2. The Long Night

The year 1939 started well for Edda, then ten years old. Life at a girls' boarding-school in England was good for her. She made friends with other girls. She began to enjoy herself. Above all, she did very well at ballet.

Then something happened to change her life. That same year, 1939, the Second World War started. Before long, England was at war with Germany. This meant danger. The Baroness saw that England was no longer a safe place. She quickly took Edda back to Holland and put her at a small school in Arnhem, near the van Heemstra estate. Edda spoke English and French perfectly, but only two or three words of Dutch. The change from England was very hard for her.

Arnhem is only twenty miles from the German border. Before many days had gone by, the sound of tanks could be heard in the distance. It meant that the Germans were coming closer. Then, one night, they arrived. Edda remembered later: "People were told to stay indoors and to close the shutters. We were told not to look out of the windows. Naturally, we all peeped out. I did, too. It was strange. There was no fighting. We saw the grey uniforms of German soldiers on foot. Then came the trucks and tanks. Soon, they were everywhere in Arnhem."

At first, life under the Germans went on as usual. The Germans were very polite to everybody. They tried to win people's hearts. But this did not last for long. In fact, things quickly got worse.

First, the German soldiers stopped being polite. They pushed people off the pavements and spoke rudely to them. They wanted to let people know that they were the bosses. Soon, too, money was taken from the rich. All the van Heemstras' land and fortune was taken. When the Dutch fought back secretly, the Germans shot people. One of Edda's uncles, a famous lawyer, was shot by them. So was one of her cousins. Then one day, as Edda watched in fear, the Germans took away her half-brother, Alexander, to work in a camp. After that, Ian hid for the rest of the war.

Families like the van Heemstras were seen as enemies by the Germans. Each day they had to be very careful. As Edda's family name was famous, she changed her name. And for the rest of the war she never spoke a word of English or French in public. If the Germans heard her, they might think she was from a rich family.

Daily life in Arnhem became hard for a sensitive girl like Edda. She soon stopped going to school; instead, she was taught by a tutor. Her ballet lessons went on, and she dreamed more and more of becoming a famous dancer. But each day she had less energy. The problem was food. There was no longer enough of it for the people living in Arnhem. A meal for Edda was often only bread and endive. In spring and winter she ate mostly tulip bulbs. Getting thinner and thinner, she even fainted in her ballet class one day. Still, she did not let go of her dream.

On account of the bad food and stress of those years, Edda had a weak stomach all her life, as well as asthma. Bad dreams, too, often troubled her sleep. In those dreams she saw again many of the sad scenes of her childhood. All her life, she could not forget such scenes.

"I saw Jewish families with little children, with babies, put into big wooden trains with just a little space open at the top. On the platform there were soldiers, and they separated the families. I remember, very sharply, one little boy standing with his parents on the platform. He was very pale, very blond, wearing a coat that was much too big for him. And he stepped on the train. I was a child observing a child."

After the war, when Edda read the diary of Anne Frank, all this came back to her. She remembered the days of fear. The book was like a part of her life. She and Anne Frank were exactly the same age.

EXERCISES (2)

Ａ　（　）に適切な日本語を入れ、本文のあらすじを完成させなさい．

　1939年、当時（ア　　　）歳のエダは（イ　　　　　）にいた．その年、（ウ　　　　　　　　　　）が始まり、（イ）が（エ　　　 ）と戦争を始めると、母親は彼女を（オ　　　　　）へ連れ戻した．

　しかし（エ）軍が侵攻し、ファン・ヘームストラ家の（カ　　　　）は奪われた．エダは裕福なことを隠すため（キ　　　　）を変え、人前では（ク　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　 ）．やがて、学校にも行かなくなったが、（ケ　　　　）の練習は続けた．

Ｂ　本文の内容に合うものにはＴ、合わないものにはＦを書きなさい．

　(1) Edda was very poor at speaking Dutch. （　）

　(2) The German soldiers were always polite to the people in Arnhem. （　）

　(3) Edda never gave up her dream of becoming a ballet dancer. （　）

　(4) Edda forgot all her unhappy war experiences after the war was over. （　）

Ｃ　日本文の意味に合うように、（　）内の語を並べかえなさい．

　(1) 彼は彼女に電話しないようにと言われた．

　　　He (ア.call イ.not ウ.told エ.to オ.was) her.

　(2) いつ出発するか知らせてください．

　　　Please (ア.me イ.let ウ.when エ.know) you will start.

　(3) 彼は驚いたが、私もそうだった．

　　　He was surprised (ア.so イ.was ウ.I エ.and).

　(4) 口に食べ物を入れたままで話してはいけません．

　　　Don't speak (ア.mouth イ.full ウ.with エ.your).