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T H E P L A N .

GOING THROUGH MY LIFE.

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## CHAPTER 1.

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS I SAW IT AND AS I IMAGINE IT NOW.

Often enough, I think about what happened in the past, and go right to the future, what might happen and become of us and of the whole world. Thus hour after hour passes.

I loved my native land-Czechoslovakia, and cannot think about not to love it continually, until my death.

The capital-Prague-is situated more to the West-as you should know. It is a beautiful city, the nicest I saw so far. Its royal castle is on the mount, almost in the center of the city. It stands highly and proudly climbs to heaven above the silver river, which flows in many turns under great many bridges, around beautiful forests, and through most beautiful valleys. What a scenery!

The educational side was there also. We have many permanent theatres, in which they play the operas. There were as well many movies from which you could learn quite a bit of interesting things going in the world. In Prague there is also a great university one of the oldest in the world, build by Charles Fourth-"Father of Our Native land"-as we call him, in 1348. The schools are more public, and about the same as in Canada.

The weather does not differ very much either, only the winters are not as hard and long as here.

We have great deal of sports in Czechoslovakia, in winter it is usually hockey, skating and skiing, in summer swimming, tennis, basket-ball, foot-ball, volley-ball and many others. Besides that there is scout and sokol-it is an organization, where we do gymnastics, and every six years we have a big festival, where ten thousands and ten thousands children and also older men and women do gymnastics. People from the whole world come to see it.



Our national colors are red, blue and white. Our sign is white lion in a red field. The national tree is the linden tree.

From the news, as we get from our relatives and faithful friends, the conditions there must be just terrible. I do not know how the people can live. They can only get two eggs; half a pound of butter, a pint of milk, almost no meat and little of vegetables and fruit, for a person all this for the whole month. They cannot select their own work. They are not allowed even to have one more room than others. All the houses belong to the state. Poor people!!! They must be satisfied with the smallest things. I do not intend to say anything about those people, who have to leave their families and go to Siberia and die in the camps for sake of their beloved country. Still I would be glad to return and see my native, beloved country and "The Hundred-Towered Gold Mother Prague" as the city is often called, and with people free again!



## CHAPTER 2.

### SECOND WORLD WAR AND ITS RESULTS.

It is the year 1938. Another war creeps on the world and takes away the freedom.

Hitler's way for unity of all Germans leads to the occupation of Austria in March 1938 and part of Czechoslovakia in October of the same year, while the Western powers see in this the advancement of rescue for peace. March fifteenth 1939 brings German occupation to Czechoslovakia under which it suffers until the end of the war. These easy successes of Hitler inflame him so that on September first 1939 he invades with his powerful army into Poland, with which in three weeks shares with Russia. By Hitler's invasion into Poland the western powers wake up and England and France declare war on Germany. However they are not prepared for the war, and they only begin to make preparations. In April 1940 Hitler's army occupies Norway and Denmark, in the beginning of May they set across Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg into France, which after a short and hard fight in June 1940 gives up before Hitler. The rest of the English and French troops after a great loss leaves the continent from Dunkirk, so that on the English island they get ready for further fights. The whole world arms, Italy and Japan become allies of Germans, occupy the English and French colonies, territory in Northern Africa and in the Far East in Asia. In April 1941 Hitler occupies Jugoslavia, Greece, Rumania and Bulgaria and on June twenty-second 1941 Hitler's army Russia. After the Japanese attack on the American Pearl Harbour, America enters the war. The whole world is in the boiling point of war, fronts on three continents destroy lives and property of millions people, and the Germans advance. Until the end of the year 1942 and the beginning



of the year 1943 bring changes, Germans are defeated at Stalingrad and in North Africa they go back, they are driven out of North Africa by United Allies who cross to Italy to European continent. Italy surrenders in fall 1943. In June 1944 invasion of United forces into France, brings freedom to France, Belgium, Holland and Hitler's power weakens. On May eighth 1945, after the believed death or in better words the disappearance of Hitler, German generals sign an unconditional surrender.

