

Helga

Hannah Seidemann --- Max Mishkovsky

|Audrey Hoffman--Fred Mischkovsky (Mishow) Senta ---Henry Helga

Marion: I met Helga when I was 2 and she was 19. My parents and I had survived World War II being hidden in Holland. Helga, her parents and her sister had wandered around Europe and America for 3 years before arriving in St. Louis Mo. Her family was reunited in St Louis in 1947. By that time Helga had become an "American..." She drove an old chevy jalopy, had a job as a secretary and went on picnics and to the movies with her friends. She was a joyful spirited. She literally radiated happiness and well being.

She always... In spite of her busy social work schedule, always found time to take a little cousin ice skating in the park or to the zoo to visit the animals. Of course I loved



her. She was the apple of many eyes and served as a guide to her parents and aunts and uncles on the ins and outs of American life. She infected everyone with her optimism. Tragically she died at age 24 of a heart attack supposedly related to rheumatic fever which she had contracted as a small child in Germany. This autobiography surfaced recently as her older sister,



Senta, and I were sitting together.



Chapter I In Germany

I was born on Jan 3, 1928 in Germany. I started walking and talking when I was 12 months old. I came to school with six. Every child gets a big bag when it starts school. In the bag is a lot of candy. The first day at school the teacher told us a story. I always was the biggest child in my room. The school time in Germany is different here. In the morning the school started at 8:30 to 1 O clock, and sometimes we had school in the afternoon 2 hours, we

had recess after every hour (five minutes).

The teacher gave us always homework to do. When I went home from school, I did my home work first and then I called some of my girlfriends to came over and play with me. Back of the house we had a great big yard with all kind of fruits, and in the summer we had a fountain with water in our yard.

The streets in Germany are the same as here, and the trees too. In the store it is a little bit different. They got several prices, in the back and middle is more money than in

the front. In some stores children under 14 or 16 years couldn't go in. One or two times in the week was market day, that's on the big place where many open stores are. You got the same kind of food there as you got here, I wrote this down because many children



asked me this.

In the summer we had 6 weeks vacation. In this time I went every summer with my parents on the sea or in the mountains. In the winter we had only 3 weeks vacation. We had different report cards than here, the school work is also different. When I was 8 and 9 years old a lot of my friends went to the United States. One girl went to New York, she sometimes wrote me a letter.

When I was 10 years old we went to Belgium.

Chapter 2

In Belgium

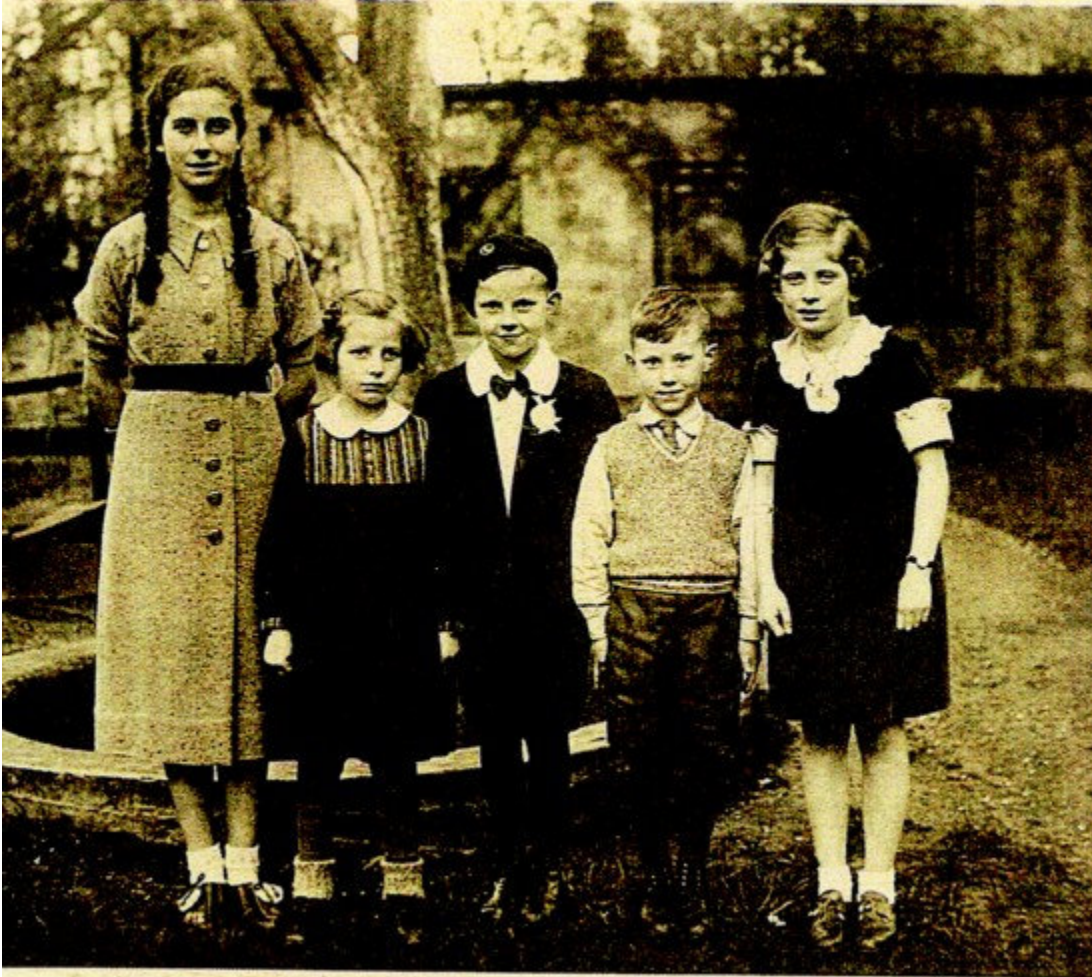
July 1939 we came to Belgium but we had a hard time to come over the border. I went to Brussel this is the capital of Belgium. After one week I came to the school. There I meet a lot of children from my country. The Language was very hard to learn, but after a few months I could talk a little bit. I saw the cassel from the king of Belgium, that is a big building in the middle of the town, around the building are beautiful yards. From Belgium I went to France.

