***The First Women in the German Army***

 ***By Kyla Rea***

***It was a quiet morning in the ghetto in the middle of Hungary and all the Jews are sleeping in their homes with nothing to think about. I stood in the middle of the road and yelled “All Jews outside now!” Five minutes later all the doors opened and every household member came out and stood on the sidewalk. Adults and kids of all ages came and looked at me. Their tired and angry eyes burned holes in my heart.***

***“Role call!” yelled my commanding officer. They all stood for many hours, and then were released to do as they pleased. They talked, laughed and watched our every move. Their scared glares burned my soul and heart. It is time to move them to the smaller ghetto closer to the train that will take all of these Jews and me to Auschwitz. They all started to walk the direction we told them to go. They were going too slow for the commanding officer and me. I wanted to get out of this depressing place and get back to base.***

 ***I yelled “Run!” my commanding officer started to yell after me.***

***“Run you filthy dogs,” he yelled***

***This kid was falling back and tried to keep up. I ran back there and whispered “Run or you are going to be shot in the road.” That little kid ran like he was being chased by something. He was in the center of the group in two seconds. Yes I lied; it’s not as bad as it will be for him in Auschwitz. He will be killed because of how young he is. I moved back to the middle with my gun in hand ready to hit anyone who tried to run. When I was running I realized that these Jews did nothing wrong and we are going to kill them.***

***My name is Kasimir; I am 18 and a woman, the first recruited in the German army. I was selected because I was young, strong, and had a good aim. That’s all I thought I was for but I also fixed the wounded, in other words I am a nurse. Well I was a nurse until I picked up a gun. But I was also chosen because I’m not afraid of death.***

***When I was a nurse I was never touched by the army. I don’t know why and didn’t care, but I was glad because the other nurses where always running around like sluts. They would kiss the generals and every other man on base. I never got looked at. Maybe it’s because I’m the first non-blond with blue eyes. Yes all the other nurses were blond. I have light brown hair and green eyes. The nurses loved me, the men hated me. It didn’t make sense, there are so many people with brown hair and green eyes and they were treated the same way as the blonds. It just makes me dizzy thinking about it.***

***A week before I picked up a gun and shot it, Hitler came to the base to give orders and look at the nurses. They tried to hide me but it was too late. He saw me and came over to talk with the other nurses and me. It was weird for me, all the nurses were checking there look and fixing their hair. I just stood there like a pillar. But I looked better because I looked ready to work and not have sex. Hitler was happy there were blonds in the camp. He looked at me and smiled, that made every goose bump show. I was sick and shocked with the way he treated the Jews. Also I was scared out of my mind of him.***

***“You can stay for another month then you have to leave the base,” said Hitler. He was a picky man he didn’t want me there because of my brown hair.***

***A week later we were attacked and the girls are hiding from everyone. I moved as far as I can from the fight. Then a soldier landed right in front of me with his gun. I was startled by the body but the gun was just lying there. I know I can’t shoot on base because I was a girl but I didn’t care. I learned to shoot from my brother but Mom said I couldn’t shoot anymore because I was a lady and shooting was not lady-like. I picked up that gun and the nurses yelled at me to take cover but I ran straight into the fight with the gun in my hand. Some men yelled for me to go hide and this is no place for a lady. I knelt on one knee and started shooting. I also the grabbed grenades from some dead solders’ vests. I armed one of them and threw it and took out four men with three wounded. While I was shooting a soldier came over and handed me more bullets and a pistol. He also gave me a vest to wear. This attack lasted four hours. I had a blast; I loved the thrill to pull a trigger and the adrenalin it gave me.***

 ***We won that fight; I moved to the hospital tent when Hitler came into the camp and looked at the disaster and men digging graves for the Germen soldiers. The soldier that helped me was walking with me as I loaded my gun. He had a bullet in his left leg, so he was limping. I told him I would fix him up after Hitler is gone.***

 ***“How did you learn to shoot like that?” he asked***

 ***“My brother,” I said. We walked a little longer and all of the sudden the nurses ran at me and were asking questions that were all gibberish. The soldier left to talk to the general and explain. I was trying to walk away from all the girls, but it was not possible. It was like bees attacking me everywhere and I could not escape. Then the General came over with Hitler and the soldier that helped me. I was thinking of an easy excuse why I had a gun in my hand.***

