



Assaph Krebs 1919



Lydia Sorge Krebs 1919

CHAPTER 2

THE KREBS FAMILY

My parents, Assaph and Lydia Krebs, were married in 1919. They settled in the same area in West Prussia as their parents. This was in the city of Rehden, south of Danzig (Gdansk) near Graudens. East and West Prussia together at that time were the largest states in the German Empire. My parents owned a large flour mill in partnership with my father's parents, Heinrich and Luise Krebs. The house they lived in was a mansion. As I heard it, they were doing very well. Mother's side of the family were farmers and my father's were mill workers.

Germany's economy before 1914 was the envy of all Europe, but its defeat in World War I stripped the country bare. Germany was forced to transfer most of its gold

reserve to France and England. Much of its industry was dismantled and taken to France and Belgium. Unemployment was rising and so was inflation.

In the Treaty of Versailles, after World War I, a large strip of land was given to Poland. This strip, called the *Polish Corridor*, separated most of West Prussia from East Prussia and from the rest of Germany.

Unfortunately, my family who lived on the strip lying in West Prussia were compelled to become Polish citizens and be under the jurisdiction of the Polish government.

Becoming Polish citizens, it was compulsory for the men to serve in the Polish army. This command was strictly enforced. My Dad refused to serve. Therefore, in order to avoid arrest, my parents and paternal grandparents fled secretly during the night of January 21, 1921, crossing the border into Germany. They left with only the clothes on their backs. Not only did they suffer the loss of their home and all their possessions but their first-born child, a four-week-old baby girl, caught a bad cold and died two weeks later. Leaving family and friends and now the loss of their daughter left them devastated beyond words. Only their deep faith in God kept them going. They trusted the Lord completely and put their lives in His hands.

Having fled from Poland, they found refuge in Greifenhagen, Pommern, south of Stettin (Szczecin now, as it became Polish in 1945). My parents and grandparents, again in partnership, bought a flour mill with a store there. I was born there in January 1922. Since my mother worked daily in the store, I had a live-in nanny to take care of me. Her name was Elisabeth.

My parents and grandparents were devoted Christians. The Lord was number one in their lives. Grandpa Heinrich, also a lay preacher, was always willing to step in to help people. In 1890 he was a church cantor in Russia.

The story was told to me that one Sunday every one went to church except my father's fifteen-year-old brother Otto, Elisabeth and I. Otto found his father's gun and started to play around, pointing it at Elisabeth as she was holding me. She was scared to death, telling him to please put the gun away. He just laughed and pointed it at himself, positive it wasn't loaded. Well, he was wrong, it was! The bullet penetrated one of his lungs. He was in the hospital most of the next nine months. Grandma Luise fasted and prayed for his recovery. She made a promise to the Lord that she would fast every Friday. After Otto recovered, she kept that promise in thankfulness to the Lord for healing her son and keeping him alive.



The Heinrich Krebs family:

1-Alica, Meta, Luise, Heinrich, Adina and Olga wife of Jonath Krebs

2-Gustav Bendlin,Else&Alex Badtke,Assaph&Lydia and Jonath Krebs