Chapter 3

In France

After we were 8 days in a train day and night with many other people and children and had nothing to eat, you could thing that we were happy when somebody told us that we would arrive tomorrow at France. We came to France May 1940. We went to a little

village, only a few hundred people lived there.



SENTA, GOVERNESS DAUGHTER, FRAU NIEWALDS SON, WOLFGANG BUBI HUMAN, HIS AUNT WORKED FOR MAX IN THE OFFICE AND HELGA

I liked there very much and me and some other children had a lot of fun there. To the nearest town we had to walk ½ hour. I didn't went to school there because my mother told me we wouldn't stay a long time there. In September 1940, we came to Marseille. It is the 2nd largest city of France, and a big harbor city. I went to school there for a few months. Marseille has small dirty streets. The poor people are living on the streets there. When I came home from school I saw always a poor lady on the street, she lived there summer and winter. Marseille has many poor people. Instead of water you drink wine there (red wine) because the water is not good there. You talk the same language there as in Belgium. We were one year in France. From France we went to Africa.

Chapter 4 In Africa

Our first stop from Marseille to Africa was Algiers. Our second stop Oran. And our third was Casablanca, we went through the street of Gibraltar. On both sides are big rocks and in the middle is the water. We came to Africa on May 1941. From Casablanca we went to a little town near the Atlas Mountains, it was terrible warm there. In the night

we could hear the chacals (wolves). The name of the little town is Carpa Taddla. From there we went to Casablanca. Here on the streets you see trees, but there you see only palms. Casablanca is a beautiful city. They haven't got may taxi cabs there, they got horse and wagon. From Africa we went to the United States.



Last Chapter In America.

We came to America on a Portuguese ship. Many people were sea sick, I was too, but only a few days. WE arrived at New York August 1941. We were so happy when we saw the statue of liberty. When I went down from the ship I still couldn't believe that I am in America already, because it took us 3 years to come over. After I was a week in New York I get sick and had Typhoid fever. The doctor told us that is from the water of the ship. I was 3 months in a hospital. I never saw so big buildings before. December 1941 we came to St. Louis. We lived on Cates avenue and I went to the Clark School, I had a very hard time because I couldn't understand what the teacher was talking, I think the English language was very hard. I went two months to the Clark school. Then we moved to 4915a Maple Avenue. I came to the Washington

School February 1942, In room 7. One or two weeks later was valentine and the children send me valentine cards, but I did not know what all this was about. I still couldn't talk such good English only a little bit better. After a few months I came to room 6. Then we had vacation. I always went to the playground. I think it was here very hot, but not so hot as in Africa. From room 6 I came to room 5; I was in room 4 and like it very much. I am still very happy that we are in America. That's all what I can write about me.







HELGA AND
SENTA