

# Helga E Wall-Row Raw née Rönn

1924 Hamburg – 2023 Hampstead

Hamburg *Swing Girl* who survived incarceration by the Nazis, actress and model who settled in London after World War II.

An account of her life, by Marcus Bicknell

Helga Ellen Marie-Louise Rönn was born 30 November 1924 in Hamburg, Germany, to Alfred Rönn, a clerk with a shipping company and Charlotte Auguste, a tram conductor. Helga's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday was just two months after the outbreak of World War II, 10 September 1939. She and her parents lived in Hamburg for the first two years of the war then moved to a country village to avoid the frequent Allied bombing of civilian and civic infrastructure, industry, shipyards, U-boat pens, and the Hamburg-Harburg oil refineries.



## The Hamburg Swing Girls

In 1941, the second year of the war, Helga, now a striking blonde of 17 years of age, had been enjoying embassy parties<sup>1</sup> and jazz music in the clubs in Hamburg with her friends - the Alsterpavillon (where the John Kristel band played, [1941 image below left](#)<sup>2</sup>), the Ex-Bar, L'Arronge, and the less reputable Faun-Casino. They danced to "*The Swing*, based on the American Lindy Hop of the 1920s and '30s, which was practiced at a number of semi-private and carefully chosen public venues [[image below right, dancing Big Apple" in the Alsterpavillon in 1938](#)]. An emcee announced the numbers in English. English hit songs were played and crooned."<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Conversation with Susie Bicknell in 2020

<sup>2</sup> Both images <https://www.ndr.de/kultur/musik/jazz/Swing-in-Hamburg,swingkultur107.html>

<sup>3</sup> *Hitler Youth* by Michael H. Kater, Harvard 2004

Unfortunately for them, this style of big band jazz, associated as it was with Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman, had been deemed degenerate jungle music by Joseph Goebbels, the propaganda minister. Broadcasting it was forbidden and dancing to it was all but banned.<sup>4</sup>

The *Swing Youth* (German: *Swingjugend*) was the subject of a secret report<sup>5</sup> from the Reich Ministry of Justice in January 1944; “Swing Youth groups are motivated by the desire to have a good time and have increasingly assumed a character bordering on the criminal-antisocial. They regard Englishmen as the highest form of human development. A false conception of freedom leads them into opposition to the Hitler Youth.” “Reflecting their Anglophilia, the Swing Youth preferred to speak to each other in English rather than German as English was felt to be more “cool”, a choice of language that vexed the authorities greatly.”<sup>6</sup> “They were ironic and flippant. Some would use “Swing Heil!” (instead of Sieg Heil) as a greeting. Some engaged in provocative actions and violent confrontations, mostly with their counterparts in the Hitler Youth.”<sup>7</sup>

The extraordinary story of the *Swing Youth*, the movement, the music and the dancing, was made into a movie by Thomas Carter in 1993. *Swing Kids*. “intense conflict in a coming-of-age drama in Nazi Germany”, starred Robert Sean Leonard, Christian Bale, Kenneth Branagh and Frank Whaley. The Swing girls in particular attracted the attention of “Nazi police officials, who, in their perverse frame of mind, had long regarded the girls as the personification of Swing promiscuity.”<sup>8</sup> The Swing girls preferred their hair very long. “In contravention of Goebbels’ ban on German



women wearing make-up”<sup>9</sup> “eyebrows were pencilled in, lips painted, and fingernails lacquered... As Robert Vogel, then the young heir to a shipping fortune, recalls: ‘Surely it was easier for girls to be upwardly mobile. I remember one whose father had a welding business, hence was a master tradesman. It is important to know that girls of the kind we preferred were rare. Yet girls of lower social status who were all right, meaning who were good-looking, were welcome in our midst.’”<sup>10</sup> One such girl was Helga Rönn, a statuesque beauty whose father was a clerk and whose mother worked as a streetcar conductor; she herself was training in various shops but thought she would get

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<sup>4</sup> *The Times*, 8 March 2023

<sup>5</sup> *Report on Youth Gangs in the Reich* ed. Jeremy Noakes, University of Exeter Press, 1998, via Wikipedia.

<sup>6</sup> *Inside Nazi Germany*, Peukert, Detlev London: B. T. Batsford, 1987

<sup>7</sup> Source: <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/swing-youth-jazz-nazi-germany>

<sup>8</sup> *Different Drummers: Jazz in the Culture of Nazi Germany* by Michael H. Kater, 2003

<sup>9</sup> *The Times*, 8 March 2023

<sup>10</sup> *Hitler Youth* by Michael H. Kater, Harvard 2004



Helga's father Alfred Rönn in  
about 1915

into films... Rönn had confessed to having participated in Swing celebrations in the suite of two wealthy Persian brothers who, undoubtedly for sexual finesse, had outfitted their rooms with mirrors."<sup>11</sup> The Swings were "also thought to be in cahoots with the non-Aryan minority."<sup>8</sup> Everything about the Swings was provocative to the Hitler Youth officials, their colleagues from the Gestapo and Hamburg city authorities.

Helga's father, knowing the dangers of getting on the wrong side of the Nazis, told Helga never to write anything down in a diary, but in Helga's own words "the *Swinging Jugend* ... we just liked partying and music, even if seen as subversive by the Gestapo."<sup>12</sup>

## Incarceration in Uckermark

On 18 August 1941, in a brutal police operation, over 300 *SwingJugend* were arrested. The measures against them ranged from cutting their hair and sending them back to school under close monitoring, to the deportation of the leaders to concentration camps.<sup>13</sup>

Helga was interrogated by the Hamburg "guardianship" authorities<sup>14</sup> on 9 and 10 September and 16 October 1941. Helga was in prison in Hamburg for three months because there was no space in the camp she should go to.<sup>15</sup> Then in July 1942 she and some other Swing Girls were arrested and transported, without trial, to Uckermark concentration camp, a small concentration camp for girls near the Ravensbrück concentration camp in Fürstenberg/Havel, closer to Berlin than Hamburg.

"We went on a 2 day journey by train to camp but I took advice to sit in in the middle seat and so avoided sitting next to women covered in lice. When we arrived at the camp we were all stripped naked and the male commandant picked me out as one of the 'music' ones. I was given a number (but no name) on a blue metal triangle on the arm to signify I was a 'political' prisoner. Each group had a different colour. My parents were allowed to visit me at Uckermark but not inside the camp

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<sup>11</sup> From *The Arts in Nazi Germany: Continuity, Conformity, Change*, edited by Huener, Nicosia, 2007, relevant text by Michael C. Kater.

<sup>12</sup> Helga in conversation with Susie Bicknell, 2020

<sup>13</sup> *Swing Kids Behind Barbed Wire. Music and the Holocaust*. Guido Fackler, 2013

<sup>14</sup> *Amstgericht Hamburg, abt. Vormundschaftswesen*, Details in the annex on page 35

<sup>15</sup> Conversation with Susie Bicknell 2020. There are conflicting records of the dates.

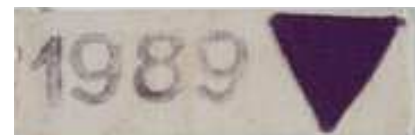
itself. My father told me he had been contacted by Max Reinhardt<sup>16</sup>, the agent who discovered Marlene Dietrich, wanting me to do an audition for a musical, but that was wartime. We had to work long hours sawing down trees barefoot in icy conditions. I got one shower a week.”<sup>17</sup>

She and “the other youthful inmates were weighed down by onerous chores such as felling trees and converting swamp into topsoil. They were beaten by SS guards and mauled by watchdogs; their diet consisted of watery soup and bread. From this, they developed dysentery; from wearing clogs, they had bruised feet. As one inmate remembers: ‘The camp commander was even worse than the Devil, this was Satan incarnate ... I also was in Auschwitz, but for me, Uckermark was worse.’”<sup>18</sup>

Uckermark, officially styled a “youth education camp”, part of the SS camp system, had opened in May 1942 as a detention camp for girls, aged 16 to 21, considered criminal or difficult. “Girls who were considered “anti-social” were sent to this camp, including previously convicted girls, so-called “work-shy”, girls who were considered “anti-social” or “neglected” or “threatened to neglect” according to National Socialist standards, girls who were “seriously sexually endangered”, Sinti or Roma girls and girls who belonged to the “swing youth”... The Gestapo also sent underage prisoners in protective custody there”.<sup>19</sup>



Uckermark memorial, all that remains



Lüise Jahndorf's badge at Ravensbrück concentration camp identifying her as a Jehovah's Witness.

