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Twice a Refugee,

by

Ruth Haas.

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Chapter I.

Myself.

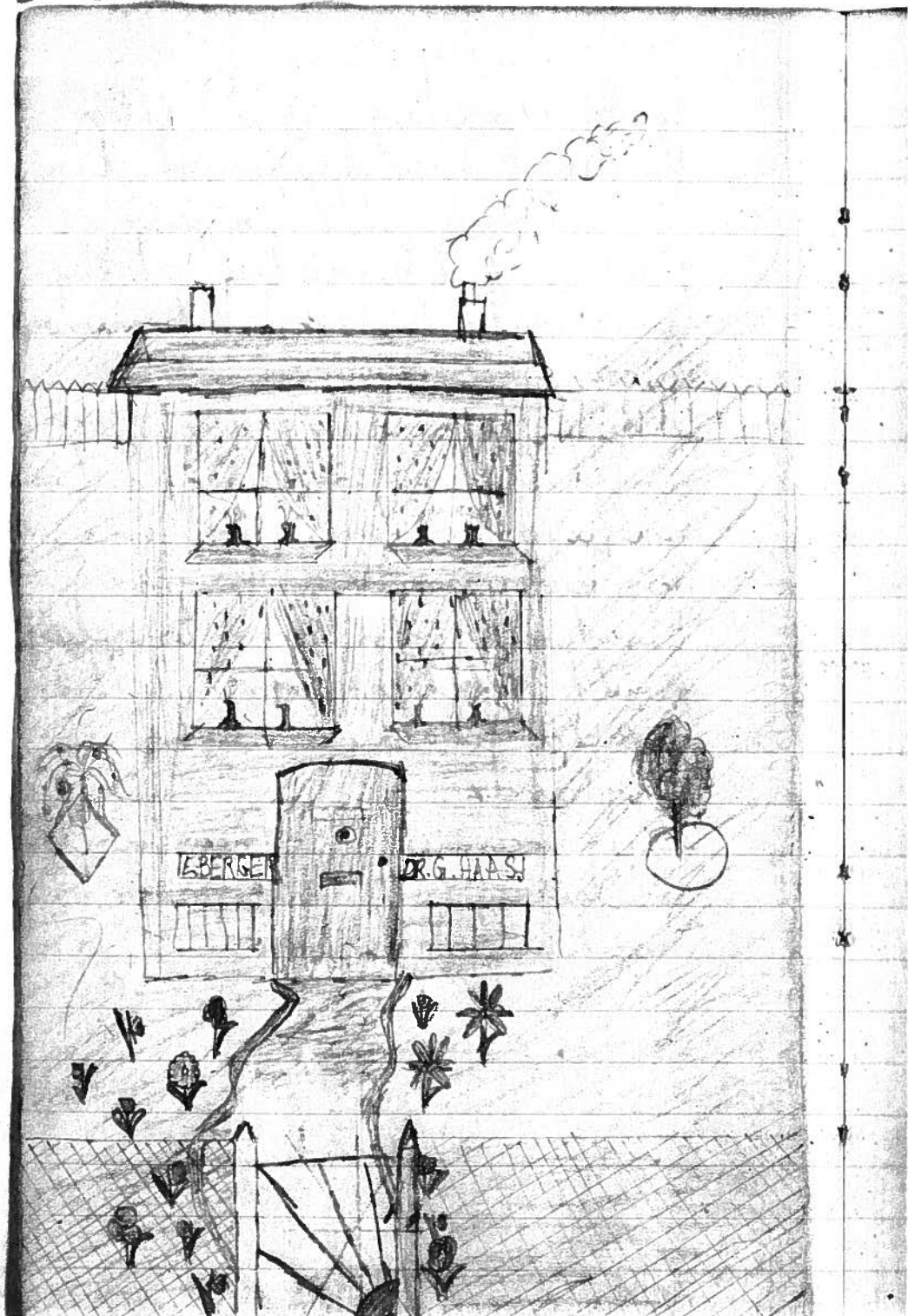
On the 21st of November 1927 I was born in Charlottenburg-Berlin. My parents named me Ruth but my Jewish name is Rachel, and in January 1939 by Herr Hitler's order all German Jewish women and girls had to take the name of Sara.

My mother Martha was born in Poland, but my father Gustav Haas (Israel) had been born in South Germany. With granny he came to the capital in 1913.

to be a soldier, and after the Great War he received das Ehrenkreuz. After a year's study of chemistry at the university he wrote chemistry books.

I have a sister called Jeannette, who is three and a half years older than me, is learning in a Jewish Kinder-garten how to play with little children. She would like to come to England.

My granny, mother's mother is living with my parents and is eighty one.



Chapter II

My home in Germany.

I lived in Germany first inside Berlin when I was a little baby. Then we went outside to the country, and now I am going to tell you all about my country house in Germany.

