3. The Great Escape

During the war years many people in Holland fought secretly against the Germans. Edda played her part to help these people. Several times a week she walked to and from the Conservatory for her dance lessons. The German soldiers who saw her usually paid no attention. She was just a young, long-legged girl carrying a school bag. They did not suspect. But Edda often walked the streets in fear, for in her shoes she carried messages for the underground forces. If the Germans knew, it would certainly be the end for her.

She also gave secret dance recitals, and the money was used to help the resistance. These recitals were given behind locked doors and with the curtains drawn. The people who came were brave. It was risky, but they all wanted to help.

Slowly, the Germans began to lose the war. But their soldiers were still fighting. In the kitchens and hospitals, people were needed to help, so the Germans began to take girls from the streets. Every day many girls were put in trucks and taken away. To walk in the streets was not safe.

One day, Edda was on her way home. She had just handed over a secret message and was feeling good. But her heart almost stopped as she turned a corner. A German soldier was standing a few metres in front of her. He pointed his gun at her.

"Fraulein! Come here ... hurry, hurry!"

Edda saw a group of women behind the soldier. She went forward. She was put against the wall of a house and searched. In her school bag she had some sheet music, a little bread and a small bottle of apple juice. These were not taken from her.

Then the women were told to walk. They went down the street. Men watched them pass by, but could not help them. There were several German soldiers with the women, and they all had guns.

After walking for some time, they stopped. One soldier stayed with them while the others went to find more women. This soldier put his gun against a lamp-post and started to light a cigarette.

Edda looked around. This was her only hope. She was weak from lack of food and could not even dance, but she decided to try. In a flash, she ran to the nearest corner and turned it. The soldier did not even have time to lift his gun. Edda ran into a building and went down into a damp, dark cellar. There she waited, her heart beating fast.

The cellar had a tiny window at the top. On the floor there were some empty wooden boxes and old newspapers. There were also some hungry rats. Outside, the sky was blue and the sun was warm, but inside the cellar, alone, Edda shivered and wept. And so began her days in that place.

She had no idea of time. Days and nights passed. Sometimes German soldiers walked past her window, putting a terrible fear in her. She tried to eat as little food as possible, but soon there was no more bread or juice. Her body got weaker and weaker. Then very bad pains started. Somehow she had to leave this place soon, or she would die.

One evening, using her last strength, Edda crept out of the cellar. Here and there she saw German cars, but the streets were empty. There was still hope. Very carefully she went from street to street, walking silently, her eyes looking everywhere. On and on she went, until she finally reached home. There, mother and daughter were united again. They counted the days. Edda had spent three weeks and four days in hiding.

The family doctor came at once. Edda had bad jaundice. She had not eaten any greens for too many days. The doctor told her to rest and eat. So she did, and this way she slowly got better, but for the rest of her life she always remained thin.

That was a bad winter for the Dutch people. About 20,000 people died of hunger. Everybody talked about food, the food they wanted to eat after the war. Edda wanted a whole chocolate cake. But for the time being, she, her mother and her aunt could only eat a few turnips and flour made from tulip bulbs.

Eventually, the war came to an end on 5 May, 1945, the day after Edda's sixteenth birthday. When the British troops came to Arnhem, Edda ran out into the street to say "hello" to them. She danced and smiled and jumped with joy. She wanted to kiss each one of them. It was so good to be alive.

EXERCISES (3)

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．

　戦争中、オランダの人々は（ア　　　　　　　　　）を作ってドイツ軍に対抗したが、エダもそれに協力した．彼女の役割は（イ　　　　　　　　　　　　　）ことだった．

　ある日、エダは帰宅途中でドイツ兵に連行されかけたが、兵士の目を盗んで（ウ　　　　　　）に逃げ込んだ．（エ　　　）日間そこに隠れた後、家に戻ったときには身体は衰弱し、（オ　　　　　）を食べなかったために（カ　　　　　）にかかっていた．その年の冬は２万人のオランダ人が（キ　　　　）するほどひどい（ク　　　　　　）であったが、1945年５月５日、戦争は終結した．エダ(ケ　　　 )歳のときのことだった．

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) The Germans took girls away to make them work in places such as hospitals. （　）

　(2) While hiding in the cellar, Edda did not know how many days had passed. （　）

　(3) It was very easy for Edda to get to her house after she escaped from the cellar. （　）

　(4) When the British soldiers came to Arnhem, Edda was afraid that they might be rude to her. （　）

Ｃ　 下線部の表現に注意して、次の文を日本語になおしなさい．

　(1) He sat on the chair with his eyes closed.

( )

　(2) She stood on the deck, her hair streaming in the wind.

　　　(　　 　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　)

　(3) Try to read as many books as possible.

　　　(　　　　 　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　)