I had one from. East Africa, there was a colony in East Africa and one of the the East Africa was lost. One of their sons was my playmate for a while.

Then my niece was playmate because her husband, her father, had, uh, committed suicide. Uh, so she was my playmate, so we always had. I always had playmates who lived in the same house. Which we are of the same social. Class, but none of the working class.

T1934-45: Hans Who are the oldest people you can remember in your family when you were growing up?

00:10:22 Speaker 1(Hans): The oldest members. Grandparents, great grandparents.

00:10:33 Speaker 2(Aditi): Was this your father's parents or your mother's parents?

00:10:37 Speaker 1(Hans): On both sides.

00:10:39 Speaker 2(Aditi): Uh-huh. Can you tell me a little bit about your father's parents? What can you remember about them? Your father's parents? Your.

00:10:46 Speaker 1(Hans): Grandparents oh, I knew my father's parents very well. I was very close to my grandfather, my father's father, very close to him. He's the one who. Because of a high living standard, he had maintained his my grandmother had uh grown up on a lower court. And she was used to parties and hunting.



T1934-45: Hans. Anne von Tresckow, cousin, her father was Henning von Tresckow who masterminded the 20 July 1944 assassination plot against Hitler “Valkyrie”. She was at estate for save keeping from 1939 to 1945.

T1934-57: Hans Do you have any brothers and sisters?

00:21:44 Speaker 1(Hans): A whole bunch of.

00:21:46 Speaker 2(Aditi): Tell me a little bit about them.

00:21:49 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, I have one sister from the first marriage. I have two brothers and one sister. From the second marriage, my father married my nanny. Also, was his golf colt at Godchild? My mother died in 1942. He, me and my father Raymer in 1944. There were three children. My half brother. And half sister live in Germany and another half brother lives in South Africa.

00:22:31 Speaker 2(Aditi): And what about your sister?

00:22:33 Speaker 1(Hans): My sister also lives in Germany. My sister from the first marriage.

T1939: Hans had first love at 5 years. Who? Nanny? Got woody, did not know what to do.

T1940: Hans about having appendix age 6

T1940: Hans Delayed schooling until age 7 in 1941

T1940: Hans Hans was to start his schooling in 1940, his sixth year, but he suffered from a burst appendix. In 1940, this was a serious medical condition and because there was no penicillin yet, the recovery was lengthy. Hans did not start his schooling until 1941.

T1940: Hans Who was Nanny during appendicitis

T1940-45: Hans Alter boy and extinguished candles

T1940-45: Hans Sang in choir at church

T1941: Germany (Hitler) had signed a non-aggression agreement with Soviet Union, Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. On 1 September 1939 Germany invaded Poland , starting World War II . On 17 September, the Soviet Union invaded Eastern Poland , and, as a result, Poland was partitioned among Germany, the Soviet Union and Lithuania. But on 22 June 1941, Operations Barbarossa, Hitler invaded Soviet Union in violation of pack. From 1941 to 1943, the eastern front was centered on Belgorod in the Ukraine with German movement toward Stalingrad. By Aug 1943 to December 1944 the Germans were pushed back and Soviet Union now occupied Lithuania, Ukraine, Hungary, Rumania, and bulgaria. The Russians were moving fast and were not far from Breslau Poland which was near Alt Raudten. From Jan 1945 to May 1945, the Russian now had “eastern” Germany, Berlin, Poland, East Prussia, Czechoslovakie, and Austria.

T1941: Hans The estate was in financial difficulty and there was no money for tutors, so Hans went to the local village school. This was difficult for Hans

because he was the odd kid. The other kids were all village boys and already had their friendship groups, and Hans was the boy from the Manor house. Stories of Hans' difficulties in school are included in Hans' biography.

T1941-45: Hans And but I did go to public schools, and it was one of the first generations who went to public school. We always had house teachers. And at the age of 10, we still left the homes. And which send to boarding schools? Or cadet schools, military schools, the boys girls went to boarding schools.

00:26:10 Speaker 2(Aditi): So that must have been a big change for you to leave your home and go to school.

00:26:16 Speaker 1(Hans): That was a big change because there were socialists and and and. Commons trends and of course a lot of opposition against the wealthy and rich families. So I was, I really had to defend myself against the kids. In the village because they hated the ruling families and the children of the ruling families. So it was an outsider there.

00:26:44 Speaker 2(Aditi): But there must have been other people from your class, that socioeconomic class. In school or no? They were getting house tutored.

00:26:56 Speaker 1(Hans): No, we were the only land owners in that village.

00:26:59 Speaker 2(Aditi): I see. I see.

00:27:00 Speaker 1(Hans): And I was the only boy.

00:27:03 Speaker 2(Aditi): Now, you said traditionally children of your house would be tutored at home. How did that come to change in your childhood? Why were you sent to school?

00:27:18 Speaker 1(Hans): A I think it was a. An economic thing. Part of the war. That you could no longer afford a house teacher or tutor. Like Butters were no longer we no longer. We had no Butler, but we had three or four house girls. It was, I think, more of an economic thing.

00:28:02 Speaker 2(Aditi): Now, when you were in school, what was it? A1 room, schoolhouse. Or were there different classes, classes for different ages?

00:28:11 Speaker 1(Hans): It was a wonderful room schoolhouse. Eight classes and one. And one the teacher taught all eight classes at the same time.

00:28:24 Speaker 2(Aditi): So how Young was the youngest child at that point?

00:28:27 Speaker 1(Hans): We started school at the age of 6.

00:28:30 Speaker 2(Aditi): And the oldest.

00:28:32 Speaker 1(Hans): The oldest you know the figure 14.

00:28:35 Speaker 2(Aditi): And everyone was in the same class learning the

same thing.

00:28:39 Speaker 1(Hans): Yes, not the same thing you see, there were.

00:28:41 Speaker 2(Aditi): OK.

00:28:43 Speaker 1(Hans): The teachers were trained in such a way that they. See the way the schools were structured at that time. You had four years of grammar school. And then you started high school. After the first four years, which was usually when we enter into into a boarding school now in the villages, you had eight two. Grammar school, which was at a high school, was first eight years. If you did not switch it at 4th grade, it couldn't switch anymore.

You didn't have any foreign languages, you just learned the basics. So that's the basic schooling and that's what was in the villages. The high schools were only. Available in the cities and boarding schools.

00:29:43 Speaker 2(Aditi): So what was your favorite subject in school? Was that unusual? Not many children like mathematics.

00:29:56 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, it was very much supported because your seating order in the school was established by how fast you learned the. Multiplication tables and the divisions we had only two or three hours of school, restless homework. Two students were on their own and then free to play that they have to make the homework.

A lot of it was committed to memory. We had to a lot of things we had to memorize poems, songs. The education system was extremely solid.

00:30:40 Speaker 2(Aditi): So how did you? Being the sort of unpopular child in school because you were. Of a higher class? How did you deal with that?

00:30:55 Speaker 1(Hans): It was extremely difficult because I'd had to sneak my way home. I was chased. With the children and made the fun out of it to chase me. Home from school. I found ways to establish myself. Like if I catch them along, you know, go after them or. I started to develop all kinds of tricks. Like they found their coat in the toilet where they found their pockets. Full of dog ship \*\*\*\*\*.

I've developed all kinds of tricks to get even with them. So eventually they laid off. And then eventually I would make friends with the biggest bully who usually was the most stupid and did his homework. So he went to bat for me.

00:32:10 Speaker 2(Aditi): Are you in touch with any of these childhood friends?

00:32:13 Speaker 1(Hans): Now then, most of them passed away. And no, I have one friend I've known for over 50 years, but none of my went to school with none of them. Because they're all are scattered all over the world. After the war.

- 00:32:34 Speaker 2(Aditi): How did you get to and from school? Walk was there. You walk and what?
- 00:32:41 Speaker 1(Hans): Running running because the other kids were chasing me. Made fun of her.
- 00:32:48 Speaker 2(Aditi): And what distance was it?
- 00:32:54 Speaker 1(Hans): Maybe a mile.
- T1941-45: Hans Anne was relation to Henning von Tresckow. By September 1941, he was disillusioned with Nazi and Hitler and was in contact with opposition groups, planning to overthrow the government (coup) and remove/eliminate Hitler. Tresckow was Chief of Staff of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army. He masterminded the 1943 March and 1944 July attempts against Hitler.
- T1941-45: Hans Bought friendship with candy
- T1941-45: Hans Glued teachers trousers
- T1941-45: Hans hunting parties and other activities on estate
- T1941-45: Hans in public school in village
- T1941-45: Hans Teased in school
- T1941-45: Hans Train stone
- T1941-45: Hans While growing up Hans was sent to a boarding school operated by Arians (pre-Hitler Youth). "I had to kneel before Hitler's picture on my knees and promise I would not wet the bed"<sup>8</sup>, Hans told me.
- T1942: Hans ABOUT Mother Sigrid died 3 September 1942 of Diphtheria
- T1942: Hans could only get attention by playing sick
- T1942: Hans Diphtheria also contracted but survived
- T1942: Hans diphtheria Vaccine available but not distributed
- T1942: Hans diphtheria Why so bad in Germany
- T1942: Hans Later Anna von Lasso because dad had to commit suicide. Need to verify year or time
- T1942: Hans Then, in fall 1941 [1942?], an epidemic of diphtheria spread through Silesia. I survived, by my mother died from this disease.
- T1942: Hans told by old aunts that he caused his mother's death, Hans brought disease into house
- T1942-44: Hans Was Opa already affair with Ursula before 1942?
- T1942-45: Hans During the following years I was placed under the care of several governesses. The switch to the stiff authoritarian treatment only resulted in the drive to have my caretakers fired or to make them resign. The war (World War II) had very little effect on my life until Russian tanks and guns were firing over our house on a cold January night in 1945.
- T1944: Hans Came to claim weapons
- T1944: Hans Vati Took guns apart
- T1944: Hans' about Vater married Ursula von Frankenberg-Luttwitz on 15 October 1944. They divorced in 1950. Ursula was born 26 March 1924.



