

Moira Caesar remembers stories of her Great Grandmother and from her father in law

My Great Grandmother, Alice Weighand, fled Germany in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. She was pregnant with twins at the time. She settled in Scotland with her husband who was a teacher, and they had twin boys. During WW2 my mother was evacuated for a time, but she missed her family and so returned home. My father Robert Scott Hutchison was a trainee quantity surveyor before the war, working for Sir William Baird and Partners on the construction of airfields. After the war he was in Berlin during the occupation and was involved in the construction of government offices.

My father in law – ‘Opa’ Caesar – served in the Second World War as an ordinary soldier in the German Army. He lost a leg when he stepped on a land mine. He told me that he had not liked the Nazi regime. I remember he showed me an old film of him and his sisters playing in his home village in East Prussia with the Nazis arriving in the background and putting up the swastika flag on the Town Hall.

Opa Caesar wrote books and the last one he wrote was about the family. However his son, my husband, never got one although his sister promises us a copy. I know the family was in farming and lived in East Prussia. At the end of the war they fled. Across the ice on the Ost See – the Baltic – to escape the advancing Russians. My grandmother never really recovered and had a continuing hatred of the Russians.

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