Helga was in the camp more than two years<sup>20</sup> before she was released in late 1944. By early 1945 Uckermark became an extermination camp where over 5,000 women were murdered and only 500 women and children survived. “Her sister-in-law Ursula Nielsen-Rönn, who escaped from Ravensbrück alive, was haunted<sup>21</sup> by the gruesome scenes she witnessed, for example the death of a young girl named Edith, the daughter of a Danzig justice, accused of currency infractions. Edith had always comforted the even younger Ursula but then was slowly killed by constant drops of ice-cold water on her head.”<sup>22</sup>

<sup>16</sup>“Dietrich auditioned unsuccessfully in about 1922 for theatrical director and impresario Max Reinhardt's drama academy; - however, she soon found herself working in his theatres as a chorus girl and playing small roles in dramas.” *Marlene Dietrich: Life and Legend*. Bach, Steven (1992), William Morrow, via Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marlene\\_Dietrich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marlene_Dietrich)

<sup>17</sup> Conversation with Susie Bicknell 2020.

<sup>18</sup> *The Arts in Nazi Germany: Continuity, Conformity, Change*, ed. Huener and Nicosia, 2007 including Chapter 2 on *The Impact of American Popular Culture on German Youth* by Michael H. Kater

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.irk-cir.org/en/outer\\_camp](https://www.irk-cir.org/en/outer_camp) International Ravensbrück Committee

<sup>20</sup> Her quote in *Reveille* magazine 6 July 1956 in the UK.

<sup>21</sup> Ursula was haunted to the end of her life. She died in 2020.

<sup>22</sup> *Different Drummers: Jazz in the Culture of Nazi Germany* by Michael H. Kater, 2003

## Hamburg destroyed

Helga “missed the bombing raids of Hamburg in 1941; my father took note of allied warnings of civilian bombing and moved to a country village.” Helga was lucky to have been away from Hamburg in prison camp when the attack on Hamburg during the last week of July 1943, code-named *Operation Gomorrah*, created one of the largest firestorms raised by the Royal Air Force and the USAF in World War II. The unusually warm weather and good conditions ensured that the bombing was highly concentrated around the intended targets, and helped the resulting conflagration create a vortex and whirling updraft of super-heated air which became a 460-metre-high tornado of fire. An estimated 37,000 civilians were killed and 180,000 wounded. The city was virtually destroyed.

Helga felt that the bombings of Hamburg in 1941 and 1943 were justified as the Allies were not certain at that time that they would win the war. The destruction of Dresden by bombing in 1945 was not justified as knew by then they would win.<sup>23</sup>

## Freed from Uckermark

At the end of the war “the girls eventually disgorged by Uckermark would spend the rest of their lives trying to adjust to a society of Germans still ruled by views such as Schaffstein’s<sup>24</sup>; for decades people refused to acknowledge the evil of an institution whose mission they mistakenly understood to have been social correction.

The once beautiful Helga Rönn, for instance, who like Irma Grese had wanted to become an actress, emerged from Uckermark broken in spirit and in body.”<sup>25</sup>



Helga with her mother Auguste and her brother Herbert. early 1930s

<sup>23</sup> Conversation with Susie Bicknell 2020

<sup>24</sup> Kiel University jurist, Professor Friedrich Schaffstein, and others in the Nazi health ministry, were much worried about the Swings. He wrote that while perhaps not all juvenile criminals were “biologically inferior,” it was without question that “the tremendous significance of genetic factors in the criminality of youth has been corroborated by the more recent hereditary-biological research.” The factor of punishment in the criminal justice system for the young, Schaffstein stated, had the important function of “removing the unworthy youths from the community.” *Hitler Youth* by Michael H. Kater, 2009.

<sup>25</sup> *Hitler Youth* by Michael H. Kater, 2009, taken from the Madlung-Shelton interview with Ursula Nielsen and Herbert Rönn, Hamburg, June 20, 1988. More in the Annex on page 35

## Theodor Grethe

Nevertheless she soon met Theodor Grethe with whom she had a one-year relationship, a dalliance which leaves questions unanswered.

The first is the identity of Theodor Grethe. Research shows three men, grandfather, father and son, with the name Theodor Grethe, with variations to their middle names; Helga married the son. The career of Theodor senior, chemist, patent-holder, inventor of decaffeinated tea and business man, is well-documented. **Theodor Carl Wilhelm Grethe** (senior) played important roles in Helga's early life; he might have unwittingly brought his son in close contact with her and might have influenced their marriage and the divorce, see below. He was born on 16 June 1886 in Hamburg, son of Theodor Christian Louis Grethe and Louise Mathilde Heisecke. He was a well-known food chemist and captain of industry. From 1919-1958 he was partner and manager of the Chemisches Laboratorium Dr. Hermann Ulex, a commercial laboratory in Hamburg, specialising in foodstuffs which still exists today. He won U.S. patents for the *Process for the improvement of tea free from or poor in caffeine and improved decaffeinated [sic] tea* in 1939<sup>26</sup>.



**Theodor Friedrich Wilhelm Grethe** (junior, born 2 August 1920) is given alongside Helga and Maren (her daughter with Grethe, see below) in the Hamburg city archive online; is named as Helga's ex-husband on Maren's birth certificate (17 March 1946); is named with the same spelling on Helga's marriage certificate<sup>27</sup> to Hugh Wall-Row (December 1946); and identified by Maren verbally.<sup>28</sup> Theodor Friedrich Wilhelm Grethe is given as a "medical student" on Maren's birth certificate and was 25 years old when he knew Helga; she was 21. Theodor junior is absent from the family genealogy sites and from all internet searches other than a mention tucked away at the bottom of a mini-bio of his father on his Ulex company's website<sup>29</sup> ...



<sup>26</sup> Archives of the Hamburg University School of Chemistry and corporate websites, page 26

<sup>27</sup> Certificates for Maren's birth and Helga's marriage to Hugh Wall-Row are both in Helga's files.

<sup>28</sup> Maren, living in London since about 1951, in conversation with Susie Bicknell in February 2023, said she stayed with Grethe's parents when Helga left for London; Theodor senior's parents had died before the war, so Helga's husband, Maren's father, must have been Theodor junior.

<sup>29</sup> See Annex 5, page 26

“On February 4, 1958, after the death of Dr. Th. Grethe on August 18, 1958, his son Theodor Grethe junior, born in 1920, took over as his successor. On April 4, Dr Clemen Grimme, now eighty-one years old, left the [company]. As he suffered from the consequences of multiple malaria and dysentery diseases in the Russian campaign, Th. Grethe jun sold [the company] to the Hamburg chemist Hans-Joachim Mierendorff on 1 Oct. 1962”.

We learn here that Helga’s husband had been in the war, but on the Eastern Front.

The second question posed is, how did Helga meet Theodor Grethe?

Another set of circumstances drew Helga to the Grethe family. Theodor Grethe senior had purchased in 1919 for 20,000 Goldmarks the Hamburg laboratory which is today the Ulex Chemical Laboratory, still specialising in foodstuffs. In 1939 Dr. Theodor Grethe was released from military service; the National Socialist Reich judged him as "politically unreliable", which had caused him considerable professional difficulties in the previous years<sup>30</sup>. His failed appeal in 1939 against a sentence in 1930 for fraud in respect of General German Fee Schedule for Chemists 1926 may have contributed to the way the authorities viewed him. He was fined 45,000 Reichmark (a value of about \$380,000 U.S. in 2023).

Only because the laboratory had an important function during the war, i.e. optimising food production, and Dr. Grethe’s relevant experience, he was at least allowed to do his job. His interest in tea is well documented. The health effects of tea had already been demonstrated, by Grethe and others; cholesterol reduction, antioxidant features, and protection against cardiovascular disease. Grethe was a specialist in the use of Cyclohexanone to accelerate that diffusion of tea’s taste in the cup and to separate the component parts of tea, for example caffeine to make decaffeinated tea. A significant part of Grethe’s job was to direct the harvesting of the tea throughout Germany, checking on some of the picking sites round Hamburg from time to time, and ensuring the maximum crop and production of ready-to-drink herbal teas.<sup>31</sup>

And who was harvesting the tea leaves?