My father's second wife gave birth to one girl (Heizi) and two boys (Hemmi, Michael).

T1944: Operation Valkyrie on 20 July 1944. The plot to assassinate Hitler was on 20 July 1944, the name Operation Valkyrie—originally referring to part of the conspiracy—has become associated with the entire event. In the aftermath and clean up, 7,000 people were arrested and 4,980 were executed. If Lt Col Viktor had been involved, it was a well kept secret from the family. The family story about why Lt Col Viktor was chosen, was because in 1945 he had no wife or children. Any act towards surrender was considered treason by Hitler, and would have resulted in execution. But Hitler's enforcement arm, Gestapo, did not just stop with executing the military Officer, they also executed his wife and children. So being a bachelor, he was probably 'volunteered' for the assignment or he may have willingly taken on the assignment. The family does not know how General von Vietinghoff convinced Lt Col Viktor von Schweinitz. Lt Col Viktor von Schweinitz and others arrived in Caserta Italy on 28 April 1945. From 28-29 April 1945, an unconditional surrender document was drafted. On 29 April 1945, Lt Col Viktor von Schweinitz signed the Instrument of Surrender on behalf of General von Vietinghoff.

T1944-45: Hans. Some time in late 1944, the Soviet Union began winning against the German Armies. Because the Soviet Union Armies were advancing towards Germany, the estate was quickly going to be between two armies.

T1945: Hans 25 August 1945 poster and expulsion

T1945: Hans about Bombing of Dresden in World War II Feb 13, 1945 – Feb 15, 1945

T1945: Hans Advancement of Russian army

T1945: Hans Anyway, they kicked us out of Austria at a certain time limit and over was supposed to take was £20.00 of. Personal belongings and anyway, we got kicked out of Austria. And we went from Austria near a small town South of Munich, OK. And from that part, we stayed there I believe. And then came up. Through the area near Frankfurt to Vespida. In West Germany. And that's where I went through. Finish and then I went to some other places in between I went to. On the on the another home which was run.

T1945: Hans Army on one side of road

T1945: Hans August. 00:38:00 Speaker 2(Aditi): So when you went to Austria, did you have family there?

00:38:04 Speaker 1(Hans): There were relatives there in Austria.

00:38:07 Speaker 2(Aditi): But who kicked you out?

00:38:09 Speaker 1(Hans): Nobody picked us up.

00:38:11 Speaker 2(Aditi): You said you were forced to leave.

00:38:14 Speaker 1(Hans): Yes, the Austrian will send us a paper hanger.

Hitler was an Austrian originally. The Austrians kicked all Germans out. In 1945. They restricted us to 20 pounds with my father had bribed people. We came out by truck and had little more. But we lost a lot in Austria when we left Austria. And went to New Munich. Friends of my father, which had in this state outside of music. But the Austrians. Sister lived there. So we had contact there. But then we had to leave. We stopped in central Germany. While the Russians were pushing to go to her.

We stopped for a couple of months and I went to a boarding school and then when the Russians moved further in and we continued on to go down to Austria, my father took me out of that boarding school, went to Austria. I had some schooling there and then and was no schooling in Austria.

We went to Bavaria from Austria, Bavaria went to school there. But then again, I went to a boarding school. In the Alps. It stopped off and on and then. Went to when my father moved, the family moved. To near Lee spot near Frankfurt.

I got out of the. Boarding school in. In the Alps. And we went up into. To lease spot and from there again I went to the boarding schools. And Catholic priests and different boarding schools. I have become very honorably. And I had a very good. Boarding schools, good teachers and the nuns were very good.

Some of these. The conditions have become unbearable. Within the family. And then eventually when I got out of grammar school. Finished my grammar school I went to. Couple of years to help my father

And then eventually I went through apprentice and started apprenticeship. I think it was. 15 or 16 when I started apprenticeship as a photographer.

T1945: Hans Dresden and Salzburg. Hans remembers the smell of the burning flesh of over 100,000 civilians and to this day cannot be anywhere around meat that is cooking. They left and traveled south to Salzburg Austria to live with relative and while there he became disruptive because of the atrocities and killings that took place during that time. And in May of 1945 General Patton's Army came into Salzburg Austria.<sup>11</sup> Hans said since Adolph Hitler was from Austria and Austria had voted to support Hitler before the war, his family was kicked out of the country. In Hans' words, "They sent us a paper hanger"<sup>12</sup>, meaning orders to leave the country.

T1945: Hans Dresden building for horses and carriages, ramp to get to upper level stables.

T1945: Hans Dresden, they left after first night of bombing, Hans was excited more than scared.

T1945: Hans Dresden, why did USSR want Dresden, it was a Sanctionary City.  
Misleading the USA and GB into bombing. University of Dresden,  
Scientists, knowledge, court, prize

T1945: Hans Dresden? Fell down cliff, fell into dung heap, fingernails pulled.

T1945: Hans Echo chamber near front door

T1945: Hans Echo chamber Opposite near bridge on access road near bridge

T1945: Hans expulsion From Potsdam agreement ?

T1945: Hans First towards Berlin with truck

T1945: Hans Flight January 1945

T1945: Hans Incident at intersection solved with rifle/gun

T1945: Hans Ini joined them with her bicycle where?

T1945: Hans Issue with light horses

T1945: Hans Jan Fleeing from Russians to Austria, than to Wiesbaden

T1945: Hans January family went first, by truck towards Berlin

T1945: Hans January Opa and uncle did not leave until heard Army tanks in echo  
chamber

T1945: Hans January Opa and uncle stayed in manor house in underground  
basements

T1945: Hans January The war (World War II) had very little effect on my life until  
Russian tanks and guns were firing over our house on a cold January night in  
1945. My father (Hans Wilhelm), whom I hardly knew since he had been  
either away building the East-wall or he had been occupied with the running  
of the estate, hastily over-night assembled a convoy of horse drawn-wagons.  
The following morning our trek of about 600 families joined the millions on  
the road, fleeing from the Russians. My father had remarried just before we  
fled

T1945: Hans Leaving hotel by window and gutter

T1945: Hans list of towns from albums, Munich, Saalfeld, Dresden, Salzburg

T1945: Hans Lost finger nails

T1945: Hans manor house had emergency exits from sub basement.

T1945: Hans manor house was heavily damaged when stihl that Russian soldiers  
had, blow up. After that it was scavengers.

T1945: Hans Map

T1945: Hans my only older sister (Ingrid) had joined us also during the following  
years in which we moved from country to country in Europe. We settled  
down in Wiesbaden Germany in 1947. By this time our worldly possessions  
were reduced to the clothing we wore.

T1945: Hans on hill watching Dresden burn

T1945: Hans On mountain side then fell down in dung heap

T1945: Hans Paper hanger- hitler

T1945: Hans pointing to his room on top floor, photo from 2003

Hans-Ludwig Biography

T1945: Hans Returned to Wiesbaden Germany in the summer of 1945.

T1945: Hans Russian army in Poland. Flight from the Russians in the winter of 1945 to Austria.

T1945: Hans see trip with Chris and Mathew for possible flee route.

T1945: Hans The bombing of Dresden Germany on February 13th and 14th of 1945 was very controversial for its time. There were thousands of civilians who lost their lives fleeing the Russian and German army's. The allies from the West, Churchill and Roosevelt, decided that Stalin was going to be a problem after the war. It was decided that the allies would show the Russians they had the superior military and they did not care who was in the city of Dresden, the allies were going to drop 3,300 tons of bombs in three waves. So many bombs were dropped at the same time it sucked the oxygen out of the air creating a great firestorm. Buildings and homes were completely destroyed. Bodies lie in the street, flesh burning and there is no way to walkaround them to escape.<sup>23</sup>

T1945: Hans The family left the estate near Legnica Poland and fled towards Berlin Germany about 300 Kilometers. They continued to flee and move around the countries until they could finally settle in Wiesbaden West Germany. During this time Hans education was interrupted. Hans would be entered in local schools, if possible. At one time in the 1946/47 school year, Hans was sent to a Children's Home. By the end of the 1946/47 school year, Hans was in a school in Wiesbaden West Germany. The story about this flight (fleeing) is in another compendium about the "Flucht".

