

## ELIZABETH PSCHORR

Elizabeth Pschorr was married to an Aryan and survived the war in Germany because of this "Privileged Marriage".

*"We escaped the destruction of Hamburg by moving to the country and also avoided my registration at the Jewish Center. This was a required act all over Germany and served later for tracing Jews for deportation."*

Elizabeth Pschorr (née Holzer) was born in Hamburg in 1911. Her mother was a German gentile, and her father was an Austrian Jew. He felt German first, and, wishing to save the family from persecution, had them baptized Lutheran. Thus, as a child Elizabeth was unaware of her Jewish ancestry. Her first encounter with anti-Semitism occurred when she was about eight years old, and her best school friend told me that she could not play with me anymore because I was Jewish.

Elizabeth's father worked in her grandfather's shipping firm. He was denounced by a disgruntled former employee and was sent to a concentration camp. Upon his release six months later, he was required to give up all his possessions and leave the country.

In 1933, the Nazi party came to power and Elizabeth and her Aryan fiancé, Fritz Georg Pschorr, agreeing that their love was stronger than racial politics. He was a member of an established Munich brewing family which did not approve of his marriage to Elizabeth.

The couple decided to remain in Germany and found refuge at the Pschorr family property near Munich where they tried to live as inconspicuously as possible. Their three children were baptized. Under the Nuremberg laws, their marriage and the fact that they had children protected Elizabeth to a certain degree, but she had to surrender her German passport and carry an identity card stamped with the "J" and the name "Sarah."

Elizabeth was threatened by local party leaders who confiscated money and rations. She was desperate and had to find food and medical supplies for the family by begging the neighboring farmers. Elizabeth's husband was drafted into the army and had to disclose his wife's identity. He was enlisted in the Organization Todt to do heavy labor, but he fell ill with Hepatitis and did not have to serve

Aided by the organization Joint, the family spent time in a displaced persons camp until they were got on an emigration list and were able to leave for America on a troop transport. Elizabeth wrote a book, *A Privileged Marriage*, and often spoke to groups describing her wartime experiences.