 ***“You helped save the camp,” said the General.***

 ***I was ready to explain “I was running for cover and the soldier landed in front of me and had a gun and grenades so I grabbed them and helped with the fight.”***

 ***“We could use 18 more like you.”***

 ***“But I guess one will do for now,” said Hitler with a smile.***

 ***“I’m a new recruit!?” I said in shock with happiness. No women are recruited to fight. It was unheard of in Germany. The soldier came over and said congrats and I just had to hug him. We walked to the hospital tent and I fixed up his wound. We started talking again and he told me they were going to have to remove me because I started shooting and it was not allowed. But he told them I help save the camp and I have a good aim. I thanked him and gave him another hug.***

***That night he took me to the tent where all the soldiers were. They always tell stories and drink in there (so I have heard). The girls always joked about the men and how drunk they get. I walked in the tent the girls were on men’s laps and drinking. The solders started to hoot and holler. Then they all started chanting my name in German. “Kasimir, Kasimir!” Looking at the solders, I just saw drunken men looking at me and chanting. I couldn’t help but laugh the girls were right.***

 ***I looked around the base some more the next day with the soldiers. Then the General calls me to the main tent. This tent was full of soldiers with maps and papers. It was kind of organized. Not really.***

 ***“We want you to look at your new outfit,” Said the General***

 ***It was amazing and it was the correct size too. It was a short dress like the nurses. They also had shorts that went under the dress so it was better for battle. There were also nylon tights to go with the outfit. There were two, one for the summer and one for the winter. I stepped outside the main tent where all the men are waiting for me to come out. The new outfit made all the men’s jaws drop. It was very funny, me and the girls just laugh. This was the most fun I have had in the last three to four months. I walked over to the soldier that helped me in the fight and put my hand under his chin and pushed his chin back up so it was closed.***

 ***“You don’t want to catch flies, do you?” I said***

 ***“No I do not,” he said in shock.***

 ***I walked away to finish looking around the base. It was fun every soldier stopped what they were doing to look at me. We were attacked again and I went in, I headed to the center of the fight. The French stopped and stared with the mouths so low I could put eight gun barrels in their mouths. I stood there with knives in the straps in me thigh, my gun strapped to my back, and my pistols on my hips. I took my gun and started shooting at the French. So did the rest of the soldiers. Some of the French shot at us, and some just stood there with their mouths open.***

***“NOW THAT WAS FUNNY!!! THEIR FACES WHEN SHE WALKED UP WAS PRICELESS I WISH I COULD GO BACK AND SEE THAT AGAIN!” yelled the General in the tent, all the men agreed. All of us girls laughed at them and mimicked all of their faces.***

 ***So here I am in Hungary moving Jews to trains to move them all out and away from their own life style. Since I was 16 I always heard stories that Jews where just horrible people. That they would always tried to kill you or just kidnap you. But all those stories are wrong. The Jews are kind hearted people how care for one another. They don’t want to kill us or kidnap us ether they just what to be treated like normal people. Not to be just a number that someone tattooed on them. That’s all these people will be known as when they step into Ashwitchz.***

 ***Just a killer!***

***Just a Jew!***

***Just a line of digits!***

 ***Everything we know is wrong and I need to make this right somehow. I can’t tell anyone because they will think I’m crazy and they will kick me out. I started thinking of ways to free the Jews and find a way to stop all the crematoriums. This will be hard to do, I will need to try get with Hitler and find out why he wants this race dehumanized and killed.***