T1945: Hans The war was getting close to his family to they decided it best to move toward Berlin in a horse drawn carriage. But before they could arrive in Berlin they were cut off by the Russian army. They began traveling south to Dresden and on February 13, 1945 he and his family got caught up in the bombing of Dresden in which the killing of thousands of civilian's created a firestorm by the allies.<sup>10</sup>

T1945: Hans Then to Salzburg on 24 August 1945

T1945: Hans When with horse drawn wagons, light horses by time in Dresden?

T1945: Hans When, in early 1945, Russian troops rolled into Silesia, the von Schweinitz family, together with millions of other Germans, had to flee. They happened to be on the streets of Dresden when Allied planes dropped phosphor bombs on the crowd, and over 33 000 people burnt to death. The smell haunted Hans all his life.

T1945: Hans which agreement ended the war in Europe

T1945: Hans. Flight/flee. 00:34:02 Speaker 2(Aditi): Well, Felicia, now you said after you had fled, why were you moving?

00:34:09 Speaker 1(Hans): Because the Russians were killing everybody on the way, there were 9 million people being chased by the Russian armies,



only six million made it, 3,000,000 were killed. Of the Russian love since Stalin's armies.

00:34:27 Speaker 2(Aditi): And how old were you when you moved? So this was before you finished school? What are your most vivid memories from that period?

00:34:47 Speaker 1(Hans): Air raids, the killing and the air raids. And also the freedom we had to see where children were free. Out of control. Jill Lynette ganged up. We would get into black marketing. And a lot of. The adults couldn't say anything anymore. They had screwed up the country so bad. They either crippled, had lost their arms and legs. Or where in prisoner of war camps. Starved half to death full of holsters. They had lost all respect of the young people and the children of the children. Just like they did in Cambodia.

00:35:41 Speaker 2(Aditi): Now when you left for West Germany, what all did you take with you? What did your family take with you?

00:35:50 Speaker 1(Hans): The only thing we can carry.

00:35:57 Speaker 2(Aditi): And what was that?

00:36:07 Speaker 1(Hans): And Father, father carried some jewelry and a basic jewelry. So if it was gold or jewelry.

00:36:14 Speaker 2(Aditi): Was it with the understanding that you would never be able to come back?

00:36:22 Speaker 1(Hans): There was always hope that we might be able to go back. I went back many times. When he was under Polish control and the Russian and the communist control before the Iron Curtain came down with all the hope always hope. To go back. We were disowned. We always hoped.

00:36:55 Speaker 2(Aditi): Now when you left, did the people on the estate, the farmers and the blacksmiths, did they all leave as well? Did they go with you?

00:37:06 Speaker 1(Hans): Yes, some of who did they fled, but there were the death penalty against flee. A lot of them fled. A lot of them committed to use suicide.

00:37:22 Speaker 2(Aditi): How did seeing all this at the age of 11 affect you?

00:37:30 Speaker 1(Hans): I think it was exciting.

00:37:39 Speaker 2(Aditi): When you, when you reached West Germany, what was there waiting for you? Was there anything?

00:37:45 Speaker 1(Hans): We didn't go to West Germany, we went, we wanted to go to Berlin 1st and we cut off with the Russian armies. We went down to Austria for. 1st and then we got kicked out of Austria and went to Bavaria and then from Bavaria we went up and we spot in Frankfurt area.

00:38:00 Speaker 2(Aditi): So when you went to Austria, did you have

family there?

00:38:04 Speaker 1(Hans): There were relatives there in Austria.

T1945: Hans. In 1945, the von Schweinitz family had to flee. When the Soviet soldiers entered the palace through the upper entrance, the whole family went down to the basement. After dark, everyone left the palace, using a passage about which the Red Army soldiers had no idea. No one stopped them, and the local residents, who had lived in harmony with the owners of the palace for years, helped in their escape.

T1945: Hans. Invasion of the Red Army: Flight and expulsion of the German population: In the Potsdam Agreement, Silesia is placed under Polish administration until a peace treaty is signed. The peace treaty was never signed by the Soviet Union, so the peace treaty was never finalized. Germany surrendered unconditionally and was occupied therefore no “peace treaty” was required.

T1945-1949: Hans in various boarding schools, qty 22

T1945-46: Hans From Salzburg, In 1946 they moved to a small town in the woods just south of Munich for about a year and then moved near Wiesbaden in West Germany. During this time, he worked as a journeyman and then as an apprenticeship in a photo lab technician at an Army base outside of Wiesbaden. In March of 1945 the airbase was abandoned by the Luftwaffe and was then occupied by advancing American soldiers.<sup>13</sup>

Hans laughingly told me the American soldiers were extremely kind to him and when they would see him, they would stop him and give him chocolate. The black soldiers were particularly friendly. Black soldiers were still segregated and many of them lived with German families and created great relationships with their second families.

T1945-49: Hans From the time I left Silesia until my migration to the USA, I led a very restless life. My father had placed me in several boarding schools during the years from 1945 to 1949. Due to the situation in Germany the schools opened and closed for political or financial reasons, therefore, I changed schools 22 times in those years. I had 8 years of formal school at the age of 15 years and decided to become self-supporting with my father's permission.

T1945-54: Hans Hitler prep school was which one?

T1945-54: Hans School along way, says qty 22

T1945-54: Hans school where Rescued by uncle

T1945-54: Hans Then in his 11th year (early 1945), the whole family was forced out of the manor house with only a few hours warning, and they had to flee West. The flight west changed Hans' world completely. He went from having a staff to take care of his every need, to having to take care of his

self. On the day that they had to flee, all the sturdy wagons and heavy horses were out in the field, working. So all their possessions had been loaded onto the only wagon in the barn, the honey wagon (manure wagon), It was pulled by the only harness horses in the barn, high stepping carriage horses. They were trying to make their way to Dresden, which was classified as a sanctuary city. The high strung horse could not take all the commotion caused by the bombings and troop movements. They were constantly spooking and turning the wagon over into the ditch. By the time the family got to Dresden, they were completely shattered emotionally (horses and people), and their possessions were strewn over miles of ditches. No one was watching over Hans, and he was only 11 years old. so, he learned how to survive on the streets. He continued traveling with his family to a town near Wiesbaden Germany. He would spend his days taking on odd jobs so that he could bring food back to feed his family.

T1945-54: Hans Used dumb-waiter to get food at which school

T1946: Hans, his sister Ingrid, his father and his stepmother (nee Ursula von Frankenberg-Luettwitz) eventually settled in a small cottage without water and plumbing in the woods near Wiesbaden. His stepmother gave birth to three children within four years.

T1946: Hans. Ingrid made a room for herself in bombed out house

T1946-47: Hans For the 1946/47 school year starting in 9 July 1946, Hans was placed in a Children's Home in Bavaria. Kinderheim Vorderhindelang in Bayerischen Allgäu – Fernruf: Hindelang

T1946-47: Hans Part was with my family, but then the part that was the problem was my family lived way up in the woods. Most of the cities were in ruins, was very difficult to find living places. My family lived in a small house. Up in the mountains.

00:24:54 Speaker 2(Phillip): And this was white, white and what, what year was that?

00:24:55 Speaker 1(Hans): 46-47 OK and then. I started apprenticeship I think. The partnership in responding to the exam as the journeyman then worked as a photographer. And photo lab. Yes, and I was. But then I went through. Place outside of his pardon? Kaiserslautern with Big Army bases. And I worked in a photo lab which worked for the.

T1946-49: Hans Once settled in Wiesbaden West Germany, Hans continued his education but based on his grades and comments, Hans was in full rebellion. But eventually in March 1949 he graduated from the 8th grade Volksschule. This is the minimum schooling that is required in Germany.

T1946-50: Hans I was heavily involved in black marketing. Because there was a shortage of everything.

00:11:45 Speaker 2(Phillip) At what age? What kind of? Things were you.

00:11:54 Speaker 1(Hans) I was selling, I was getting light bulbs from the Russians.I was getting homes.

00:12:00 Speaker 2(Phillip) Come Combs, comb your hair Combs.

00:12:03 Speaker 1(Hans) Hair Combs and I had silver nylon stockings. These were my best. Trading goods I.

00:12:19 Speaker 2(Phillip) Had so you were a a 12 year old entrepreneur then?

00:12:23 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh yes, I had money coming out of my ears. But the money wasn't worth very much.

T1946-50: Hans In 8th grade, bad report, suddenly get certificate of completion

T1946-57: Hans Fischzucht

T1946-57: Hans Han's situation did not have a promising outlook during these times and good jobs for the future were not to be found in Germany. Hans said, "With my name I was expected to be a high school student, which I wasn't; I was expected to have a certain amount of wealth, which I didn't have."<sup>14</sup> He and his sister found an old bombed out building and built it so that it was livable. He had heard that the Lutheran Federation was taking applications from German citizens who had trades and wanted to go to America for a better future. The Lutheran Federation found sponsors in America for immigrants who had trades and these sponsors would have jobs available for them once they arrived. The Lutheran Federation found a sponsor for Hans in Chicago Illinois to work in the area of photography.<sup>15</sup>

T1946-57: Hans Hotel Tamara

T1947: Hans by 26 September 1947, he was in Städt Realgymnasium in Wiesbaden. He had missed 88 days of school 'due to sickness'.

