

CHAPTER TWO

JULIUS EWALD KARL

A Child in time of War

(As told by Julius to his wife and children)

Julius Ewald Karl was born the third of four children to Julian and Karoline (Werner) Karl on April 5, 1931 in a German colony in Pinino, Poland. His parents and their siblings were brought up in the Lutheran tradition—the State protestant religion. However, they all crossed the line of faith in revival meetings held in Poland by missionaries from the Church of God-Anderson in the USA. Julius' dad had no formal education but soon was considered the pastor of a group of committed followers of Jesus Christ. The Church of God met in a room built onto their house. War broke out, and when Julius was 11 years old his father was drafted into the army and sent to the Russian front never to be seen again.



Left – Julius, 13, and Friend c 1944, Poland

Below – Julius and Mom. Karoline Karl. c. 1943. Poland



The next few months were very difficult for the family. As a Christian family, the Karl children were not permitted to be part of Hitler's Youth Corp, and therefore they were ostracized from their school friends and classmates. Soldiers routinely patrolled and investigated activities to be sure they were approved by the government. Church services were not on the approved list. Anytime there was a birthday or other significant family event, the people would gather at the Karl house for prayer meetings. The children were put on guard outside and told to let them know immediately if soldiers were approaching. Julius recounted

running inside to give the signal and seeing the saints jump up from their knees, wiped tears, and began singing and laughing to celebrate the designated event.

A year later, after several relatives had been killed by invading soldiers, the other relatives fled to West Germany, but Julius, his mother, and three sisters stayed behind. She didn't want to leave their farm and believed the Lord would protect them. When his mother finally realized they would not survive if they remained in their home, she packed up the wagon and the children and headed out of town. They were soon overtaken by soldiers, captured, and taken to a school (make-shift prison) where they were held captive. The two older girls were sent out to work on farms. Julius and his younger sister Frieda were permitted to stay with their mother. Julius was assigned to shovel snow—which took an emotional toll on him as he uncovered frozen body parts of some who had died. On one particular day, when he came in with nearly frozen fingers, his mother pulled a needle and the last strand of thread from inside her sweater and, with tears flowing down her cheeks, tried to repair the holes in his gloves.

When the war was over and they were released, they soon discovered they were still captives and were not permitted to travel. However, with the help of farmers for whom the older girls worked, they found a secret passage and by nightfall escaped across the border. They found their way to other relatives in West Germany and lived with them until finances permitted them to secure a home. (More about this in later pages.)



*Back Row L to R – Frieda, Erna, Julius, Gertrud
Front Row – L to R – Karoline (Mom) and her sister
Tante Hulda Germany c 1950.*



*Center above, Julian Karl with two unidentified
friends. C. 1928. Julian was six years
younger than his wife, Karoline.*