First of all I will tell you something that will be for you a surprise, but not for us in Germany. In Germany there are large houses. Perhaps you have people here speaking about the high houses in America, so it is the same in Germany only that there are 4 and 5 flats. Of course nearly all the houses have lifts. Now then let's go back to our

little country house. My street was called "Krotzmauer" Strasse, and my number was 8. The front of my house was like this, first of all there was a big gate and if you rang the bell, then we opened the gate from inside. If you came in, there is a nice big rose garden with all colours of flowers. Of course most kind of flowers were roses. Then there is a nice broad way to some steps. When you went up the steps you came to a big green door. When you rung the bell we open the door.

We also have two other gardens. When you came into the kitchen there was a glass door, and if you went down the steps you came into the back garden.

The back garden was for
we children to play in. I
have forgotten to tell you that
there was not only my sister
and I, we were living with an
uncle of ours with his wife, his
mother in law and three children.
After the garden is a little wood
and at last comes a big gate,
there was the third garden, but
what was inside you cannot
guess and so I will tell you.

It big fruit garden. We have
strawberries, apples, oranges,
grapes, pears, peaches and a
lot more which I dont get
to know the name of yet.

Then we had potatoes,
vegetables and Tomatoes. When
we went in the garden, that
was every day it took us
a half hour to go through
that garden. I wish you

would have been in the
summer's there.

When I was six years old
I went to school. Children
do not go to school in Germany
until they are six years old.

The people began to get at the
Jews and mam said. "It is
no use we shall have to go in
the town, and so we went.

And now my parents and
family are still living in
the house inside Berlin and
about the school you will
hear in the next chapter.

Chapter III

School days in Germany.

Now I told you in the last chapter I went to school when 6 years of age. Our new address was "Lybel" Strasse 35 and in the same street about five minutes from our house was our school.

My sister Fannette went to the same school as I, except she went to a High school and I started school. The High school was in the same house as was our school except the council school was in the first and second flat and High school was in third fourth flat.

I went to that Christian school till I was nine years. Then I went to a Jewish high school.

Jeannette left the same time as me the high school and Jeannette went to my uncle's grammar school. My uncle with whom we was living together at the country is having a grammar school. In Germany it is different in the school. In the beginning you go to school at ten o'clock and go home at twelve o'clock. When you are in the Juniors you go at nine and go home at one. When you start the last junior class they start at eight till one, and at the Seniors you

starts at eight till two in the afternoon.

In the afternoon on ^{Wed}Wednesday we had (of course only our class that day) games and on Tuesday and Thursday we had with other classes English. But only from nine years you could start.

In ^{the} Mondays I had Private Drill, but I still had to do my homework. In Germany it does not matter if you are in council school you have to do homework and not only that, you have to pay and buy your own books, pencil, ruler, pen and ruler. We had of each lessons one whole hour, so that we had six lessons a

a day.

In every Jewish school also
council school you were
forced to learn Hebrew, and
I learned a great deal.

half pound of coffee. I went down, and when I came out of the shop, the lady or (Portier) who looks after the house came crying round the corner. I said in German "Hallo. Mrs Quoss out at this time?" She said "Yes Ruth I went for something in a shop next to your Synagogue, and I said 'There is nothing to cry?' " "Yes she said 'Your Synagogue is on fire.' " "What I said, 'Our Synagogue on fire.' " "Yes not only that one every in whole Germany she said.

I went up as quick as my feet could take me. I went into my parents room and told them everything I heard. My uncle went to see, when he came back he said that it was burning. Mother went crying to the telephone to ring my headmaster. He was not there, but the schoolmaster, who is looking after the school house was there, and said that there is no school.

Jeanette and I had look on our face like a dead cat. We went shopping for mother. At night about 10 o'clock my Auntie rung up, Jeanette came from the phone as white as chalk, she could ^{not} talk, her eyes were full of tears, she only handed it to mother. We went in the room, Jeanette started crying like a little baby.

When mother came in, she did the same as my sister. After a while she said "They have put uncle into a concentration camp." Well I was so upset that I started crying too.

I was frightened to go alone to bed.

I said to mother "What will you say to father?" If other could not answer.

We went to bed. The next morning we thought we were alone with out father, but when ^{we} came in the kitchen, father was on his chair near the window reading the "Bible". Jeanette and I not like the face of father

so we laid the table and made father a drink of coffee and gave him some bread rolls with jam. After that father looks much better. I kissed father and "we will go a little in the park ^{and said} daddy. After we came home we told father we would do some English with him. We went in our room and did so.

The paston and still father was still there. At last the 21st of November came and I thought that I will not receive anything for my birthday that year, but I did. In about the beginning of December they started children transports and that is why I am in England and about coming I will tell you in the next chapter.

Chapter V

Getting Ready.