 ***I still remember time I went to the men’s camp in Ashwitchz to see what it was like over there and one of the guards took me to a place I had never heard of. It was a horrible place for anyone. People were left to die in cells, left with four other people in a one by one cell. Some people are just beat to death. It was the thing that just made me feel like this was the wrong thing to do to anyone. I also went to a block and there were men cleaning the floor from the blood a prison mate that was beat for asking for another ration of soup. He was a new prisoner who knew nothing about the camp. His father almost attacked the SS guard but the other prisoners stopped him. The block floors were socked in sweat, blood, throw up, and bodily fluids. It was the worst smell ever. It’s like a grave left open with a dead guy someone peed on. The prisoners were so skinny you could punch threw them. They were as pale as the snow with black holes for eyes. I had to leave so I didn’t cause more cleaning to do in the block. I left the block and throw up and one of the officers asked if I was feeling ok. I wasn’t feeling ok but I said I was fine. The officers are nice to the other officers and nurses but when it came to the Jews it was like they forgot there manners and how nice they can be. Not all the officers were jerks to the Jews some cared but it didn’t matter because orders were orders if someone was to be hanged they were hanged. No questions about it.***

***Before I came out on the field with rest of the soldiers I went home with a soldier who cared for me and was here to protect me. Yes it is the same soldier that helped me. I walked inside my house and my mother stood there disappointment in her eyes. I smiled and my fellow soldier looked at me like I was crazy. I told my mother what happened on base. Her expression got very tight like she was going to blow up. I stood my ground not ready to run to my room.***

 ***“I thought I told you this is not lady like. I thought I told you not to become a nurse. I thought you were getting married.” She said***

 ***“No! I got sick of you telling me what to do and controlling my life. So I left so I didn’t have to deal with your nagging all the time.” By the way my whole family is blond but me. My mom thinks she got the wrong child and was mad. I wasn’t the perfect child in my mom’s eyes, but my dad thought I was perfect and was a blessing in the family.***

***“Sometimes special people are given to family to change things” he would say***

***Those words made me feel special all the time. That I would change this family’s way forever, Looks like he was right. My dad died in an accident when I was 14 and my mom changed me into someone I didn’t want to be. So I ran away. I told Sergeant Bernhardt that I hated my mother. We stayed for a week so we got to bond some more and talk. Mom made me train on being a lady.***

***My brother came back from college and him and Bernhardt talked guns and shot targets outside. It was like nothing changed just we had a guest. I would look outside and saw the past like a ghost, my dad showing my brother to shoot while my sisters and I worked on how to be a lady. When my sisters came home they were shocked to see a Sargent in the house. When I told my sisters that I was also a Sargent they looked shocked then laughed. I ran upstairs, changed from my poufy dress into my uniform with a pistol in my hand and went back down stars. I walked past the dining room and outside to get some target practice. Everyone came outside, all of my sisters blue eyes went wide and mouths dropped in shock. My mother’s eyes filled with rage that could burn threw a stone wall. I hit each target every time dead center. My brother and Bernhardt just stood there smiling at me. I saw a passing of money from my brother to Bernhard***

 ***I felt so much better when Bernhardt came over and whispered in my ear “You showed them your power and you were strong while doing it.” I smiled at him and nodded. “I also just won 20 bucks off your brother” he popped his eye brows and smiled***

***Yes that is the solder that helped me and came to my home. He was tall, bold and fast with his gun. He has theses green and brown eyes that are like a rainforest with brown hair like wet tree bark. He loves to make bets with people. He also loved helping me learn to load my gun faster so I don’t get shot. We always were hanging out after training and at his tent.***

***When we got back it was back to the normal. Kind of, one night he surprised me in my tent. My tent was the second biggest tent on the west side. So it wasn’t that hard to miss. He came in when I just got back from the new orders that just came from Hitler in a letter.***

***That was in the main tent that was only sergeants and general allowed in. So I was the gest being the only woman on camp that was sergeant. So we didn’t talk in the tent. He also was just promoted to Sergeant the week we went to my mom’s. When he showed up in my tent he sacred me so I jumped when I saw him in the door way.***

***“What are y-you doing h-here?” I stuttered, which is something I haven’t done sense I was six.***

***He chuckled “You are defiantly different from all the other girls.” He looked at me with concern after that. “Are you okay because you look like you are going to faint back in the tent, so I just came to see how you were; you seemed a little distracted too?”***

***“I just was thinking about something.” I said with my backed turned to him. Look at papers try to calm myself. I felt his hand on my hips and I turned to see him right there. His face was inches from mine, he leaned in and his hand pulling me closer. I could feel his heart racing under my hand; mine was racing just as fast. He kissed me then parted; he kissed me again and held me in his arm. He scooped me off the ground, my arms around his neck; I felt how strong he was and how gentle he held me in his arms, never going to drop me.***