“Apart from the continuation of household or farm labor service, other girls were increasingly involved in the collection of medicinal herbs—some for ersatz tea—in the countryside. In the entire

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<sup>30</sup> Ulex Chemical Company web site. Details in the Annex on page 27

<sup>31</sup> *Hitler Youth*, by Michael H. Kater, 2009

Reich in the period 1939–1940, over a million BDM<sup>32</sup> members spent 6.5 million work hours on the collection of various herbs and tea.”<sup>33</sup> The teenagers from Uckermark were not excluded from the harvesting work, so we can imagine Helga on day trips from the camp, under guard, picking herbal tea. “As the war progressed, it became more important to aid those immediately affected [by bombing raids]. Collection of herbs tended to be replaced by collection of those items needed quickly by the air-raid-stricken: emergency utensils for personal hygiene such as combs, toothpaste, towels, and brushes.” There would certainly be opportunities for Theodor Grethe senior, (image, right<sup>34</sup>) her future father-in-law to meet her in the tea-fields.



Theodor Grethe senior,  
Helga's father-in-law in 1945

A picture emerges of teenage inmates like Helga picking tea from July 1942 for 2½ years and then, whether given complete freedom or not on leaving Uckermark, providing emergency help to the citizens of Hamburg. And where was Helga living when she got back to Hamburg? Would she have been given the freedom to live with her parents? Or was Theodor Grethe senior, the tea-picking organiser well known to the authorities, putting some of the girls up in his large town house at Bebelallee No.139 in the leafy suburbs 4km north of the city centre?

At the same time, Theodor Grethe junior was back from the Eastern front, was studying chemistry and most likely living with his parents. He could have met Helga there in his home. Or they could have met dancing the Swing, for old times' sake; perhaps they knew each other from the high life of the first two years of the war. Were they swinging still, with Duke Ellington and Cab Calloway tunes; doing the Jitterbug, the Lindy Hop, the Balboa and the Shag? Or were they *In The Mood* with Glenn Miller?<sup>35</sup>

In any case, Helga was pregnant with a daughter in about June 1945, six months after being released from the concentration camp. She married Theodor Grethe on 20th October 1945, half way through the pregnancy; she was 21 and he was 25.

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<sup>32</sup> BDM: *Bund Deutscher Mädel* (League of German Girls in the *Hitler Jugend*)

<sup>33</sup> *Hitler Youth*, by Michael H. Kater, 2009

<sup>34</sup> From Ulex web-site. No photo of Theodor Grethe junior, Helga's husband, has been found

<sup>35</sup> *Hitler Youth*, by Michael H. Kater, 2009



## Lt. Hugh Row-Wall

The third question posed is, how did Helga meet Hugh Row-Wall and how was there space in Helga's life and in her heart?

In parallel to the story of Helga and Theodor, British forces, including, Lt Hugh Wall-Row of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Grenadier Guards ([photo, right, in 1941](#)), entered the city of Hamburg on 3rd May 1945 after overcoming



the last desperate defence of the beleaguered German army in northern Germany. Hitler had already shot himself in Berlin, and the European war was all but over. For the next two months the Grenadiers stayed in the Hamburg area sorting out prisoners, helping to clear up the mess in the city and dealing with the tens of thousands of displaced persons, now roaming the ruins of Germany. A Grenadier wrote "the place was rubble".<sup>36</sup> If Wall-Row was also detailed to dealing with displaced persons in Hamburg then he would have had every opportunity to meet Helga, and be smitten by her.

In 1943 the senior Theodor Grethe's house and property in Bebelallee No.139, Hamburg, were expropriated by the authorities. At the end of the war it was "returned *de jure, de facto*, and served for a short time as living quarters for British officers."<sup>37</sup> If Wall-Row were among those officers and if Helga was living there with her husband Grethe junior at the same time, he could well have met her in her own home.

## Divorce from Theodor Grethe

The fourth question posed by Helga's short relationship with Theodor Grethe is, why did they get married and then divorced so soon?

Theodor Grethe filed for divorce, probably in spring 1946, on the basis of Helga's adultery. She did not contest it and the divorce proceedings of 30 July in Hamburg were officialised on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1946<sup>38</sup>. Helga kept a copy in perpetuity with her papers. Grethe claimed in the hearing that their marriage had been effectively over at the end of 1945, less than six months after their daughter's conception<sup>39</sup>. If Theodor Grethe and Helga had a brief and casual love affair, why did they get married? Had his parents, or Helga's parents, forced the couple into a shotgun wedding? Did it seem

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<sup>36</sup> Annex 9, page 32

<sup>37</sup> Annex 5, page 26

<sup>38</sup> Subsequent date stamp on the divorce judgement, see Annex 7, page 28

<sup>39</sup> "Ende 1945 war der letzte eheliche Verkehr" – "the last conjugal intercourse was at the end of 1945" written in the divorce proceedings.

essential that the pregnant concentration camp survivor had a respectable marriage? Were they in love and expected to remain together for life?

Why did Grethe divorce her? Did it become unacceptable for the Grethe family to be linked to a Swing girl of such questionable reputation? Did Grethe become aware of the presence of the Grenadier Guardsman in Helga's heart? Why was the divorce proceeding heard in private, the word "Öffentliche" ("Public") changed by typing the word "Nicht-" just before it? Why were the couple not named in full? Was the official handling the divorce someone who the eminent scientist could lean on to make the divorce go through quickly and silently? Or did Helga ask for the divorce?<sup>40</sup> Did she know it would not work with Grethe? Was she so in love with Wall-Row that she had decided to spend her life with him instead? Was the lure of London rather than in ravaged Hamburg a factor in leaving with Wall-Row?

Theodor Grethe had suffered in the war enough to encounter difficulties in his career. He took over his father's share in the Ulex chemical laboratory and to manage it, but only for four years (1958-1962). Hans-Joachim Mierendorff<sup>41</sup> took over in 1962 and is still the owner and director of Ulex in 2023. He wrote that Theodor Grethe junior was married to a pharmaceutical assistant in the company, Ellen Schape, for a couple of years in the mid-fifties but then developed "a severe alcohol problem so that in around 1960 he had to be removed from office. When he left the company he lived in our house for about a year, until it got so bad that he was placed in an open but supervised home." Grethe died in the mid-1980s.

## Maren Grethe

The fact remains that Maren was conceived as the war ended, in about June 1945. Wall-Row had arrived in Hamburg in early May. The divorce papers refer to "a daughter born 17.3.46" and to the agreement of both parties to the facts. Helga admits in these divorce proceedings a "marital relationship with another man... which is on-going".

On 17<sup>th</sup> March 1946 Maren-Claudia Helga Grethe was born at Johnsallee 68 in Hamburg, a municipal hospital which had been the Israeli Hospital Krankenhaus before the war.

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<sup>40</sup> Source; their daughter Maren's point of view, conversation with Susie Bicknell 13 Feb 2023

<sup>41</sup> Mr Mierendorff emailed the author on 6 March 2023

## To London

Indications are that Lt. Hugh Wall-Row swept Helga off her feet and rescued her from the plight of being a single mother in a city struggling to get back on its feet. He took her back to London immediately her divorce was officialised on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1946<sup>42</sup>. Wall-Row had been demobbed unceremoniously and sent home to England for “fraternising with the enemy” and for having an affair with a German girl.<sup>43</sup>

**Hugh Wahl-Row and Helga, London December 1948, at the wedding of Hugh’s cousin John Wilding to Joyce Chamberlin. Joyce herself identified the backdrop of St George’s Hanover Square when she attended Helga’s funeral on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**



Baby Maren stayed in Hamburg for about five years, looked after half the time by Helga’s parents Alfred and Charlotte Rönn and half by Theodor’s parents. Maren said her father Theodor was a lovely man and she has no doubt that he was her father not Wall-Row. She has good, if brief, memories of him; he had gone in 1946 to university in Italy to study chemistry;<sup>44</sup> maybe he felt more comfortable somewhere other than Germany.