The bloody history of six years showed clearly the material and moral predominance of democracy over the dictatorship unfortunately did not develop even until to-day to world peace, for in the East stands another dictator. He is more powerful and more cruel than Hitler, and his influence hits into the hearts of every nation. It gives the cause for new fightings, which blaze on the Far East, gives the cause to interior uneasiness in separate countries and prepares the rule of matter over the spirit. But the spirit is immortal and the just God will bring again the peace and rest to all the people of good will on earth. Also the flag of liberty will again flaunt over my Homeland-Czechoslovakia, and over my native city-Prague!!!



### CHAPTER 3.

#### YEAR 1948.

The beginning of the year 1948 did not show anything abnormal than other years. But in the meantime the Fate brought to me and to my country and to the whole world so many surprises and changes. It started quite innocently.

The demands of the communistic members of Prague government and deputies, demanding new laws in the spirit of Sovietic legislation struck upon the resistance of other political parties and Czechoslovakian people, and it was clear, that the Communists in Czechoslovakia lose too many of their party members and that in the elections, which were supposed to be held in May 1948, will suffer a great defeat. Therefore they had to stop so that there would be no elections. Their perfect organization and great promises to the working classes made it possible to gain this general pro, to the armed demonstration against the government. The army and the police were earlier already in the hands of the Communists. At this moment the strength of Russia hits from the back and the very ill president Dr. Benes under force signed the consent for the arrangement of a new Communistic Government. The fate of the state was determined. But the whole world awakens and so now, as under Hitler, too, Czechoslovakia is the last victim of the dictators. Under Hitler only the end of the terrible Second World War brought the liberty to the country. Will now a new world war be necessary? From the communistic putsch in Czechoslovakia the whole world changed to a rough sea and there is little hope to come back again into its normal tracks.



The danger of our family and occupation of our property led my parents to the decision to find in a democratic and free world a new home. And so already in May my uncle's family started to pack and on May twenty-eighth they said the last good-bye.

The June days were full of quick and hard work. Every day there was something taken away and packed into big boxes. Finally the walls and the floors looked so bare and sad, as if they also would be crying and telling us good-bye. I went to every friend of mine to say the very last good-bye, but I could not tell where I was going. That had to remain a secret, for if the Communists would have found out, we would be in some prison or maybe even dead. I had a terribly sad feeling, when I lastly went through the city always saying to myself: "Maybe that it is the last time I go on this street, and on the other, and on that bridge," and so on.

But finally there came so far the saddest day of my life, July twenty-fourth, when about eight-thirty we left our house with all the rest of our relatives. On the station we found our compartment, put all the small baggage there, and yet went outside, to be as near as we can to everybody till the last minute. We gave a bouquet of roses to my grandmother for souvenir, and at nine-thirty we said good-bye, and nobody could help not to shed some tears. Then the train started to move slowly and we looked at the last view of Prague. We did not say very much during our whole ride. After lunch we crossed the Czechoslovakian boundary and entered Germany. The next day during morning we ended for some time our journey in Belgium.

I can see everything in my mind exactly as it happened, as if it occurred yesterday.



## CHAPTER 4.

### TRAVELING THROUGH COUNTRIES.

The day we left Czechoslovakia we came to Germany, where I found it quite interesting. Even if I were on the train and did not have the opportunity to look around by foot, I saw many ruins, which after ten and ten years will still remind everybody about the horrors of the Second World War. Here for the first time we also met the English and American officers and soldiers on different zones, who also did the custom inspection on the train. The county-side is very much alike to Czechoslovakia or Canada.

The next country I saw and even was living in for almost a year was Belgium. I do not like the weather there at all, because there is no winter and therefore no skating and skiing, and that's not for me. But the scenery is not also very interesting in most parts of Belgium. There is only flat land wherever you look. Except one or two there are not very many rivers, and only very few forests. The Walloon people which inhabit the southern part of Belgium near to the boundary of France speak French, and those in northern part to the Holland boundary and to the sea speak almost only Flamish.

After a year spent in Belgium we set out to travel still further although unwillingly to leave the rest of our relatives behind. So on one July day we were on the train crossing the boundary of Belgium and Holland. In this country we have spent two days before our departure from Europe. We went over many channels but that does not make any difference, for the scenery is the same as in Belgium, not even one little hill.



We saw many wind-mills and large beds of tulips. Finally we arrived in Rotterdam, where we spent three hours in one of the biggest harbours of the world, where we also saw our ship, which took us across the wide ocean to Canada.