I have a cousin in Hull called Dr. Robert Haas. One day my cousin heard some one mention about having a refuge, so he went up to them, and said, that he had two cousins whom he would like to bring to England. So the lady asked him down. Robert went to Mr. Lavine and talked about it. Then he wrote to us to send a picture of us both, so we did. Mr. Lavine choose me, because I was only eleven years then, and my sister was fourteen. (fifteen in June, it was January

them) so that I would have to go to school. We said I would go.

For many weeks we did not hear anything. One day (it was the 29th of May) my mother had a letter. When I came home, from school, there was on by my Auntie Trude and Grammy. (Jeanette was at school) I said "Grammy where is mother?" She said "Ah a surprise has come. We heard from the English Consulate that your permit will be coming through in less than six weeks."

So I sat down and had dinner.

I had just finished my homework when I heard the door go (my sister who had come home

from school and heard
all the exciting news, was
doing her homework: we
were in the dining room.)
The dining room door opened
and mother and father came
in. "Well?" I said very
excitedly. "Don't be so
rude said Jeanette" let them
get first settled." "Next year
at this time you will
be in England dear" said
mother. "Oh" I said "that
will be grand. Oh but I don't
want to leave you mammy dear."
"Well we have it all down^{me}
darling, so we will have
to bear the pains." Mother
and father were trying to pet
me up and said (father did,
"Never mind dear you will be
happy once you get there."
But by the looks I could

tell that it was very hard for him to say this.)

So the weeks were very short and on the 24th of June my father got a letter. It said something in English so I did not know what it was.

Father opened it and said very happily "It is the permit" "Oh" I said. Now the time went on very quickly. We had a lot of running about. We got to know that holidays on the 28th of June till the 8th of August, so I could not get much schooling the last few days. The last day of the German School for me came. It was very hard for me to part from all my good friends.

When I had left school, mother said it was a lot easier with preparations so that

one worry had gone. We had much running about getting more clothes and things, to take. The week sped along and the parting I will explain in the next chapter.

Chapter VI

Good Bye.

After getting ready I came to know, that my transport goes at the 4th of July. It then was the 27th of June. It was a real exciting time. For the first time I was to leave my parents. At last the Sunday (the last one for me at home) came. I remember my cousin Rita, a friend Ruth Mendelson and another friend Mia Mendelson came. My mother and I had an exciting time. I remember mother made us each an egg, (we both had an exciting time) my sister of course as well. Monday came and I was

half happy and half unhappy. In the afternoon my two friends Ruth and Mia came. I was running in and out to say, "Good Bye", to people in our house.

The last night came at last. I went to bed at eight o'clock. When I was about one hour in bed Jeannette came in and I get up again to help mother to pack my things. At last I got to bed at half past nine. My sister slept with me the last night and I promised her not to make my grandma cry. My father woke me at five o'clock. I did not think grandma would get up, but she did.

All was well and I

thought I behaved my self very well, I never let one tear come out of my eye. My father took me to the Schlesischer Bahnhof (that is the name of the station) and went in the train at 9 o'clock. On the Charlottenburger Bahnhof. (that is the station near our home) My parents came again and relatives came to see me off. That was the hardest part of all. "But I think it will be all right", I said to my self and so it was. About through Germany I will tell you in the next chapter.

Chapter VII

In the Train through
Germany.

When the train goes
it's sign to go, I had
a last look at my
mother and father.

I made a very happy
face for my parents
to cheer up.

It left the station and
then I had a little
weep for myself when
nobody watched me.

When I got over it I
talked to the girl's
to try and forget (it
nearly like a holiday
for us.)

It was beautiful to look
at the fields - and rivers.

We stopped at many places and got more children. It was rather a long journey so we played games, talked, ate and slept or looked a little out of the window.

The girl who sat across from me had no money with her so I felt very sorry for her. My father had given me 2 mark (60 pence) with me so I gave her half of it (1 mark 30 pence).

At every stop we used to get something like ice cream, toffee, chocolate etc. We used to say bye-bye and good luck and went on.

I really cannot tell

much more as the train went round so quickly got us to see everything.

When we came to the custom "The Hook of Holland" that is what it is called before Holland we were all so frightened that one of the girls called Remate fell a sleep.

When the official came in he was trying to wake her, by whistling which he could not do so we all started giggling. At the end when she did wake up, he only asked us how much money we had. He never looked at our

eases.

When he had gone
one of the girls said
"He did not open the
cases because they
were so nice and
tidy, one upon an-
other." Going through
Holland you will
hear in the next
chapter.

Chapter VIII

Going through Holland.

When we came out of Germany, we came into Holland. We first did not take any fancy to it. When the ladies and men came in and gave each compartment a big box of biscuits and bottles of lemonade we began to like them. It was lovely through Holland. The people were so friendly. I remember one road crossing the children and grown ups waved to us. On one station a very good looking young porter asked us if we would like some choco-

late we answered him, that we had to much chocolate our selves, but we took it and enjoyed it very much. There is not much to say really.