***In morning I woke up in my PJ’s. They were some shorts and a shirt that I got from the main tent. Bernhard was a sleep with his arm draped over me. I looked at him he just opened his eyes; he smiled and said good morning. I just then realized he didn’t have a shirt on and my cheeks went scarlet.***

***It was a bountiful morning. Everyone was getting breakfast, talking and getting checked for cuts and bruises from fight I didn’t see or hear. There was a new nurse in the hospital tent. The girls were telling her about me and how I shot a gun. I walked over to the tent and the girls were all giggling at the new recruits. That’s when I went to talk to the General when some of the new recruits started to laugh.***

***“Are you in the wrong place?! I think you need to be in the Hospital tent!” They yelled***

***“And is that how you are going to talk to you Sergeant, soldier.” Yelled the General in a nasty tone***

***“No sir I thought that was a girl.” They yelled back***

***“Well this is a woman, the first to ever be recruited for the army.” He said***

***They all laughed “Your kidding right!” they all said within the laughter.***

***“HEY! WHAT ARE YOU ALL LAUGHING AT SOLDIER?” I yelled. It was so loud that everyone looked to see why I yelled. “Now head off to the main tent to get your uniforms so you look more presentable for Hitler who will be here in 18 hundred hours.”***

 ***“And how are you going to make us get are uniform right now.” The recruits howled in laughter.***

 ***I leaned so close to ones face and said “I will and trust me it won’t be pretty. Sergeant Bernhard can you please. Watch these recruits while I get ready. Don’t let them live until I get back.”***

***“Yes Mam” said Bernhardt***

***“Yes a real Sergeant, that is real and is not pretending. What can we do for you sir.” Yelled the recruits***

***“Stay where you are till she gets back. Then she will do role call and send you to the main tent.” Said Bernhardt***

***I ran to get ready in my normal outfit. I was in my PJ’s so I didn’t look my part. When I came back out the recruits where all standing in the same place I left them. I’ve been gone for a leased half an hour to get ready. I walked over and all the recruit’s jaws all fell. I did role call everyone was there. When I was done I looked up from my clip board.***

***“You really are a Sargent, WOW this is going to be awesome!” yelled the recruits***

***“THAT’S SARGENT KASIMIR TO ALL OF YOU!” Yelled Bernhardt***

***“Now go get your uniform from the main tent where you will be placed and will be split to go out for training with one of your new Sergeants.” I said. They just nodded and headed for the main tent. I smiled at Bernhardt and he came over and gave me a kiss and said “That’s more like it. They need to show you respect.”***

***The Jews were all loaded up in the cattle car. As the train pulled away I thought of that day when the new recruits came and where very disrespectful. But I got control with a woman’s touch, so maybe this won’t be that hard after all. When we went and collected any gold, watches, and valuables that were still in pockets, shoes, and other hidden places. There was no complaining when we collected. Watch girls and boys do thing I didn’t think they would think about at this moment. I thought they would all wonder where we were taking them to and why they had to leave their homes. Why were the all just doing nothing, I was thinking why are they not asking where are we going, what is going to happen.***

***I looked at this woman with her young daughter. They were both so silent never said a word. They all looked out at the widow and crakes when they could. The girl was at least seven or eight years old. Not the right age to work and not go straight to the crematorium my eyes started to fill with tears and I had to wipe them away in the wind. The woman was in her late 20’s early 30’s. I could finally see the tall chimneys that had black smoke rising with flames trying to follow like it to wants to be free from its work. Also with the smell of died burning flesh filled the air.***

***Men and women look scared out of their minds. I wanted to cry because people are going to die today. We unloaded the Jews and they were split into two groups one by one. Then I followed the women and young children to the showers then after the crematoriums. After that was done I was moved back to the main base. I had to leave and think of a plan to get everyone out without being killed myself.***