T1947: Hans We settled down in Wiesbaden Germany in 1947. By this time our worldly possessions were reduced to the clothing we wore. My father's second wife gave birth to one girl (Heizi) and two boys (Hemmi, Michael).

T1947-48: Hans school year transferred to Oberschule für Jungen an der Oranienstr for 5th grade. Wiesbaden. Most of his grades were ,not without blame', ,inadequate" and Despite repeated discipline he shows no signs of improving his work or behavior.

T1947-57: Hans swim meet

T1949: Hans by March 1949 all his grades were "gut" from the Peril Volksschule in Sobernheim. Somehow, in one year, Hans completed three years of education and received his Volksschule Diploma. (Schulentlassungszeugnis von 15 March 1949 = School Leaving Certificate) The pupil took part in the lessons of the 8th year in the last year and will be released today with the following certificate for completing compulsory elementary school.



T1950: Hans I started apprenticeship when I was. I missed about a year and a half of school during the confusion after the war and traveling. Then move together with my sister. We went in an old farm dock building and rebuilt one of the rooms, some of it the. Bricks which were there. And then started working as a journeyman. There was number hope even to. Accumulate enough finances or something on a motorcycle level at a moppet. 11 with the little. There was no hope of ever. Getting married or having a family or something And we were it was pretty wild years.

T1950: Hans In May 1950, Hans began an apprenticeship in Photography. This apprenticeship lasted 2 years and also included tutoring in other basic subjects, such as mathematics, geography, history, composition, and others. Hans apprenticeship is included in another compendium "Fotolaborant 1950-1952". After the apprenticeship Hans worked as a photographer in Germany until March of 1957.

T1950: Hans My father married a third time, after his second wife had left him to join her father who had a farm in South-west Africa. A son (Alexander) was born to his third wife, who lives with his mother in Italy now.

T1950: Hans. At the age of 14, Hans, all by himself, moved to Wiesbaden and completed a three-year apprenticeship as photographer and photo lab specialist. He worked in that field in Germany until he was 23 years old. His pay as an apprentice was so low, that he often had to go hungry.

T1950-57: Hans And then eventually I went through apprentice and started apprenticeship. I think it was. 15 or 16 when I started apprenticeship as a photographer.

00:42:04 Speaker 2(Aditi): And who did you apprentice with?

00:42:07 Speaker 1(Hans): My sister got me the apprenticeship when I lived with my sister then. But then my father's. Her stepmother took off, went to Africa, took the oldest son with them. And my sister moved. Back in with my father to help him and I will move. Back with her. But then the conditions. Became very difficult between my sister and my father and her boyfriend, so she moved. She had to move back into town because she was also. A A photographer and had to earn a living.

I stayed with my father and eventually eventually moved out and moved on my own too.

00:42:54 Speaker 2(Aditi): So how long was your apprenticeship period? Years. Two years. And what did he do after that?

00:43:02 Speaker 1(Hans): After this, the work continued to work as a in photography.

00:43:07 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did you get a job?

00:43:09 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, as an apprentice you average job.

00:43:12 Speaker 2(Aditi): But after the apprenticeship.

00:43:13 Speaker 1(Hans): After the partnership, yes, I got jobs, so they're going to work for the motion Picture company and and they did various jobs and I started. Uh to be. Photography photographer going around on in restaurants at Carnival and. Had to actually do little jobs. You know, I had a regular job and also was going around on weekends taking pictures of people and selling their pictures.

And then eventually I came to the United States.

00:43:49 Speaker 2(Aditi): Before we get into that, what was the motion picture that you were taking pictures of?

00:43:54 Speaker 1(Hans): I wasn't taking pictures of, I was a Courier and a comparison and made a stand in the picture was with Martin Luther, not Martin Luther King with Martin Luther. Split away from the Catholic Church.

T1950-57: Hans I had 8 years of formal school at the age of 15 years and decided to become self-supporting with my father's permission. After two years of apprenticeship as a photographer in 1952 in Wiesbaden I passed the examinations. From apprenticeship I went to work for an AGFA color processing lab. In 1957 I had progressed to a foreman in a photo finishing plant, however, my income was insufficient to provide a home or to support a wife and children at a level I considered acceptable. My greatest desire was to start a family and to have a home. I decided to increase my opportunities by immigrating to the USA.

T1950-57: Hans When he was 14 years old, he took on an photography apprenticeship. Hans tried to begin his own photography business, but family members nearby would not help with financing. They believed that it was best that he shoulder the responsibility of a business on his own. When he tried to go to a bank and ask for financing, he was rejected. Because of the remains of the class system in Germany, the banks believed that anybody born into the privilege class automatically had access to money and did not need a loan. He was stuck. First he tried to go to Australia, but because he was still under the age of 21, he needed his Father's permission. His Father refused. When Hans became 21, he applied for visa to United States. And emigrated in 1957.

T1952-57: Hans 1953 – 1957 Location: Gruenstadt, Germany Position: Custom Printer and Copier, later in Full Charge of Film Processing  
1952 – 1953 Location: AFGA Color, Wiesbaden, Germany Position: Custom Color Printer  
1950 – 1952 Location: Wiesbaden, Germany Position: Apprentice, Still Photographer and Darkroom Man

T1952-57: Hans ran from girlfriends house back to his apartment room, naked, ran up stairs and left bloody footprints. Girlfriend came to Austin to visit and had a child 3 years older than me. So this probably happened in 1956.

T1952-57: Hans Wiesbaden Germany 1952. Employed as photographer in Germany until 1957 March. Employed by Central Exchange Photo Finishing Plant, Wiesbaden and Gruenstadt Germany. Custom Printing and Photo copying. Full charge of film processing department.

T1954-57: Hans friend Bye-Bye

T1954-57: Hans girlfriends from Opel house and many more

T1954-57: Hans houses in rubble and could not remove bricks, rebuild for Herr Hubachs

T1954-57: Hans tours and trips

T1956: 5Apr1956 "A sentence of death can be imposed on any German who wears a German military uniform according to a revised ordinance issued by the Allied control commission. The ban on uniforms has not been strictly enforced so far because it was often the only clothes discharged soldiers had to wear. In the future it will be enforced more strictly."

T1956: Hans June Trip to Sportsfestival in Leipzig in "east" Germany

T1956-57: Hans how Opa ran Hotel, each room rented multiple times each night. Made sure that Vera was pregnant first.

T1956-57: Hans Opa had gambling issue. Would take guests to Casino in Wiesbaden. Locals not allowed in Casino except with guests.

T1956-57: Hans Then applied to Lutheran Federation for sponsorship. Was hoping that I get an immigration resort to come to the United States. Did it happen? Yes, it happened.

00:32:21 Speaker 2(Phillip): How long did that take? How long did that process take?

00:32:24 Speaker 1(Hans): The process took not very long actually. I think it took only about three or four months.

T1957: Hans 00:47:39 Speaker 2(Aditi): What was your first impression when you reached New York? What was your first impression of New York?

00:47:46 Speaker 1(Hans): Oh, it was. I went up to the Empire State Building and. I was very much impressed.

00:47:56 Speaker 2(Aditi): What was your job in New York you said? You were sponsored. Oh.

00:47:59 Speaker 1(Hans): I didn't have a job in New York. I had a job.

00:48:02 Speaker 2(Aditi): OK, so from New York, you went to Chicago?

00:48:04 Speaker 1(Hans): I went that train to Chicago.

00:48:06 Speaker 2(Aditi): Now when you flew from Germany to New York, was it your first time in an airplane? And when you went from New York to Chicago, was it the 1st? Time in the train.

00:48:20 Speaker 1(Hans): No, no, no. I always travel by train even as a kid

alone, without parents, without anyone. Even a six year old. I would travel by train was not unusual for children to travel by train. Or bus by themselves or no school buses that have used public transportation. They visited our relatives.

00:48:45 Speaker 2(Aditi): So what was it that you were going to do in?

00:48:50 Speaker 1(Hans): I was offered. It had supposedly had a job as a photographer there. But it was a very corrupt organ, American aid society, a very corrupt organization they had. Bribe sponsors who got money for it. And my sponsor was supposed to pick me up at the railway station. Never picked me up. Have a place to stay in the place to work and didn't show up, so I just walked the street till I found somebody that spoke German because I didn't speak English And they made some contact with some Germans in Chicago.

Then went out and looked for a job by myself. Because this guy went, I went to him. He told me that I should be glad that he sponsored me, but I should to kind of work. I would be doing shilling would be doing. It would do it in the United States. Also, I was since I was not a member of the. I couldn't get a job. Because in order to join the Union here to have a job for two years of the catch 22.

So I just wonder. Found the German family morning boarding house. And then went out and found it joined the church immediately and found a job through the. Worked in a scientific library as a photostat operator.