Helga might well have relished the speed with which she could get out of Hamburg and with which she could marry Hugh; they were married on 21st December 1946. “Helga Ellen Marie-Louise Grethe, formerly Rönn,” 22 years old, married Hugh Wall-Row at Hampstead Registry Office in London<sup>45</sup>. There is no apparent reason for Helga to use the name of her ex-husband because they had indeed got the divorce, but maybe she was travelling on a passport in her Grethe name. The marriage certificate shows Hugh’s address as 96 Cholmley Gardens but Helga next door at 94 Cholmley Gardens, the flat belonging to and occupied by Hugh’s parents Howard and Olivia for at least a year. When Hugh arrived back in London in late 1946 with his new lady friend, his “fiancée”, then the mores of the time (and the parents) might not have permitted the lady to be living in the same flat as their son. Or, just as plausible, they wrote different addresses in the marriage registry for appearances; Hugh’s uncle John and aunt Evelyn might have been at the wedding, or maybe some friends or other demobbed Grenadier Guards.



<sup>42</sup> Source; Maren, conversation with Susie Bicknell 13 Feb 2023

<sup>43</sup> Source; Katie Holliday née Knight, Hugh Wall-Row’s cousin, conversation with Marcus Bicknell Jan 2023.

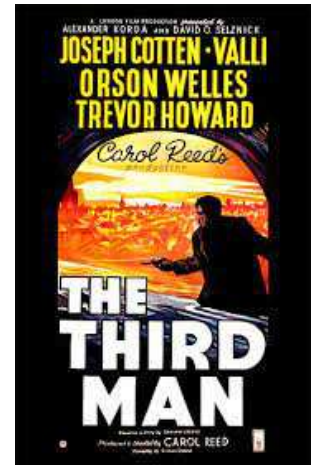
<sup>44</sup> Source; Maren, conversation with Susie Bicknell 13 Feb 2023

<sup>45</sup> Marriage certificate in Helga’s papers

## Helga, film, TV and modelling

One of the historical sources<sup>46</sup> says “Unable to remain in Hamburg facing ordinary Germans, Helga married a British soldier and became a housewife in England, never realizing her dreams.” The first half of the statement, that she became a housewife, is a massive simplification and the last four words are not true. Helga’s “striking physical features” helped her become a model almost immediately on arrival in the UK and she must have been on the books of a good agent because she was working solidly for 20 years. She became a photo model and had roles in British films and television. She was a paid-up member of the British Actors’ Equity Association.

As Helga Wahlrow<sup>47</sup> she played a Josefstadt Theatre actress (without getting a credit) in the English-language 1949 film *The Third Man* (poster, right), Carol Read, Orson Welles and Graham Greene's eerie melodrama set in post-war Vienna... to the strains of the Harry Lime theme music.



A glamour and agony-aunt magazine in the early 50s announced her (image, right) with “Here’s a typical modern girl who gives her hair star-bright loveliness, with Drene, the Shampoo of the Stars. She’s Helga Row, a Hampstead housewife.”



In a two-page spread in a fashion magazine (image left), Helga leans back in the bath to display her make-up, her flowing blond tresses, red finger nails and a huge diamond ring on her marriage finger. The ring might well be the ring Hugh gave her because she is wearing it in another model pose shown below. Helga has written on the

cutting, for a German-speaking friend or relative, “Erkennt Ihr mich?” (Do you recognise me?) as if surprised by and proud of her success.



<sup>46</sup> *Hitler Youth* by Michael H. Kater.

<sup>47</sup> She uses this compacted form of her married name, with the h in Wahl, for all three of her films.

Helga came to the attention of a leading model agency back in Hamburg, the *Moderedaktion Film und Frau* who flew her all expenses paid to Hamburg and back on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1957 for a photo shoot. She is credited by IMDb (the Internet Movie Database) as Helga Wahlrow with two other small parts in movies, a model in *The Ugly Duckling* (1959), a crowd extra in one episode of *The Andromeda Breakthrough* (1962). As Helga Wall Row she was an extra in one episode of *Maigret* on TV in 1963.



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# COP 'MISS REVELLE' and WIN £5

**THE police are watching for "Miss Reveille" — and on her way to the coast in a car last week she was spotted by the crew of a police patrol car.**

The crew grinned, waved, and provided a close escort for several miles before moving on to more urgent business — a motorist exceeding the speed limit.

"MISS REVELLE" is waiting to be tracked down — and she has five-pound notes for successful seekers.

She is visiting leading seaside towns and invites readers to join in the competition to be the first to spot her.

**SUCCESSFUL CHALLENGERS WILL EACH BE PRESENTED WITH A FIVE-POUND NOTE.**

This week "Miss Reveille" will be in Southsea, Shanklin, I.O.W. and Ryde, I.O.W.

**ON FRIDAY, JULY 6 — SOUTHSEA**  
**ON SUNDAY, JULY 8 — SHANKLIN, I.O.W.**  
**ON MONDAY, JULY 9 — RYDE, I.O.W.**

She will be in the following areas between the times stated.

**SOUTHSEA**  
 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Promenade and Beach between South Parade and Southsea Castle.  
 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.: Promenade and Beach between South Parade Pier and St. George's-road.

**SHANKLIN, I.O.W.**  
 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Shanklin Central near Pier.

**RYDE, I.O.W.**  
 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.: Small Hope Beach.  
 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Eastern Promenade.  
 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.: Western Beach and Union-street.

Here's all you have to do — and if you keep your eyes open you can pick up an easy "five."

Look carefully at "Miss Reveille" picture in Page One. If you think you have identified her in the area defined above, challenge her in these words: "No longer need I search and stare, You're "Miss Reveille" I declare."

The first person who correctly challenges "Miss Reveille" in the stated area in the morning session will receive a five-pound note, and a similar prize will be given to the first correct challenger in the stated area in the afternoon.

The decision of the "Reveille" representative on the spot will be final.

Read the challenge again, and then don't forget to quote it correctly.

**GET ON THE TRAIL**

**Latest winners**

FOLKESBURNE: Mr. G. Main, Wain, Cannon, Farnham, Liphig.

HASTINGS: Mrs. E. Pearson, Charley Newell-road, St. Mark's, East, Orington, Kent. Mr. M. Lee, West Pier-road, Sharnford Heath, Kent.

MORCARTER: Mrs. R. Gibbard, Abbot-road, Bournemouth, Liverpool.

EASTBOURNE: Mrs. J. Foster, Cuddington, East, Midsomer, Mrs. M. Turley, Marlborough-road, Marlborough.

BRIGHTON: Mr. J. Southam, Canterbury-road, Hove, Mr. J. B. Hurley, Whorley Green, Westcott, Brighton.

*Reveille* magazine of 5 July 1956 carried an exciting real-world game for its readers. If they could identify the *Reveille Girl* (Helga, indeed) in one of the south coast resorts on the dates listed then they could win £5. She was a favourite of *Reveille* and took the prime spot, front cover of the weekend supplement of 6 July 1958. "Sweeping charms. Twenty-seven-years-old Helga Wall-Row has the real holiday spirit as the sea breeze sweeps her hair. For two years Helga shared the horrors of a German concentration camp. Now she's concentrating on beauty and her talents are paying handsome dividends. Shapely Helga is "Miss Reveille". If you look for her you could win £5."



The editor has chosen, in unremarkable post-war British style, to portray her charming legs to the backdrop of some rotting and barnacle-covered pier posts on the south coast. [The image, right](#), shows Helga among some south coast male visitors, eager for an eyeful and a fiver in prize money. The poster for Percival's Coffee Shop places the scene in Brighton or Bognor Regis.

The implication of the dates 1956 and 1958 here, both mentioning the readers' contest for spotting her in any of many resorts, is that Helga was fully occupied for at least three summers roaming round southern England with lads from the sauciest of magazines, *Reveille*.



Appearing on TV: Maigret 1963

## Family Life in London

Meanwhile, her husband Hugh was commuting from Cholmley Gardens to the his stockbroking job with Dunkley Marshall at 4 London Wall Buildings in the City, waiting for his gorgeous and loving wife to return home. Helga was enjoying her new work life and integrating with Hugh's family who lived in a flat in the same block.



Hugh Wall-Row's parents Olivia and Howard with Helga c.1950 in England

Their son and only child Anthony was born in 1951. Helga's daughter Maren arrived from Hamburg about the same time and settled in Cholmley Gardens. Visiting the flat, 80 Cholmley Gardens, in January 2023 to see Helga, she pointed out to Susie Bicknell which room had been hers and which had been Anthony's.