## CHAPTER 5.

### LEAVING EUROPE AND THE VOYAGE ON THE SEA.

One July afternoon in Rotterdam we boarded our ship of Holland-America-Line, called "Vollendam" and around it began to move slowly and stately. We went through the further part of the channel and said good-bye to the ships and to the land. In the evening we could only see the red light of the lighthouse glittering in the darkness, and all around darkness except the stars shining above. I did not see anything nicer. The first night on the ship was not so bad, because we were in the calm waters of the English channel. In the morning the sun looked at us and smiled on us through the morning fog. Almost during the whole day we sailed around the British coast, and saw the Dover cliffs sticking their white color out and thus giving a beautiful sight. And so we bade the very very last good-bye to Europe and the last sight filled our hearts with sadness and our eyes with tears once again. It took us ten days across the wide Atlantic ocean. Every spare moment I looked into those beautiful colorful waves, which nobody can describe.

Then we sailed into the Ocean and the ship began to swing from one side to the other and sometimes ten yard waves attacked the ship. The sunny days changed into rainy, cloudy and misty days, so that sometimes the ship even had to stop not to strike another ship. It gave many signals and we heard the replies of the other, but could not see it. We met very few smaller and greater ships and they whistled to greet each other. Here and there we saw the dolphins sticking out their heads as if they were curious to see what is passing by. Also we could see



the sailing-vessels in the wide sea, from which we can see, that human spirit is audacious.

From Europe the sea-gulls flew over our heads and when we neared to Canada they came again to greet us. When we sailed into Canadian waters we hoisted the American flag and soon we ended again for some time in Quebec.



## CHAPTER 6.

### CANADA AS I FIND IT.

In the beginning I compared everything in Canada to that in Czechoslovakia, but I must say, that every country has different customs and ways of living, and it is impossible to get used to everything without living here from the very early childhood or for a longer time.

The scenery from the first sight was beautiful and exactly the same as in Czechoslovakia, so that it comforts the hearts of all Czechoslovakian people even for a while, who came to Canada to find a new home.

We made many trips through Czechoslovakia, so that I know all the corners of my country, but I am afraid, that I'll know very little of Canada, a land about seventy-seven times larger than Czechoslovakia.

The weather differs only a little, because Canadian winters are much longer and colder than ours, but the possibility of the sports is equal.

In our schools we have only five grades of elementary, and eight high school classes, where at the end of the eighth high we do our school leaving examinations, and then continue in university courses. We have many sports in most of the schools, especially ping-pong and volley-ball and we have gymnastics as an independent subject in our gym-suits in the gymnasium furnished with equipment of all kinds. We learn quite a lot of languages too, and we also need them badly. When I was in the second grade, I remember, that we had German lessons every day. This was during the war in the school- year 1943-44. In the



fourth grade we started to learn Russian, and finally in fifth grade I started to attend a school, where we had English one, sometimes two hours a day. In eighth grade we start to learn Latin and French and of course Russian continues during these years. The history, which we learned last year, that is the Greek and Roman history, I have already studied in Czechoslovakia in sixth grade, and we started to have geometry in sixth as well.

The Christmas spirit and Christmas altogether are a little bit different. Three weeks before Christmas comes St. Nicolas, who brings small gifts to everybody, and after this everything flows into the spirit of holy Christmas. We have no Santa Claus, but Christ Child and already in the afternoon of December twenty-fourth there are very few people on the streets and everything is quiet and prepares for the great evening, when we have a big supper, and after this we go to our Christmas trees and give out the presents. The next two days are great feasts also devoted to God's services and to serious spiritual meditations. Only New Year is welcomed happily, but it is not forgotten to thank God for everything that He gave us in the old year and to ask Him to give us His blessings for the New Year.

In Canada I found my new home. I know gradually what is better than was in my country and I am looking for an explanation why this or that is different. The millenary history and tradition of my native land impressed upon every citizen its own character and I know, that it is impossible to carry over on the character of another country. It is necessary to get used to it, but by that I would like to bring to my new country that, what she could not in her short history so far know and what would produce of her really the best country in



the whole world, maybe only in small things, for which would  
my forces be sufficient.

THE END.

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