Oh I remember there was a big field with chickens and so on. In the middle there was a big farm house. It was seen very plain.

We travelled in the train till 9-30 p.m. then we had to get off and go to the ship. Everybody was shivering. We received a card with a number my was 88 and that was our bed number. I was very pleased because 88 was top and 87 was bottom, so I slept on the top.

"We waited about half an hour till we could go on board: We were sent straight to bed.

About across the North Sea you will hear in the next chapter.

Chapter VIII.

Cross the North Sea.

We got undressed and I just got on my bed, when a nurse came in to see if we were all, all right. "Some girls have been sick already," said the nurse. "Oh I hope I will not be sick," I said to the nurse. At last we got to sleep, after a real good pillow-fight. In the middle of the night I woke up and I was very frightened. Ruth Goltschmidt (the girl who slept under me) said, "Are you awake Ruth?", I answered, "yes Ruth." "I feel sick." "Just wait a minute Ruth," she said and she gave me an aspirin. I lay on my stomach and after a bit of groaning I went off

to sleep. In the morning about 5 o'clock, Ruth three other girls and I were going to get up and see the sunrise. We all awoke at the same time, but we were too tired to get up. Ruth and I got up, we were ready washed and dressed, so when the nurse came to wake us at 6.30 a.m. she was surprised to see us up. "Don't you do that when you get to Hull will you?" she said in a laughing tone. We promised her and I am sure I have not broken the promise till this day.

In the morning Ruth, Rita Jacob (a girl who went to the central school with me) and myself went on the top deck, when a big storm came on, my new hat flew off my head down to the cabins and of the girls who found it

gave it to me afterwards.
The next chapter is journey to Londo
and Hull. It will be quite
long.

Chapter X

Journey to London and Hull.

At last in London. After all the lovely stories I have heard about London, I really did enjoy the three and a half hours there. In fact I did not want to leave it after I had to go in the train to Hull.

Well, when we got on Kings' Cross Station, there were the King, Queen, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose on the platform. It is the first time in my life I have ever shaken hands with a King or a Royal family. I had a very funny feeling inside me.

Of course I did not carry my case, none of us did. England is a free country, all I had

on my back was my haversack. (Well I mean to carry)
After we left the station we went to Bloomsbury House. There our names were called out and they took many particulars. Some of the girls' relations and guardians of the girls who were going to live in London were there.

When everything was finished Ruth Goltzschmidt and I were taken in a taxi to another station. "Lean back", said the gentleman who came with us. "When 'Oh there are my Auntie and Uncle" (of course I said this in German.) I got out of the taxi, when it stopped and ran into my Auntie's arms. After saying "How I am and how they are

my auntie asked me if I would like to have something to eat first. So off we three went into a cafe. It was the first time in my life for months and months that I had been in a cafe, as in Germany in front of every cafe it says "Juden Un erwüns ht." which means in plain English "Jews are not wanted". I had coffee, eggs on toast cream butter and jam. Well I really did enjoy it.

When I had finished my tea, we went round London. I think London was very different to Berlin. Well the time went on and we had to make our way to the station.

The time came for the train to come in. Another "good-bye"

but this time not so
a hard one. I also spied
with the gentleman. After
I recognised him to be
man who came with
in the taxi.

The train came in. My
came into the compartments
with us, and (as the) as
the lady and gentleman
see we arrive safely to
Hull. They said they wa
and they did. I said "B
and the train went off. The
people who were looking a
us had a little baby with
and it was very bonny.
Ruth was looking at
and I was looking at.
A little while later we
to each other. All at once
the waiter came. The gent
said something to him. The

waiter came back, and put two bottles of Lemonade and two glasses on our small table. "Oh don't, don't", I said, "I've no money, I cannot pay", "It's alright", said the gentleman. "I'll pay for you". "Oh thank you, thank you", said Ruth and I. You see we did not know it was thank you. From that time it taught me that English people are very kind and helpful.

At last it was half past eight. The train stopped. "Well girls this is Hull", the lady said. Before we got off the train we said, "Thank you and thank you". When we got off the train I saw my Auntie, cousin, Mr. Swinn and one of his daughters and a friend.

I was very pleased to see them all. My cousin brought his car. I sat on my new Uncle's knee. I found they were all good and kind to me. The car stopped, we all went out. "Well Ruth", said my cousin (in German) to me "this is your new home". We went into the house, which I found very different to German houses. (There) All the family were there. When I was about a week with them I grew to love them very much.) I had my supper. I was also very tired and homesick, but my Auntie found that out very ^{soon} much. When I got to bed I cried very much, but my Auntie was there to comfort me, till I fell asleep.