Helga, Anthony and Hugh - September 1951



Maren and Anthony at Cholmley Gardens, 1955



Anthony c.1953

Helga and Hugh's marriage was stable; they never moved from Cholmley Gardens in Hampstead, lodging with his parents in No.94 for two years, then No.164 from 1948 to 1953 and then No.80 for the rest of her life.

Maren spent time in South Africa and California and lived for some time in the Netherlands too but more in London where she married Geoffrey L. Price in 1967. After he died she was married briefly to Gary C. Whaley in the 1990s (annex p. 35) but she reverted to the name Maren Grethe-Price.



Anthony, Maren, their grandmother Auguste and Helga in Golders Hill Park, London c.1955



Maren and Anthony c. 1960



Helga's brother Herbert Rönn, his wife Ursula and daughter Angela. Helga at the right. 1958 Brussels World's Fair.



Maren in the mid-1960s

Anthony married Nadia Watchman, born in Indonesia and in the Netherlands since the age of 3, and they were happily together in the Netherlands for seven years from 1977. Anthony worked in Dixons' photo shop in The Hague while Nadia worked in the same city, at a psychiatric hospital at the Secretariat. Anthony, Helga and Hugh got to know Nadia's parents and they were always warmly welcomed and spoiled with an extensive Indonesian Rijsttafel.



Helga and Anthony's wife Nadia, Dutch coast

Anthony, Nadia, Helga and Hugh often went on holiday with Helga and Hugh to Frau Scheier's castle in Austria where Helga's brother Herbert Rönn and his wife Ursula (affectionately called Ullu) joined them. Every year the same four celebrated Christmas with Herbert and Ullu in their Hamburg home with the entire German family.



Hugh and Helga, May 1959, guests of his schoolmaster



Hugh's sister Anne and Helga, City of London for lunch with Hugh, c. 1955



## Helga after the stardom

At 42 years old, twenty years after arriving in Britain and the modelling work receding, Helga embarked on a new 12-year career. She joined the British tax service, the Inland Revenue, on 6th November 1967 and made her way through the grades ending as Clerical Assistant at the end of November 1986 when she retired. The Director of Personnel thanked her on behalf of the board for her valuable service. She had filled out her birth as 1926 not 1924, either to make herself appear younger or by fleeting memory twisted by the war.



On Hampstead Heath, business suit, date unknown



Helga and her sister-in-law Ursula, the two prison camp survivors, c. 1970



In 1984 her darling son Anthony died at 33 years old, of lymphoma (a form of cancer that effects lymph glands). Helga mourned him every year on 16 April, the anniversary of his death, with a visit to his plaque in Golders Green Crematorium.<sup>48</sup>



Four years later her husband Hugh died too at the age of 63. This was a massive double blow for Helga, the joys of the new life she had built for herself greatly diminished. She stopped working at the Inland Revenue within months.

But Helga, 62 years old when Hugh died, was a survivor. She continued her good life in 80 Cholmley Gardens for another 37 years.

## Jazz and Charles Raw

Helga still enjoyed jazz music and went to good clubs in London. It was in one of them that she met, in the late 90s, her third husband, Charles Raw, a successful financial journalist, jazz lover and neighbour. They married in 2003 in Emmanuel Church in West End, Hampstead, a three minute walk from the flat. Helga was embraced into Charles's family (photo with his two sisters right). They listened to jazz, saw friends and travelled. Every Christmas they spent a few weeks in the luxurious Baseler Hof hotel overlooking the picturesque Außenalster lake in Hamburg city centre which was Helga's annual pilgrimage to her home city. On the west side of the lake, perfectly visible from her room, was the Alster Pavillon where she and her friends danced the Swing in the first two years of the war. The hotel's manager Niklaus Kaiser von Rosenberg told Marcus Bicknell, at a serendipitous meeting at Harwich ferry terminal in 2013, that Helga



Charles and Helga, seated. Marcus and Susie Bicknell, Vicky and Tom Tribe in December 2014.

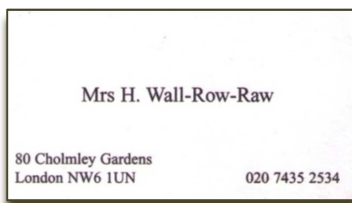


Baseler Hof hotel, Außenalster lake and the Alster Pavillon

<sup>48</sup> Katie Knight Holliday, phone February 2023

Wall-Row<sup>49</sup> demanded and got the best suite in the hotel and slavish service. His eyes rolled to the sky as he spoke, with both delight and dread, of his obligation to look after her personally and to the highest standards.

Helga maintained an interest in Hugh's extended family business, and was a shareholder in J.P. Knight Ltd., the tug boat operator on the River Medway in Kent which was run by four generations of the Knight family. It was a thriving business until 2017 and she attended their Annual General Meetings. Charles accompanied her on each occasion for the lunch. Richard Anthony Hastings Knight and his sister Katie Holliday saw Helga on a regular basis.



Helga and Charles stayed on in the same flat at 80 Cholmley Gardens, until she died there in February 2023, just 2 months after Charles's death there. Charles had been her carer for over 10 years despite his own failing health, refusing to leave her alone in the flat even when an outside helper, and, later, professional carers, were present. Helga had been infirm for eight years and had severe dementia for five but she still enjoyed a meal in her wheel chair with family visitors, especially if the meal was prawns from *Bella Luna* down the road. In late January 2023, comprehending over a few weeks that Charles was gone, she spoke by WhatsApp video to Angela Schapke, the daughter of her late brother Herbert Rönn (whose wife Ursula escaped from Ravensbruck concentration camp) and to Angela's daughter Stefanie von Ulmenstein. Her estranged daughter Maren came to visit her, not knowing that Helga was going to last but three days longer. In early February she was taken to hospital to assess internal bleeding. She was brought home a few hours later and passed away quietly in No.80 on Wednesday 8 February 2023.

The funeral was at Golders Green Crematorium on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023, attended by members of the Rönn family, the Wall-Rows and the Raws. Helga's will provided for the stone plaque at this same Crematorium for her parents, her husband and her son to be engraved with her name in turn, and for *Summertime* by Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong to be played at her funeral.

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<sup>49</sup> The hotel manager did not know the name Raw, just Wall-Row. There is no evidence of Helga using Charles's family name Raw in official documents (nor did she have joint bank accounts or assets with him) but she did print visiting cards with the name Mrs. H. Wall-Row-Raw.

Summertime....and the livin' is easy  
Fish are jumpin'...and the cotton is high  
Yo' daddy's rich...and yo' mama's good-lookin'  
So hush little baby.....don't you cry

One of these mornin's..you gonna rise up singin'  
You gonna spread your little wings...and you'll take to the sky  
But 'till that mornin'...there ain't nothin' gonna harm you  
With yo mama and daddy...standin' bye

Now it's summertime....and the livin' is easy  
Them fish are jumpin'...and the cotton's 'bout waist high  
Yo' daddy's rich...and, ya know yo' mama's good-lookin'  
Now hush little baby.....don't....you cry



Marcus Bicknell [marcus@bicknell.com](mailto:marcus@bicknell.com) V3.4 11 March 2023

## Helga. “In Memoriam”

An end-note from Marcus Bicknell

I was drawn to write about Helga by fondness and by fascination. For 25 years we knew her as a comfortable and stimulating partner to my brother-in-law Charles Raw. We had no idea that Helga had been married before, twice, had given birth to two children, one of them alive whom we did not know and had endured such suffering in the war.

Helga was a sophisticated lady with a keen interest in the people around her. She spoke excellent English with an endearingly thick German accent; it would be difficult to guess that she had been in England since 1946 when she arrived with her dashing English army-officer husband and had adopted London as her home for life. The most fascinating feature of my rapport with her was the way that the German language triggered memories for her. It started in a jokey fashion, when I would welcome her over a period of some twenty years to a family meal at our house in South Bucks, “Helga, Guten Tag, wie geht es dir?”. She would reply. “Aach Marcus, du bist so süß. Wie geht es dir?” As she developed dementia, about five years before her death and was hardly responsive when addressed in English, that same welcome in German opened up the distant memories, and we would talk about her health, the holidays in Hamburg with Charles and music. She never spoke about her experience in the war or about her previous marriages; I got the impression that she had closed the door on them and would not be willing to do so. When one of her Wall-Row family took her aside to ask for an interview about her war experiences she was furious at the intrusion and threatened to sever relations. On one occasion in 2020 she did speak, more willingly, to Susie my wife, Charles’s sister, on personal topics from the dim past; I reference these threads of information in my reconstruction of her life.