T1957: Hans 00:50:13 Speaker 2(Aditi): And how did you said you didn't speak English. How did you learn that? How did you pick that up?

00:50:20 Speaker 1(Hans): Every study, every free minute I had.

00:50:24 Speaker 2(Aditi): In the library.

00:50:27 Speaker 1(Hans): No, everywhere I was, I used to have flash cards one side German ones that English. Then went to night school.

00:50:37 Speaker 2(Aditi): And that's where you finished high school.

00:50:40 Speaker 1(Hans): Never finished high school.

00:50:44 Speaker 2(Aditi): OK.

00:50:47 Speaker 1(Hans): I just took the test.

00:50:49 Speaker 2(Aditi): And you passed.

00:50:52 Speaker 1(Hans): So much for American high school. Who don't know how to add  $\frac{1}{3}$ . And  $\frac{1}{4}$ . Can you do that? No, we learned that in 4th grade.

00:51:11 Speaker 2(Aditi): So how long were you at the library working the photostat machine?

00:51:18 Speaker 1(Hans): 12 to 16 hours a day because they're the work backlog. And then just tried to beat the hell out of me because I was they like. To have their backlog. And I worked there for. Three or four months.



Then I got this higher paid job.

And then I got a draft notice and I left Chicago and went to Florida, get away from the draft that he caught up with me and. Told me that they would deport me if I wouldn't accept the draft. Would have to join the army. I left after about two months and 1/2 in Florida. I went back to Chicago, got another job, didn't tell them they didn't know that it was an immigrant. I came under the draft law. Got a well paid job at that time. About 3-3 1/2 dollars an hour. It's equivalent of about \$40.00 an hour.

Whether they caught up with me again and but but their time. I took the exam for the high school to Plumb and I was able to join the Air Force Board. Going into the. Army Air Force was a better deal.

00:52:45 Speaker 2(Aditi): And why is that?

00:52:48 Speaker 1(Hans): You had to have a high school diploma every. Bimbo could go into the drafted into the army and the Air Force offered much better training. Let's bring up better career fields.

T1957: Hans 00:53:07 Speaker 2(Aditi): Do you remember your first day at Air Force training? What did they make you? OK.

00:53:16 Speaker 1(Hans): Lackland Air Force Base. This was still segregated. You could not. Go into a restaurant. During that time here in Austin. That's how it was here. Believe we are not Caucasian. They have differed. Bathrooms. Different schools. Different housing areas on the bus, you had to go into the back. The the military started to become integrated. Roger was already integrated. Right here down San Antonio.

00:54:05 Speaker 2(Aditi): Was there a big German population in San Antonio?

00:54:13 Speaker 1(Hans): There still is. But I had. Not much contact. You know the first years. You only get out on the weekend. For a couple of hours after hours. Class A pass will weekend. And then after I look up through basic training and Lackland, I was. Shipped up to.

T1957: Hans And emigrated in 1957. When he arrived in United States, he was starting fresh. He had everything taken away from him. His mother was dead, he no longer belonged to the privileged class, he had no money, his family rejected him because they thought he was crazy to emigrate, and he did not speak English. He restarted his life from the bottom. This influenced many of actions he would take later in life. He was always ready to help others that were also working their way up from the bottom, or starting new. He sponsored many immigrants, and advised even more.

T1957: Hans Employed by John Crerar Library, Chicago, Illinois. Photostat operator. Reason for leaving: personal betterment.

Huey Company Chicago Illinois. Coating photographic emulsions. Reason for leaving: financial betterment and difficult working conditions.

Keuffler Eusser, Chicago Illinois. Precision photo copying. Reason for leaving: no opportunity of advancement.

Williams Meyer Company Chicago Illinois. Advertising and Industrial Photography. Reason for leaving: drafted into the Armed Forces.

T1957: Hans First he tried to go to Australia, but because he was still under the age of 21, he needed his Father's permission. His Father refused. When Hans became 21, he applied for visa to United States. And emigrated in 1957.

T1957: Hans Hans believes this is the land of opportunity. He says, "They don't pay attention to the titles, people value what you can do and what you do, and if you do well you get paid well."<sup>17</sup> Hans' first impression of the United States was that people were always in a hurry to do something or go somewhere. Everything was money oriented. He would see people standing in long lines to get hot dogs and it seemed he was looking at an assembly line. Hans said the workers in America were very pretentious and said that if there was someone dying in the street no one would stop to help them. He gave an example of one worker talking telling another worker that a relative had passed away and the worker would just pretend to be listening and would just nod their head up and down saying, "Uh Huh, yeah, oh really? Hans does not like that much because in Europe people will stop working and look you in the eyes and listen to you and your needs. There was real compassion."<sup>18</sup>

Hans learned that the best way to integrate into America was to join a church and they found him a job at a scientific library as a Photostat operator. There was a tremendous work log and he was exceptionally busy making copies for them. Hans was being paid \$1.35 an hour, and that salary was decent for that era and that helped quite a bit since his rent at the boarding house was \$25.00 a month while doubling up in the room with another couple. Hans and his wife remained friends with the boarding house owners for many years.

Hans, being the achiever he is, got into a lot of trouble with the other Photostat operators because he was working so diligently in getting rid of the backlog of work the other workers got mad at him because it made them look bad. He left for another job making blueprint paper. Sometime later his landlord's sister said to him, "Why don't you come with me to Florida and work around the house and drive the car?"<sup>19</sup> The draft office was looking for him about this time and he had no intentions in going to the military so he left for Daytona Beach.

Hans was content with his life in Florida and then the police began showing up telling him he had to go to the draft office or they were going to send him back to Germany. Immigrants had to obtain green cards when they came into America and also had to let the government

know if you moved. That made it easy for the authorities to track him so he hopped on a bus and headed back to Chicago. When he arrived, he found a job making precision reproductions of to scale maps and plans and was being paid \$3.50 an hour. And according to Hans that is equivalent in today's market as \$80.00 an hour. The draft board was still chasing him so he decided to take the high school equivalency test so he could get into the Air Force in 1957.

He was taken to San Antonio for basic training and was acing all of his tests and everyone thought he was cheating, but Hans was just good at taking tests. Hans laughed at the other soldiers who were having a hard time polishing their shoes and caring for their uniforms, because that sort of thing was second nature to him because of the way he was raised. Hans called himself a "five for sixer". He explained as a "five for sixer" he would loan them \$5.00 and when they paid him back, they paid him \$6.00. He was also running a candy store out of his mattress because those kids could not do without their chocolate. An advantage he had over the others was that he obtained a truck driver's license while in Germany and that gave him more opportunities as far as assignments and was finally given a job driving a gasoline tank truck making less than \$100.00 a month.

T1957: Hans Hans then flew into New York City in 1956 [1957] in what he called a "flying tiger"<sup>16</sup>, meaning a two-prop airplane with twin-engine propellers. He brought with him a book he bought in Germany that had 500 words with flash cards in the English language and \$50.00 to \$100.00. When they landed in New York and then a train to Chicago to meet his sponsor and he did not show up. He did not know anyone and just walked around for a long time trying to find someone who spoke German. He finally found someone and they led him to a boarding house which was run by a German family who housed German immigrants with a rent of \$25.00 a week.

T1957: Hans How did you prepare for your trip here? How did you prepare for your trip here to the states?

00:12:43 Speaker 1(Hans) One thing you could not leave Germany if you had any debt. You have had a. Clearance, you might say, from the police. It had no records.

00:12:58 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, everybody in Germany has to be registered.

00:13:01 Speaker 1(Hans) And you had to be registered where you live. You had to have a trade. I wanted to leave Germany, my father, about the needed permission from the parents. You needed a sponsor. I wanted to go to Australia first because they paid for the fare and the they promised the job.

And then I wanted to go to South America. We'll go to, we'll go to Columbia.

But then when I've got past 21. I could make my own decisions. I was not dependent on my father's permission and contacted the. American Aid Society, which was Lutheran Federation organ organised to. Try to find sponsors for young. Who had had a afraid. And I found a sponsor in Chicago. Transferred to America came over to America.

T1957: Hans March arrived in Chicago and worked in various jobs including commercial photographer. Huey Company Chicago Illinois. Coating photographic emulsions. Reason for leaving: financial betterment and difficult working conditions. Keuffler Eusser, Chicago Illinois. Precision photo copying. Reason for leaving: no opportunity of advancement. Williams Meyer Company Chicago Illinois. Advertising and Industrial Photography. Reason for leaving: drafted into the Armed Forces.

T1957: Hans March to October From March 1957 to October 1957 employed as photographer in Chicago.

T1957: Hans Meet Helga and courting

T1957: Hans Now you mentioned that you. Came to the US shortly thereafter. Can you tell me what were the circumstances under which you moved?

00:44:34 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, came to the states in 56 because there was very little opportunity in Germany. I wanted to get married. I wanted to have a it was very difficult to rent even a place. The income was very low. I could barely afford a moped or bicycle. The future did not look very good in Germany, who had 48 hour week I had. The future didn't look.

Very promising, and the United States. Offered a lot of opportunities for people who are willing to work hard.

