

More untold stories of World War II: 1) Two German scientists escape from Nazi Germany; 2) A secret frequency hopping radio in wartime England; 3) A boy witnesses his father's murder in Poland and seeks reconciliation.

World War II More Untold Stories

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**World War II:
More Untold Stories**

George Kozlowski

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ISBN 978-1-60145-434-8

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2008

Edited by Tonya Perry

Table of Contents

PART ONE: Escape to America.....	1
Chapter 1: Offer to Leave Germany.....	3
Chapter 2: Designing a Method of Escape.....	9
Chapter 3: Creating a Viable Plan.....	15
Chapter 4: Meeting Raul	23
Chapter 5: On to Stuttgart	26
Chapter 6: The Offer	30
Chapter 7: Getting Prepared for the Accident.....	37
Chapter 8: The Accident	40
Chapter 9: Moving On	48
Chapter 10: Preparation	52
Chapter 11: The Train	56
Chapter 12: The Boat	61
Chapter 13: England and America	68
Chapter 14: The State Department.....	76
Epilogue	91
PART TWO: Frequency Hopping.....	95
Prologue	97
Chapter 1: The Development	101
Chapter 2: Demonstration	108
Chapter 3: The Spy	113
Chapter 4: On to England.....	120

George Kozlowski

Chapter 5: Getting Established in England.....	126
Chapter 6: Spy Work	135
Chapter 7: After December 7, 1941	144
Chapter 8: The Discovery	147
Chapter 9: Locating the Radio	152
Chapter 10: Controlling Messages.....	170
Chapter 11: The Turning.....	189
Chapter 12: More Turning	197
Chapter 13: Using the Double Agents	206
Epilogue	211
PART THREE: Lamentation and Reconciliation	215
Prologue	217
Chapter 1: Pre-war Days and Then	218
Chapter 2: Invasion of Poland.....	223
Chapter 3: Life is Changed	226
Chapter 4: Fleeing From Poland.....	233
Chapter 5: The Polish RAF.....	243
Chapter 6: From Fighter Pilot to Bomber Pilot	252
Chapter 7: Lancaster in Combat	263
Chapter 8: Civilian Life	269
Chapter 9: Spain.....	278
Chapter 10: North America.....	291
Chapter 11: Going Worldwide.....	298
Epilogue	309

Chapter 1: Pre-war Days and Then ...

Helena Maria Raczynska was the youngest of three daughters of Doctor Edward Raczynski. (In the Polish language the *ski* is used at ending of a surname to indicate a possessive form and *ska* is the feminine form of the ending. *Von*, *Van* and *De* are used in other languages before the surname to mean *of* or *from*, also possessive).

Dr. Edward Raczynski was a physician/surgeon in a town of Leczno in western Poland. Helena had an average childhood during the early part of the twenty-first century. She was born in 1903. She attended the regular school system, which was common throughout most of Europe. She attended the primary school which was for ages 7 to 13 then the secondary school or gymnasium for ages 13 - 16 and then 16 to 19 the last three years; this gave the student a certificate of matriculation and enables the student to enter a university with a recommendation from the schools faculty.

Helena enrolled in the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Also attending the same university was her childhood friend, Józef (pronounced Yu-zef) Dolot who would later marry Helena. She majored in languages but switched to mathematics. Józef majored in Chemistry and went on to obtain a master's

degree and then a doctorate degree in chemistry at the same Krakow University.

Helena went to Dresden, Germany to study for her Master's degree. A mathematics teacher, Doctor Maximillian (Max) Krueger, at Jagiellonian University was accepting a full professorship at the Technische Universitat Dresden (translated to Dresden University of Technology also called by its abbreviated form T U Dresden or simply TUD) He persuaded Helena to study at the German University for her masters degree and then her doctorate.

Helena and Jozef (English spelling of Józef) were married in 1924, while they were still students. A son was born in 1925 and named Jozef. They were able to finish their education and they returned to their hometown of Leczno. Helena began teaching mathematics and languages in the secondary school also called gymnasium. Jozef was a science teacher at the same school, he was being considered for the job of school principal. It was probably a certainty.

Dr. Krueger suggested to Helena and Jozef Dolot to attend a symposium for European teachers that was being held in Stuttgart, Germany. This meeting was to be in September of 1939. He sent travel documents and train tickets to Helen for

George Kozlowski

Helen Dolot and Jozef Dolot along with invitations to the symposium and hotel prepaid reservations. He said his university was paying for because they had a generous scholarship fund to be used for matters such as this. It would be after the fall year started but arrangements could be made to attend this symposium. Relatives could take care of the younger Jozef who was 14 years of age.

During the first three weeks of the month of August, 1939, Jozef, Helena and young Jozef took a vacation throughout southern Poland. They spent most of the time visiting friends and relatives. Once the school season started then they would not have time off except for the symposium in Stuttgart, Germany. They stayed for a week near Krakow to visit some relatives. They also had a tour of the famous salt mines.

A cousin of Jozef Dolot was Captain Zygmunt Zielinski, also known as ZZ, a pilot in the Polish Air Force (Lotnictwo Wojskowe). His airfield was near Krakow. Jozef went to see him, taking along young Jozef while Helena went with some women to do their women thing.

Captain ZZ gave the elder and the younger Jozef a ride in one the airplanes, a PZL 37, medium bomber. Young Jozef was elated in going for an airplane ride. He was ecstatic when

ZZ let him take the controls. He said that some day he was going to learn how to fly.

After the flight, the two men and the boy had a meal at the airfield.

“We are trying to prepare our small air force against an invasion by Germany. Germany will only rattle their sword for a short while. Look what they have done in Sudetenland and no nation interfered. Hitler wants to annex Poland and he will create an excuse to have a war with Poland,” Zygmunt (ZZ) said.

“What good is Poland to Germany? Poland is a poor country; it has no strategic value or wealthy recourses. I don’t think Germany will invade or grab a part of Poland,” Jozef answered.

They continued with their discussion on the pros and cons of a war. As with any discussion of this type, there is never a conclusion or a definite persuasion of one’s ideas. The other party never agrees totally in these types of discussions.

Young Jozef was only interested in the airplanes. He went from one airplane to another, touching them and sitting in the cockpit of some of the airplanes.

That evening Jozef Dolot, Helena, and young Jozef met

George Kozlowski

with Captain Zygmunt Zielinski and his family; his wife Jadwiga,(Hedwig), his 4 year old son Wladyslaw (Walter) and his 2 year old daughter Anastasia. They met for dinner at the Pod Gruszka (Under the Pear) Restaurant.

Their dinner consisted of Orange Vodka and tea for the adults. The children drank milk or water. An appetizer of pickled beets (Cwikla) was followed by the main course of baked Ham served with potatoes that are baked with eggs and cream; yellow string beans and asparagus with a tomato sauce. A dessert of chrusciki (Bow Knots), a type of cookie sprinkled with powdered sugar, ended the evening meal.

They returned to their home in Leszno on the next day, Friday, August 19, 1939. On Monday they would prepare for the coming school year.

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