There was a belief in the family that she had been in the film *The Third Man*. There was some talk of the high life in Hamburg and of prison in the war. I started researching her showbiz career in about 2018, but her role in *The Third Man* only appeared on the Internet Movie Database in 2020. The mass of other fascinating information about Hamburg before and during the war was digitised and put online in the last five years. The two books by the historian Michael H. Kater, giving details of Helga’s wartime by name, appeared online in 2020. I did not address my mind properly to these issues until after she died. As is so often the case, I am kicking myself for not enquiring more when she was alive, although there would have been a risk of incurring her wrath.

Some of the defining characteristics of Helga are those that she was not.

- She was not Jewish. Nonetheless she spent two years in a Nazi concentration camp, tilling the fields in bare feet in freezing weather, stripped naked on occasions and a shower just once a week. I had never known that the Nazis criminalised sections of their citizens for other issues derived from their philosophy of eugenics and the ideal Aryan race.
- Helga was not a sycophantic follower of the Nazi ideals; she danced the swing to music emanating from Britain and America, she hung out with a group of kids who were not interested in an Aryan race and world domination. With them, she led a life of musical, intellectual, social and sexual liberation; each of those things would have been enough to arouse the authorities' displeasure. All four of them were enough to be transported with hundreds of other *Swing Jugend* into a concentration camp.
- Helga was born to humble working parents, a shipping clerk and a tram conductor. She was not born to the sophistication, life in the public eye and relative wealth which she developed as soon as she arrived in London in 1946.

We never knew that at the end of the war, when liberated, she married a German, Theodor Grethe, and had a baby, Maren. We never knew that before she even had the baby she had met a fine-looking officer in the British Army, Hugh Wall-Row, with whom she went back to London, married within a few months and had a son, Anthony. We never knew what a successful photographic model she was, with assignments all over Britain and Germany and that she appeared on TV shows.

- So another of the characteristics that Helga did not have was “a simple housewife”, a claim made in one of the magazines her stunning face featured in.

When Charles Raw died in late November 2022, we met at his funeral the first of Helga's relatives, Katie Holliday (a Wall-Row relative), blessed with an easy manner and a good memory of the details of her rapport with Helga and of J.P. Knight Ltd. In a couple of months, as Helga's health waned, her daughter Maren, who had not be in contact for decades, thanks to phone calls initiated by Susie, surfaced and visited her mum a few hours before she died. Helga's cousins in Germany got in touch and spoke to her on WhatsApp. As the door opened to a better understanding of her family so the energy exerted on research intensified. For three weeks in February 2023, I devoted myself to Helga full-time.

Helga was not somebody who, like Charles Raw, creative people or public servants, would normally get an obituary in *The Times*. But she deserved in any case this epitaph to remind family, friends and researchers in the future of a remarkable life. She was not a person who would be interviewed on breakfast television about the horrors of the Second World War and Nazism because she was not Jewish; she did not tick all the boxes. However, when I submitted a draft of this to The Times obituary department, they caught on to the exceptional nature of Helga's story. Writer Magnus Linklater, who had written the obituary of Charles Raw for The Times, offered to write an article about Helga in the "Ben MacIntyre slot". They opted a 900-word obituary, half a page, which I wrote for them. It was published the day before her funeral and is reproduced below.

I have shown my sources throughout the book, so that the reader can make their own judgement as to the truth and importance of any information given. I should say that we garnered some other remarks by third parties, which might be considered subjective, and I have left them out of the text. However, I have made a record of all such comments and interviews in case they are relevant to researchers at some time in the future. This is unlikely; as Helga is laid to rest, so is her story.



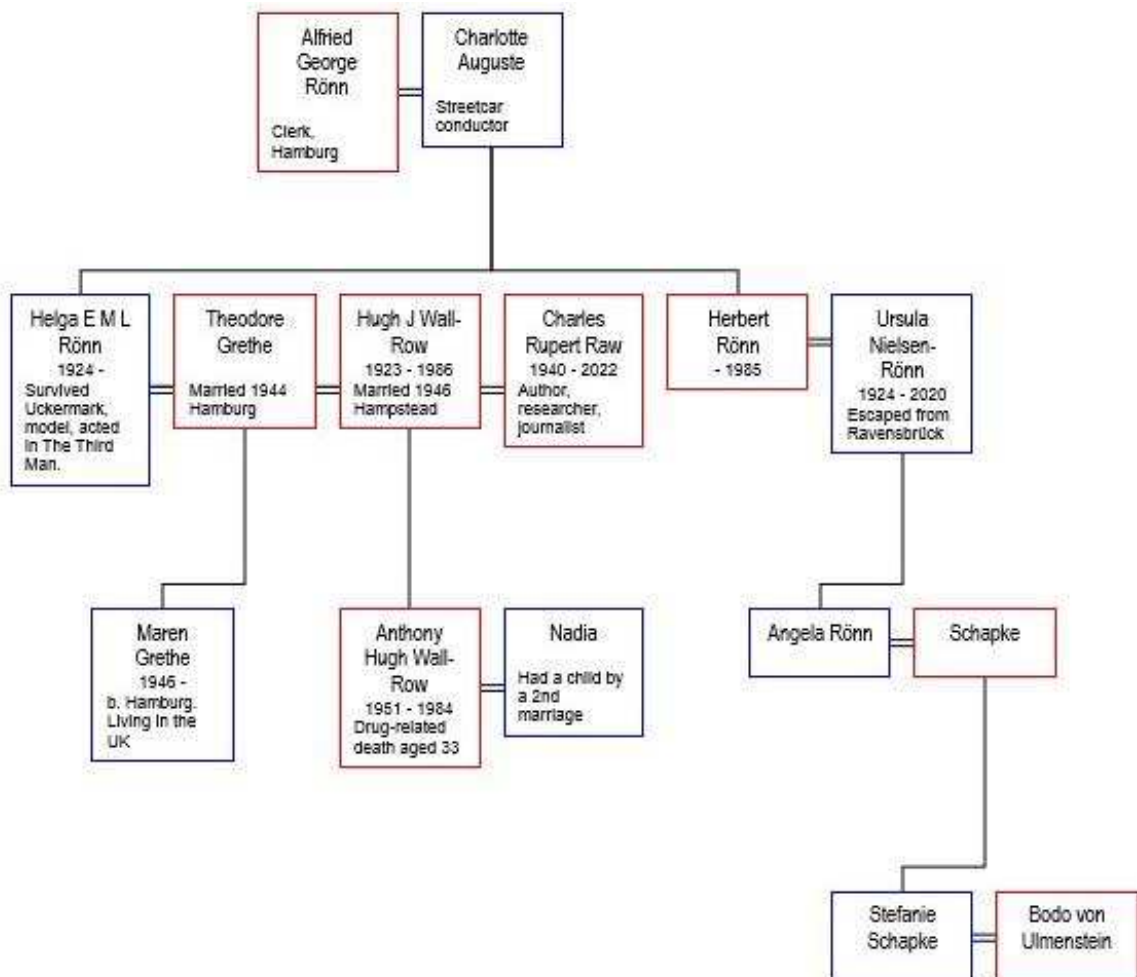
*The following annexes are for reference only and not designed for reading at length. The salient facts are carried forward into the text above.*

## Annex 1: Wartime chronology

- 1939 September 10<sup>th</sup> - Helga's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday two months after the outbreak of World War II
- 1940 early in the year - The Hamburg Swings came to the attention of authorities
- 1941 September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and October 16<sup>th</sup> – Helga interrogated
- 1942 July - Helga incarcerated in Uckermark concentration camp
- 1943 July - attack on Hamburg , Operation Gomorrah, and firestorm annihilation
- 1945 Jan - Uckermark camp closed for juveniles, became an extermination centre. Helga released or sent to Ravensbruck.
- 1945 May 3 - British forces (Lt. Hugh Wall-Row) entered Hamburg,
- 1945 June - Maren was conceived
- 1945 Oct 20th - Helga married Theodor Grethe in Hamburg
- 1946 March 17<sup>th</sup> – Maren born
- 1946 July 30<sup>th</sup> - Grethe's divorce from Helga confirmed
- 1946 Dec 21st – marriage to Hugh Wall-Row in Hampstead



## Annex 2: Family tree





### Annex 3: Source material, private

- Copy of Grethe's divorce judgement, Hamburg 30 July 1946
- Helga and Hugh Wall-Row marriage certificate 21 December 1946
- Maren Grethe birth certificate March 1946
- Letters and photographs in Helga's collection
- Other certificates
- Premium access to Ancestry.com

#### Family name notes:

1. Note: Helga Rönn is sometimes anglicised to Roenn or Ronn
2. No connection is apparent between Rönn and the large Danish family Rønn.