***When I got to the base I was greeted by the Generals, Sergeants, soldiers, new recruits, and the nurses. I was gone for two months. I will always be sad for what I have done with the Jews. All I know is I could not tell anyone how I felt on the field. I had to stay inside. Then I noticed someone missing from the group. Sergeant Bernhard, my loved was somewhere. I didn’t let it get to me I just went to my tent to get some sleep. When I got closed to my tent I could see red and pink rose petals that were leading into my tent. I walked in and there he is, in his uniform with a bullet wound in his right arm. I was happy to see him I ran over and gave him a long kiss. Then I got the bullet out of his arm and sowed it up with needle and thread and put a rap over it so no stiches would break. It was like when I first started. I realized that he fixed the hole in my heart. We talked for a while and I told him I was tired and wanted to sleep he said good night and I went to sleep.***

 ***The next morning I looked outside and saw everyone doing their normal every day routine for the morning. Eat, get dressed, start training and getting or making orders. I was so tired and went back to sleep. I woke with someone shaking me and seeing if I was going to come out and help with training for the day. I headed outside to see what I missed and everyone was training. All the new recruits were training. I had a group to train so off to work again. I was training them to be killers like me. Not totally like me but most of what I know. We trained for 18 hour strait. By the time we were done it was already past lunch time the next day. Those boys eat like they hadn’t eaten for a week and a half. I eat just a small portion and went to go see the girls. The girls were looking at some of the pictures I brought back from my mission.***

 ***“What did I miss over the last two months here?” I said***

 ***All the girls jumped “Don’t scare us like that, you’ll cause more heart attacks in the camp,” they all said at once***

 ***“Sorry! Now what picture are you looking at?”***

 ***“This one it was a good pic of the camp and the Jews working, but where are the women there is only men in this pictures, well almost all of them. This one has two girls in it. They’re just sitting in this dark room with men and children.” They all looked at me. It was like they wanted me to tell them everything that went on in there.***

 ***But I couldn’t it was against the rules to tell anyone. “Women are transferred to a better facility so the men don’t get distracted from their work,” I said. I was a shamed of myself and I couldn’t stay with the girls any longer. I went off to my tent till dinner. There is nothing I can do to stop this horrible thing we are doing to the Jews. No one can find Hitler, or contacted him to find out where he is. So I could not plan anything to help save people.***

 ***I was walking around with Bernhard when the General called everyone in to the center of the camp. Everyone was shoving and pushing to get to the middle as fast as possible. We were also running, but we knew a short cut to get there faster than everyone. When we got there one other person was there. Once everyone was there the General started to talk, the news was not good.***

 ***“Hitler has been spotted in the battle field with 20,000 more of our troops. They were all dead; we have lost this war to the American Nation.” Everyone was silent while the General talked. “All Jews that were in Auschwitz having been killed, have escaped, or left to die because they are to sick or injured to move and leave. We are going to leave and go back to Germany so we are not held hostage or killed for that matter. We will all come back after this is cleared up and we will be here to protect Germany from others, dismissed.”***

 ***No one said a word just looked at him. With eyes wide and moths open, they all looked the same right then and there. I looked at Bernhard who looked like a corpse with nothing in his eyes. Everyone went to their tents and picked up all of the belonging and went to the train to take them home. I changed my outfit to one of the more lady-like dresses. On my way to the train Bernhard took me off to the side and kissed me for the last time and held me in his arms. I never saw him again after we got off the train.***

***I’m still good with a gun and knifes. I will always feel horrible for what I did to the Jews, but I am happy that there are some survivors. But they will always have to suffer with what happened to their families and them. Those memories still haunt me today, sometimes when I close my eyes I see the bodies and the pictures I took of Auschwitz. I always see the woman and children in the showers freaking out and trying to get out. The men all just laughed I had to force mine out but couldn’t do it I just stared in the chamber after 3 minutes I had to leave. I couldn’t stand to see people climb on top of one another to hide from the deadly air. Also being in Germany I could not tell anyone what happened in Auschwitz because they know nothing about what happened and had no idea we were killing Jews.***

***Now I am 20 and have been recruited back to the army to be a Sargent and being still the only women in the army. We are here to protect our country from invaders. We will no longer dehumanize and kill people for no reason.***