I wanted to leave. Before I was 21, I wanted. To go ahead and offer to go.

The ones that offered to go to Australia. They will pay. The passage should offer jobs. Had to stay two years and then they had to give you an opportunity to go back at that time. I would have needed the permission of my father to leave Germany. I wasn't 21. He didn't give me permit permit. And had a job offer in Colombia, Bogota, Colombia. To work for as a photographer and my father again wouldn't give me his permission.

As soon as I turned 20, I already started to apply for a sponsor. In the United States. Eventually found a sponsor for the American League. Of American Lutheran World Federation of what it was. I found a sponsor. And was able to come to the United States. Was offered a job. Came to the United States.

00:46:39 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did you fly here or was it by ship?

00:46:42 Speaker 1(Hans): Flew here 3 days. We didn't have jets at that time. It took two days, three days, almost three days to get here.

00:46:55 Speaker 2(Aditi): So where all did you stop? Do you remember?



00:46:57 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, yes, I remember You left from Germany. I went from Germany, went to Iowa. From Ireland and Iceland. From Iceland you went to uh. Somewhere on some island of Canada. And from there he flew down to New York.

00:47:24 Speaker 2(Aditi): And was it the same group of people from start to finish? Were they mostly migrants?

00:47:33 Speaker 1(Hans): Yes to all about.

T1957: Hans Oct about began basic training for Air Force

T1957: Hans One thing the law said at that time. If an immigrant comes with an immigration visa and has a green card to work, he is subject to. The draft bill. But he cannot become an officer. You know, those were the Lords.

00:44:52 Speaker 1(Hans): You get that? They put me on the big chief, had shipped it down to San Antonio, the basic experience. Tank and put down there. When I got down there, I had everybody's money.

00:45:32 Speaker 2(Phillip): How are you?

00:45:40 Speaker 1(Hans): Go to the basic training there. And I was, I mean, you have what's called the second wind, where people will come to this country. Whatever you know, I have a good memory and I was acing almost every test. They couldn't figure that out.

00:45:59 Speaker 2(Phillip): You had to be cheating, right? That's what they said. He's got to be cheating.

00:46:07 Speaker 1(Hans): Versace, you know, was also up front, you know, marching. And I had a ball. I mean, these are American. My, my, my sons had such a hard time adjusting to washing down the various polishing issues and. I just couldn't stop from laughing. I have the the eyes, you know? They couldn't figure eventually. Never figured it out and. I had another advantage. Then you know when to select you for a careful I had in Germany, had paid for my own truck drivers license. I could have everything which have more than one wheel. Once we got out of basic training, I was we were. Correct selected for career fields and I wound up putting petroleum, oil and lubricants driving tank trucks. Please fill on aircrafts. And then our stations outside the walk put an air base.

T1957: Hans The Lutheran World Federation or the National Lutheran Council began in 1918 and later responded to post World War I to react to the needs of refugees and immigrants. When the U.S. entered World War II it stopped refugee assistance in obtaining social support. In 1945 another agency, Lutheran World Relief, was created and this group met the widespread needs in post-war Europe. In 1953 Congress passed the Refugee Relief Act, which allowed thousands of expelled ethnic Germans who were escaping East Germany.<sup>22</sup>

T1957: Hans There was humor in almost everything Hans saw or did. For example, when he was going through basic training, he hid chocolate candy bars under his mattress and sold them to the other soldiers because they could not do without their precious chocolate. When the others worked so hard at polishing their shoes or preparing their uniforms Hans laughed at them inside because they were struggling with something that he was doing as a teen. They are all spoiled brats or "Mama's boys" in his mind.

T1957: Hans Well, it was still with he came over with Flying Tiger and they had to come through. Iceland and Newfoundland and Cape Gander and all these places and have been landed in New York. And from the New York, then I took the train to Chicago. We're very inexpensive to flight from Germany, and since that airline. Was transporting these flights are especially arranged for for people who left? And I think was \$65.

T1957: Hans When the airplane arrived in New York he saw what most arriving immigrants saw and that was the Statue of Liberty. The symbol of American freedom and prosperity. Once can only imagine the happiness in the minds of those arriving to a new life. Hans's first experience as an immigrant in America was not exactly what he expected when he stepped off of the train in Chicago. Imagine, as an American, being dropped off in the middle of Germany, not knowing the language, and trying to find a place to eat or sleep. Hans wandered the streets of Chicago until he found one person who spoke German and that led him to the boarding house.

T1957: Hans Where were we? Oh yeah, I joined the church. The church helped me to get a job with a scientific library as a photostat operator. We've scientists would cut scientists, library scientists would cover the unmarking the books with which pages they want copied. It has started working. They had a tremendous work log. Made the copies there. They paid me. It was. \$1.35 or something an hour which was. It was pretty good for me. I had a. Especially since I had a little report for around \$25 as I don't remember exactly. He doubled up in her room.

00:40:19 Speaker 3(Helga): But the German immigrant couple stayed. Immigrants because they spoke German.

00:40:26 Speaker 1(Hans): And we, we stayed friends for many, many years. I worked there, but I was. Or he get into trouble because I took care of the backlog and the the other workers didn't like them.

And so I got another job doing. Making a blueprint paper. You know what that is? Coating the emulsions, of course, that was. These huge rolls, which had to be cut and the drying rooms the motion had to be. Coated and had. My landlady's sister offered me, said. Why don't you come with me? To

Florida drive down there and help me. Of the house. Drive the car. All of it. So I went to Daytona Beach, drove her down there. Took care of some of her household matters and so far and around. But at this time the. Draft office already?

Had a fingers on me, you know, I had to register, right? I had no intention whatsoever to go. Go into the military. You also had what's called the hidden card you had just to let them know. Where you at? And in Florida, I was happy at Daytona Beach, you know where they had the race. And the girlfriends there anyway, was happy. Happy there but. Police start showing up. You got to go to the office. You don't show up, we send you back. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. I'll be, yeah, I'll be there on the bus.

It got the real job. It was that I wasn't making. \$3.50 an. It's like you know how much it is equivalent to today's money, 80. Dollars an hour.

00:43:21 Speaker 2(Phillip): What were you doing for \$3.50? Cents a month.

00:43:23 Speaker 1(Hans): I was doing precision reproductions. To scale precision. Reproductions of maps. Two scale exactly. Of plans and stuff like that. And it was. Then of course they got a hold of me again. I said I don't want to go in. I don't want to hold the army.

So I went ahead and took. The high school equivalency test. You needed to have a high school equivalency get into the Air Force past it.

T1957: In 1957, Hans immigrated to the United States and was soon drafted, although he was still a German citizen and could barely speak English. He joined the US Air Force and served honorably for 20 years, retiring as SMSgt. He became a US citizen in 1961. He earned a B.S. Degree with Honor in Mathematics from Auburn University.

T1957: In March 1957 I arrived in Chicago without a knowledge of the English language, but with \$50 and the desire to work, hard. Within six month I had learned the language in night school and my income had risen to about \$200 a week as a commercial photographer. In October 1957 the draft law required me to serve in the army or join any other branch of the service. I joined the Air Force. From basic training in Lackland AFB (San Antonio Texas) I went to Mitchell Field Wisconsin to be trained in aircraft refueling. In Milwaukee I met my wife (soon to be wife, Helga Pörtner) who had also immigrated from Germany. We married in November 1958. Mitchell Field was deactivated two months later and I was reassigned to Rheine Main AFB Germany. During the 4 years in Germany our daughter (Bettina) was born and I became a US citizen.

T1958: Hans 00:54:48 Speaker 2(Aditi): Tell me where you first laid your eyes on Helga.

00:54:55 Speaker 1(Hans): I was stationed in Milwaukee and. Our pay was

very low. And I lived in the YMCA. We didn't have barracks and I will. Was the military. Semi trucks and refueling units at that time and buses. The Air Force. In the military, we would go out in uniform. The city was very friendly towards the military, so if we went out in the uniform on the weekend. You went to a bar, Oregon. So immediately somebody would invite you for a beer or drink or. Something like that.

Also, the churches were putting on. Get togethers with. Soldiers who entered the uniform went there and you got kool-aid and cookies. Whatever was Helga was living at the YWCA and there the girls they were putting on dances. On the weekend, also with kool-aid and caucus up and invited the military there to dance with them because we had a steady income.

So I met Helga, the YWCA, and. I danced with her and she recognized that. I could dance the dance, as most Americans couldn't dance like the waltz or slow wolves. Or TF. And then we got into talking and notice that that was German, that she was German.

You know that we started. She was living at the YWCA and and then I. Askers, and we why do we live separately? Why don't we rent an apartment? So we were cohabitating. In other words, we were rented. We found the place furnished. And rented it. The landlady thought we were married since it was illegal and if I was in the military and I would be cohabitating, I would go to jail.

And they were raiding places ventilators could not rent. The people who were not married, they could not even go to the hotel. And they said proof of marriage. It was the way it was at. In the 50s.

T1958: Hans 00:57:50 Speaker 2(Aditi): So did you both wear? Did you both wear rings?