Brak, the great man-made mound that were picnicking at the roadside in Iraq

# Helga Wall-Row

## Hamburg 'swing girl' who survived a brutal Nazi 'youth education camp' and later became a model and actress in London

In 1941, as the war raged elsewhere, 17-year-old Helga Rönn and her friends would enjoy dancing to swing music most nights in the clubs of Hamburg. Unfortunately for them, this style of big band jazz — associated as it was with Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong or Dizzy Gillespie — had been deemed "degenerate jungle music" by Joseph Goebbels, the propaganda minister. Broadcasting it was forbidden and dancing to it was all but banned.

The *Swingjugend* (swing youth), as the young German fans of swing became known, were soon the subject of a secret report from the Reich Ministry of Justice. According to this report, the "false conception of freedom" of the *Swingjugend* led them to oppose the Hitler Youth. They liked, moreover, to speak to each other in American English rather than German, because it was considered cooler. The *Swingjugend* were ironic and flippant in manner; some would even use "Swing Heil" (instead of "Sieg Heil") as a greeting.

"Swing girls" like Helga preferred to wear their hair long and, in contravention of Goebbels's ban on German women wearing make-up, they would have their eyebrows pencilled in, lips painted and fingernails lacquered. Gestapo officers came to regard them as the personification of decadence and promiscuity.

Born in Hamburg in 1924, Helga Ellen Marie-Louise Rönn was the



Wall-Row married her second husband Hugh, right, and moved to London in 1946

daughter of Alfred Rönn, a clerk with a shipping company, and Auguste, a tram conductor. She was home-schooled and, after being approached by Max Reinhardt, the agent who discovered Marlene Dietrich, to audition for a musical, she had aspirations to be a model and actress.

Her father, knowing the dangers of getting on the wrong side of the Nazis, warned her never to write anything compromising in her diary. Being a strong-willed teenager she had ignored him. "We *Swingjugend* just like partying

and music," she wrote. "Even if seen as subversive by the Gestapo." When 300 *Swingjugend* were rounded up in 1941 and forced to cut their long hair, Helga ignored that warning too. The following year she and a group of her *Swingjugend* friends were arrested and transported to Uckermark, a "youth education camp" for women aged 16 to 21. It was close to Ravensbrück concentration camp.

Upon arrival, they were stripped and beaten before being given prison clothes and put to work sawing logs. They survived on watery soup with bread and were allowed one shower a week. As one inmate recalled: "The camp commander was Satan incarnate ... I was also in Auschwitz, but for me, Uckermark was worse."

Helga Rönn and her fellow swing girls emerged from Uckermark in late 1944, broken in spirit and in body.

She went home to find Hamburg had been flattened; 37,000 civilians had been killed and 180,000 wounded by the fire-storm created by the RAF and USAF bombs of Operation Gomorrh in July 1943. Her parents had survived by moving out of town.

Within a month of the city's liberation by the Allies in May 1945, she had conceived a child with Theodor Grethe, a student chemist whose war had been

spent in misery on the Eastern Front. They were married in October and their daughter Maren was born in March 1946; but in a session of the Hamburg courts held in private, they were accorded a divorce in July 1946.

Helga had by then taken up with Hugh Wall-Row, a dashing lieutenant in the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards stationed in Hamburg.

When he was "demobbed" early for fraternising with the enemy and for having an affair with a German woman, she departed with him to London, leaving her baby in Hamburg with her

parents and Grethe's. She married Wall-Row in December 1946, aged 22, and moved into a Hampstead flat next to his parents. He went into stock-broking in the City. Their son Anthony was born in 1951. Her daughter Maren, who later joined her in London, also became a model.

Here the next phase of her life began. Helga Wall-Row realised her long-held ambition to be a model and actress. She had a cameo in the 1949 Carol Reed film *The Third Man* and also modelled for *Reveille* newspaper, and appeared in numerous fashion magazines. She did a number of photohoots in her native Germany.

In her forties she went to work for the Inland Revenue in London, but stopped after her son died young in 1984 and her husband died two years later.

She met her third husband, the financial journalist Charles Raw (obituary, December 19, 2022), and married him in 2003. They stayed on in the same flat in Hampstead that she had made her home in 1946. Their shared passion was jazz and swing.



Helga Wall-Row Raw, actress and model, was born on November 30, 1924. She died on February 8, 2023, aged 98

Email: [obituaries@thetimes.co.uk](mailto:obituaries@thetimes.co.uk)

## Annex 4: Identity of Theodor Grethe, Helga's first (brief) husband

There are two men with the name Theodor Grethe and one is the son of the other.

**Theodor Carl Wilhelm Grethe** (the elder of the two) was born on 16. June 1886 in Hamburg, son of Theodor Christian Louis Grethe and Louise Mathilde Heisecke. His brother Wilhelm Christian Grethe became a lawyer. In his late twenties he passed his preliminary examination as a food chemist in Göttingen and took up the post of Scientific assistant at the State Chemical Laboratory in Hamburg. From 1919-1958 he was partner and manager of a commercial laboratory in Hamburg (today: Chemisches Laboratorium Dr. Hermann Ulex). He would have been 59 years old in 1945 when and if he knew Helga. He won a U.S. patent for the *Process for the improvement of tea free from or poor in caffeine and improved decaffeinated (sic) tea* in 1939. He died on 18. August 1958.

<https://www.chemie.uni-hamburg.de/en/institute/oc/publikationen/db/grethe.html>



We learn from the website of the Swiss decaffeinated tea manufacturer Infré that the company was co-founded in 1946 by Theodor Grethe, a researcher and pharmacist, the original patent holder of a solvent-based process to decaffeinate tea. It is likely that this is the same man. <https://www.infre.ch/> The Italian company Gruppo Montenegro in 1986 purchased 50% of Stucker Zesiger, holders of the same decaffeinated tea rights.

Curiously, the divorce judgement of 30 July 1946 does not carry Helga's name and the plaintiff is referred to just by his surname Grethe. This could be to do with the fact that a typically public session was held in private, as if the couple had enough leverage on the judge to keep the identities confidential.

**Theodor Friedrich Wilhelm Grethe** (b. 1920, the younger of the two) is named as Helga's ex-husband on her marriage certificate to Hugh Wall-Row in December 1946. Theodor Friedrich Wilhelm Grethe is also named with the same spelling on Maren's birth certificate (17 March 1946). TCWG was a celebrated chemist and captain of industry and TFWG is given as a medical student on Maren's birth certificate. However Theodor Friedrich Wilhelm Grethe has no exact matches on Ancestry.com and does not Google. I find no images of him.

## Annex 5: Theodor Grethe and the Ulex Chemical Laboratory

"Im Jahre 1939 wurde Dr. Grimme zum Wehrdienst als „Luftschutzchemiker“<sup>50</sup> eingezogen. Dr. Theod. Grethe "wurde als "politisch unzuverlässig" im nationalsozialistischen Reich, was ihn schon in den vorangegangenen Jahren beruflich ganz erhebliche Schwierigkeiten einbrachte, vom Wehrdienst freigestellt. Nur weil das Laboratorium gerade in der Kriegszeit eine wichtige Funktion hatte und man wohl auch nicht am umfangreichen Erfahrungsschatz von Dr. Grethe vorbeisehen konnte, durfte er wenigstens seinem Beruf" nachgehen.