00:57:56 Speaker 1(Hans): I think we were engaged and it could be that we were. Wearing a ring. I don't know. I don't remember.

00:58:07 Speaker 2(Aditi): So it was. After a while of knowing each other that you decided to live together.

00:58:13 Speaker 1(Hans): It wasn't very long. Maybe a week. I had a girlfriend in Chicago. I was traveling to Chicago all the time.

00:58:27 Speaker 2(Aditi): And what did she think of this?

00:58:31 Speaker 1(Hans): She was, of course, she's thought that she. And be hooked, you know.

00:58:39 Speaker 2(Aditi): Was Helga a good dancer? That first night you went?

00:58:43 Speaker 1(Hans): Yeah, of course, yeah.

00:58:45 Speaker 2(Aditi): Do you know how?

00:58:45 Speaker 1(Hans): She still wants to dance and I can't dance anymore because when one side of her body is paralyzed, you know.



Moving on command, she wants to while wants to do it and embarrasses me. Anyway, so we moved in. And then after. I think it wasn't. And then in. We announced that we were getting married. And invited our landlady to the wedding. She got bendable, won't she?

Office you realize, because we were raided, you know, the police came, somebody had turned it in and came in. And talk to Landley landley through our through police. I said to go next door and of course next door there were also people living in sin.

00:59:57 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did either of your parents come for the wedding? Did either your parents, your parents, or health's parents come for the wedding?

01:00:06 Speaker 1(Hans): Help us friends. So of course. Helgard has her relatives in Milwaukee. But some of my. Nobody from Germany other than my my my friend. I going to. He came down for the wedding, but all. Held us relatives who had also also chairman, had gone to Milwaukee and they all were there. And but I don't think, and my landlady and others, but none of my family had come from. Germany to the wedding.

T1958: Hans 01:00:52 Speaker 2(Aditi): So when did your family meet your wife? For the first time? Like when did your father meet Helga for? The first time.

01:00:58 Speaker 1(Hans): About three months after. Two or three months after we got married, my father had a heart attack. And I got a compassionate reassignment to Germany. So I was. Stationed in in the Frankfurt, Germany, and then Helco joined me a month later.

T1958: Hans GED Hans received at least a 35 in all five tests. Received 36 for Correctness and effectiveness of expression (he had only 1 year to learn to read, write, and speak English), but received 67 for Mathematical ability. In 1974 Hans received a Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics. Hans received this certificate for GED in February 1958

T1958: Hans Hans was stationed just outside of Milwaukee and was living at a YWCA and he met his wife Helga there. He said the YWCA put on dances and what he called "Kool-Aid and Cookies."<sup>20</sup> The YWCA would invite servicemen to dances with women eagerly standing by waiting for a dance. The lights were turned down low and the music nice and soft to set the mood for romance.

He told me that things were very different in the Milwaukee 1950's. It was against the law for a man and woman to live together if they were not married. He told me of one instance that while he and Helga were living with a German woman, not married, and there was a knock on the door around 2:00AM. The woman went to the door to find two police officers and they told her they heard a rumor there was an unmarried man and woman living there and asked if it was true. Hans said the

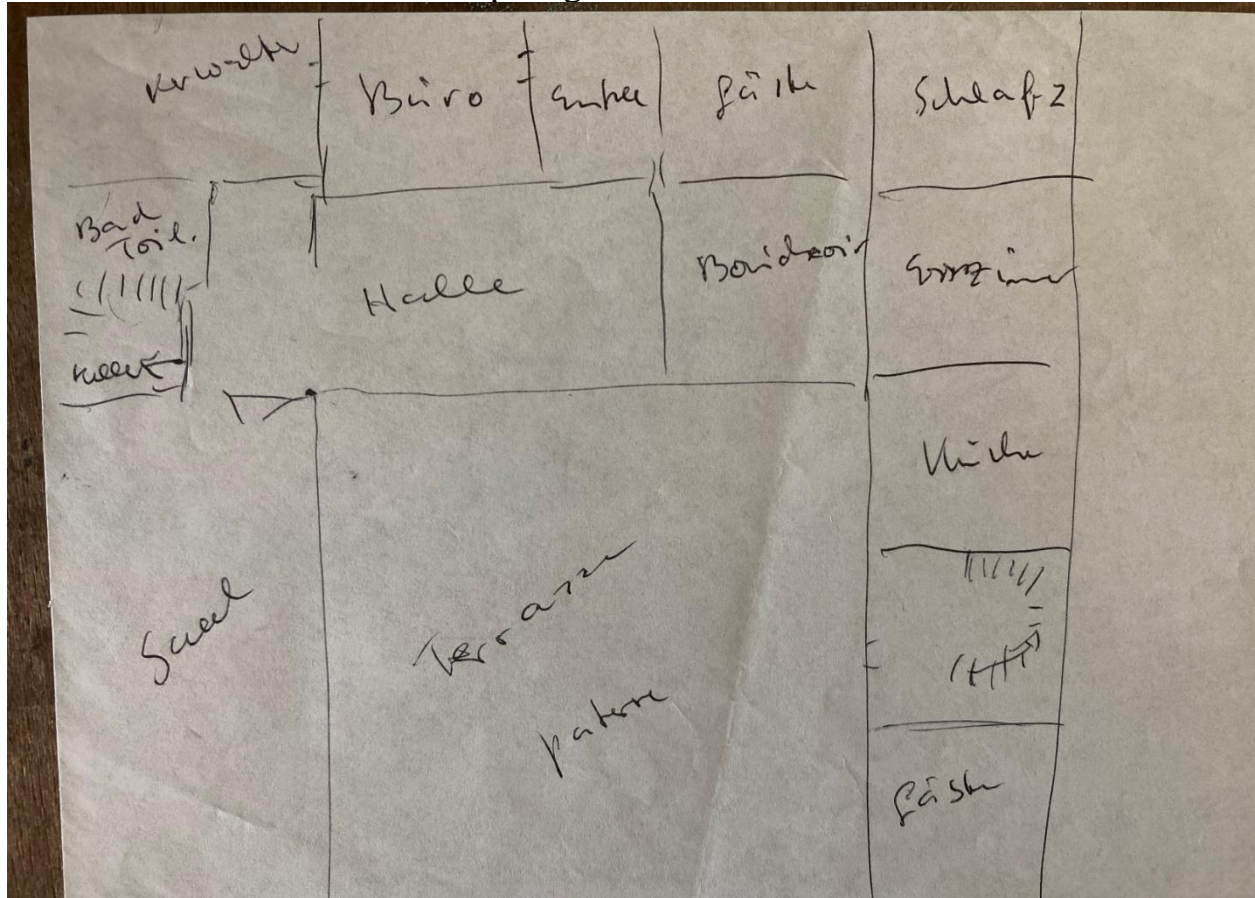
woman cursed at them telling them of course not. However, to get the police from her door she told them what they were looking for was next door. It seems one of Hans buddies was living with a woman next door and it seemed the police were satisfied with that information so they went next door and left them alone. He said this was a normal practice of the police during this time.

T1958: Hans Shortly after Hans and Helga relationship began his father had a heart attack in Wiesbaden Germany and he received a compassionate leave to go there. But before he was allowed to leave the states, he had to pay any and all income taxes that he owed. They left and stayed there 4 years and he later re-enlisted and was transferred to Roswell New Mexico (Walker Air Force Base) in 1962

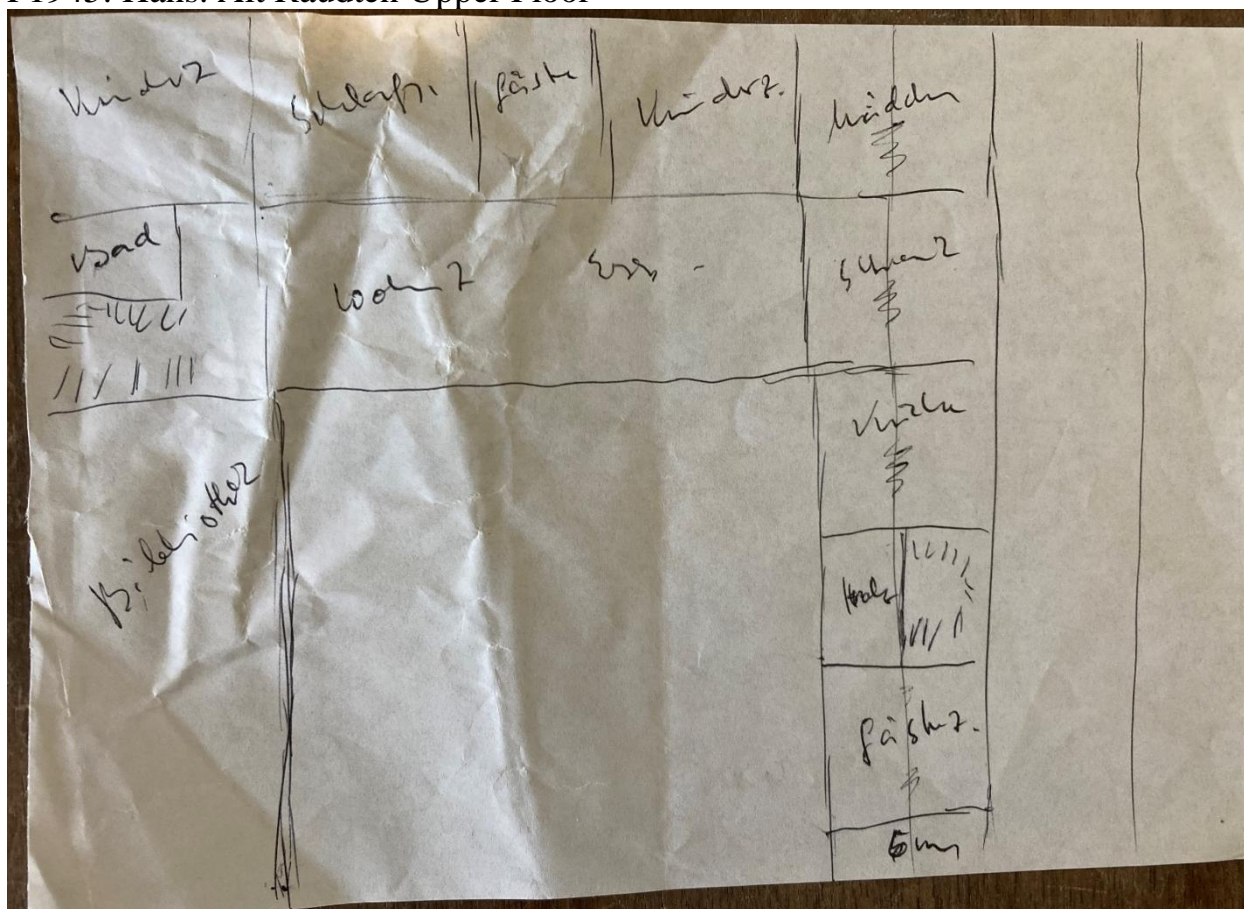
T1958: Hans Yeah, she thought we were married and that cohabitation was.  
 01:24:41 Speaker 3(Helga): That was in Milwaukee. It's working. They had police. 2:00 o'clock at night. Between 2:00 and 3:00. And if they hurt at some. People are living together, they are not married. They would knock on the door, front door, 2:00 o'clock or so and handsome eye. We were planning to marry, but it took so long to get the paperwork done in the Air Force and security. So police came 3:00 o'clock at night because somebody. Had told them. That I enhanced. The boyfriend who somebody wanted to be my boyfriend and save the police out. And then then they opened the door and the police said police in my house. You must have. You must have gotten the house numbers mixed up so they. Were all in front. Of let's say well. Let's try next door. They went next. Door there was. One of his comrades living with his girlfriend. There you go.  
 01:26:05 Speaker 2(Phillip): Thank goodness for your landlord then, huh?  
 01:26:08 Speaker 1(Hans): Then then she came all apart when we invited her to our wedding, she saw.  
 01:26:08 Speaker 2(Phillip): Cover covering for you.  
 01:26:17 Speaker 3(Helga): We didn't tell her that. I wanted to rent the IT was kind of the kitchenette apartment. And so on. Strove me there, and I signed the paper. Address him with my last name, Mr. Kirtner last name and then thinking that he was my husband. And it's all Han said. Well, in that case, you know. How it goes said. He moved in. Either he lived at the YWCA. Nobody would miss.  
 But we had to hide that from our relatives. On his underwear had to be.

## Reference Material

P1945: Hans. Alt Raudten floor plan ground floor

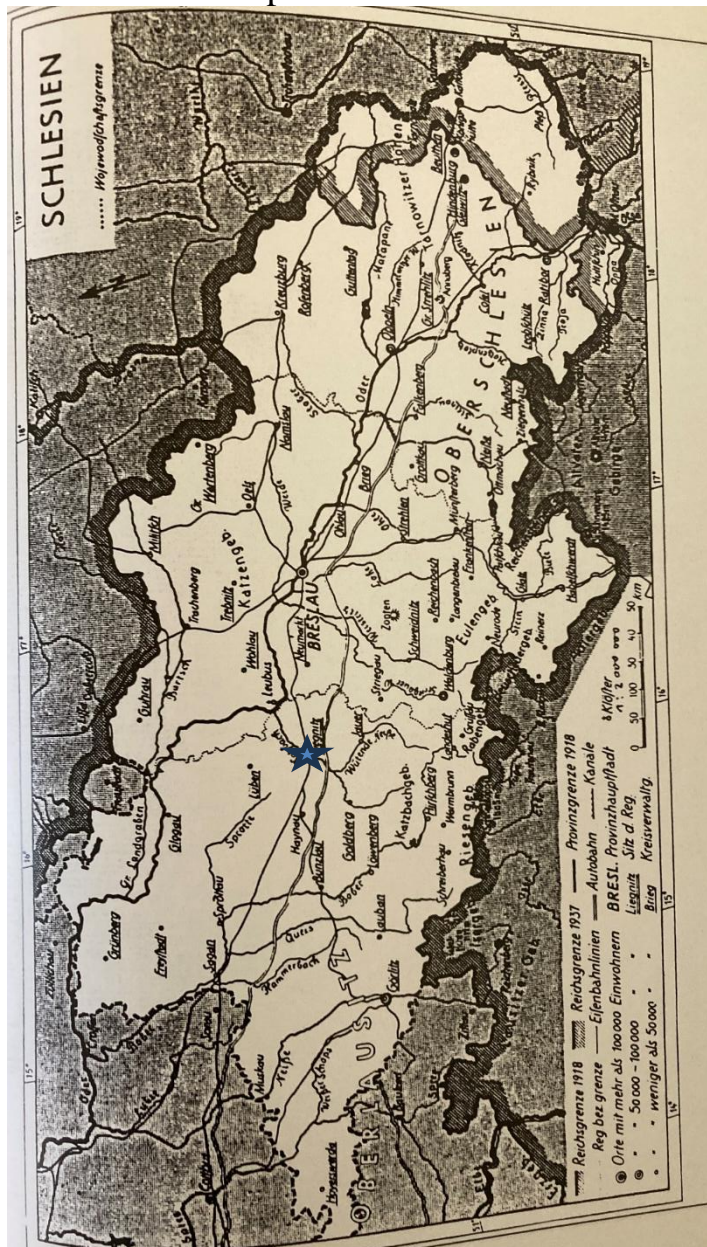


P1945: Hans. Alt Raudten Upper Floor





P1945: Hans. Map of Silesia



## Photos

P1945-46: Hans. Photo of Hans, Hemmi, Vati, Ulla, Ini.



P1946: Hans photo Das Häuschen hinter der Fischzucht bei Wiesbaden

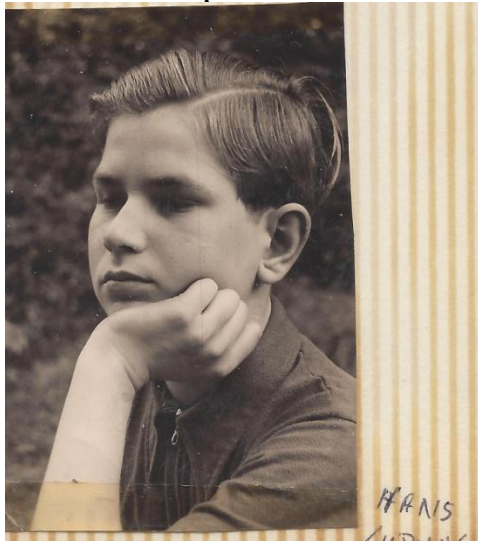




P1946: Hans photo of Fischzucht, Wiesbaden



P1947: Hans photo





P1949: Hans photo of Ria with Hemmi, Misch, and Heisi



P1950: Hans ID for photo apprenticeship July 1950

von Schweinitz	
Hans-Ludwig	
06. Oktober 1934	
Liegnitz / Schlesien	
Deutschland	
Laboranten-Lehrling	
Wiesbaden	
Zitraditen / Mr. Lieben	
160 cm schlank	
blau	
Blinddarmerkrankung	
keine	



Hans-Ludwig von Schweinitz

(Unterschrift des Antragstellers)

Wiesbaden, den 17. Juli 1950

Der Oberstadtschreiber

Polizeipräsident

(Stempel)

Hans-Ludwig Biography

P1950: Hans photos



P1950-56: Hans photo of father with Heisi and Mischi

**P1952: Hans photo in photo laboratory**



P1952: Hans, his 2<sup>nd</sup> love

P1952: Hans, his first love



P1952-53: Hans photo of Kolleginnen from Opel Haus





P1954: Hans photo tamara hotel Wiesbaden



P1954: Hans' sister Ingrid married Gunter Wolf 4 June 1954



Hans-Ludwig Biography

**P1954-57: Hans Cleaning bricks to build Herr Hubachs house with Bye-Bye**



P1954-57: Hans photo as Modelle bei Börsch



P1954-57: Hans photo from “als Kravier beim Film



**P1955: Hans 1-4 October 1955 Wine Fest in Gruünstadt Neuleiningen**



**The End**