"In 1939, Dr. Grimme was drafted into military service as an "air-raid chemist". Dr. Theod. Grethe was released from military service as "politically unreliable" in the National Socialist Reich, which had caused him considerable professional difficulties in the previous years. Only because the laboratory had an important function during the war and one probably did not have the extensive wealth of experience Dr. Grethe could stop by, he was at least allowed to do his job".

Im Jahre 1943 brannte das eigene Gebäude in der Schmiedestraße No.6 durch Bombeneinwirkung ab; das Laboratorium wurde provisorisch bis 1946 in einer Schlachtereier in der Amandastraße in Altona weitergeführt. Im Jahre 1946 wurde im Rahmen einer umfangreichen Wiedergutmachung das Gebäude in der Schmiedestraße wieder aufgebaut; auch sein im Dritten Reich enteignetes Haus und Grundstück in der Bebelallee No.139 "wurde de jure zurückgegeben, de facto diente es kurze Zeit britischen Offizieren als Wohnquartier." In der Schmiedestraße 6 blieb das Labor bis zum Abriss des Hauses im Rahmen der U-Bahn-Verlängerung vom Jungfernstieg zum Hauptbahnhof Ober Messberg bis zum Jahre 1957.

In 1943 his own [or the company's, unclear] building in Schmiedestraße No.6 burned down as a result of bombing; the laboratory was provisionally continued until 1946 in a slaughterhouse on Amandastraße in Altona. In 1946, as part of extensive reparations, the building on Schmiedestraße was rebuilt; also his house and property in Bebelallee No.139, expropriated in the Third Reich. "Returned de jure, de facto it served for a short time as living quarters for British officers." The laboratory remained at Schmiedestraße 6 until the building was demolished as part of the subway extension from Jungfernstieg to Ober Messberg main station until 1957.

Am 4. Februar 1958, nach dem Tode von Dr. Th. Grethe am 18. Aug. 1958 trat sein Sohn Theodor Grethe jun., geb. 1920. Als Nachfolger ein. Am 4. April trat Dr. Clemen Grimme, nunmehr einundachtzig Jahre alt, aus der OHG aus.

On February 4, 1958, after the death of Dr. Th. Grethe on August 18, 1958, his son Theodor Grethe junior, born in 1920, took over as his successor. On April 4, Dr. Clemen Grimme, now eighty-one years old, left the OHG. [Ed: *Offene Handelsgesellschaft, a partnership*]

Th. Grethe jun. verkaufte, da er an den Folgen mehrfacher Malaria- und Ruhrerkrankungen im Russlandfeldzug litt, zum 1. Oct. 1962 an den Hamburger Chemiker Jans-Joachim Mierendorff.

As he suffered from the consequences of multiple malaria and dysentery diseases in the Russian campaign<sup>50</sup>, Th. Grethe jun sold [the company] to the Hamburg chemist Jans-Joachim Mierendorff on 1 Oct. 1962

<https://ulexlab.de/2021/01/23/firmengeschichte-familie-grethe-1919-1962/>

Theodor Grethe, Deutschland, Entcoffeinieren von Kaffee. Man extrahiert die Bohnen mit einem Gemisch von Essigester u. W., befreit sie vom Lösungsm., behandelt sie ca. 13—15 Stdn. mit entspanntem feuchten W.-Dampf (W.-Geh. 5—8%) u. trocknet sie unter Erhitzen, u. zwar zunächst langsam auf 80°, dann schneller in der Atmosphäre ihrer eigenen Gase u. Dämpfe auf 135°. (F. P. 764 456 vom 28/11. 1933, ausg. 22/5. 1934.) B i e b e r s t e i n

[http://delibra.bg.polsl.pl/Content/20711/P-52\\_BandII\\_1934\\_Nr21\\_AB.pdf](http://delibra.bg.polsl.pl/Content/20711/P-52_BandII_1934_Nr21_AB.pdf)

<sup>50</sup> Germany's Eastern Front against Russia, 1941-1945

## Criminal file for fraud against the chemist Theodor Carl Wilhelm Grethe<sup>51</sup>

[213-11\\_78513 Grethe, Dr. Theodor Karl Wilhelm wegen Betrug; § 263 StGB, Hauptakte, Band 1, 1928-1938 \(Band\) \(hamburg.de\)](#)

213-11\_78513 sowie 213-11\_78514

**Titel:** **Grethe**, Dr. **Theodor** Karl Wilhelm wegen Betrug; § 263 StGB, Hauptakte, Band 1

**Laufzeit:** 1928-1938

**Darin:** Allgemeines deutsches Gebührenverzeichnis für Chemiker 1926.

**Gericht:** Amtsgericht (Einzelrichter), Abt. 2b  
Landgericht (Strafkammer, bis 1939 grosse und kleine), 1. K.  
Reichsgericht, 3. Strafsenat

**Urteilsdatum:** 24.05.1930  
24.07.1931  
29.02.1932

**Rechtsmittel:** Berufung des Angeklagten u.d. StA  
Revision des Angeklagten

**Vorsitzender Richter:** Roth, Dr. Pfeiffer, Dr. Kienitz

**Weitere Richter:** Matzen, Weber Waldow, Dr. Nöldeke, Dr. Tittel, Dr. Hartung, Dr. Zoeller Müller II

**Staatsanwalt:** Rose, Stein Kirchner, Dr.

**Hinweise Strafakten:** vollständige Akte, 3 Bände, 4 Neben-, 2 Urteilsbände

**Alte Aktenzeichen staatsanw.** IV 738/28

**Alte Aktenzeichen Eröffnung** 2b St 18/30

**Frühere Signaturen:** 213-11\_A05562/33

**Angeklagte / Beklagte:** **Grethe**, Dr. **Theodor** Karl Wilhelm  
Geburtsdatum: 16.06.1886  
Geburtsort: Hamburg  
Beruf: Chemiker  
Berufsgruppe: Selbständige (bis 20 Beschäftigte)  
Strafantrag: 40.000 RM  
Strafmass: 20.000 RM  
Strafantrag: 6 M G  
Strafmass: 25.000 RM  
Strafmass: Verwerfung

**Geburtsdatum:** 16.06.1886

Title: Grethe, Dr. Theodor Karl Wilhelm for fraud; Section 263 StGB, Main File, Volume 1

Term: 1928-1938

In respect of: General German fee schedule for chemists 1926.

Court: District Court (single judge), Section 2b

District Court (criminal chamber, until 1939 large and small), 1st K.

Imperial Court, 3rd Criminal Senate

Judgment date: 05/24/1930

07/24/1931

02/29/1932

Appeal: Appeal of the accused and others StA, revision of the accused

Presiding judge: Roth, Dr. [and list of judges]

Criminal files: complete files, 3 volumes, 4 secondary volumes, 2 judgment volumes

Old file number public prosecutor Preliminary proceedings: IV 738/28

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<sup>51</sup> With thanks to Katrin Moeller of Halle University for the link to this information

Old file number opening main proceedings: 2b St 18/30  
Earlier signatures: 213-11\_A05562/33  
Accused / Defendant: Grethe, Dr. Theodor Karl Wilhelm  
Date of birth: 06/16/1886  
Place of birth: Hamburg  
Occupation: chemist  
Occupational group: self-employed (up to 20 employees)  
Criminal complaint: 40,000 RM  
Penalty: 20,000 RM  
Criminal complaint: 6 M G  
Penalty: 25,000 RM  
Sentence: rejection  
Date of birth: 06/16/1886

[The two penalties together make 45,000 RM (\$18,000 US in 1939) which has a value in 2023 if approximately \$380,000.]

## Annex 6: Theodor Grethe and the harvesting of tea by concentration camp girls

Kater writes on page 91 of *Hitler Youth* “Apart from the continuation of household or farm labor service within the Pflichtjahr or, for the older girls, the RAD, other girls were increasingly involved in the collection of medicinal herbs—some for ersatz tea—in the countryside. In the entire Reich in the period 1939–1940, over a million BDM members spent 6.5 million work hours on the collection of various herbs and tea. ... As the war progressed, it became more important to aid those immediately affected. In the civilian sector... collection of herbs tended to be replaced by collection of those items needed quickly by the air-raid-stricken: emergency utensils for personal hygiene such as combs, toothpaste, towels, and brushes.”

The health effects of tea leaves have been widely studied. There are a lot of scientific reports indicating that tea consumption might have health promoting properties like cholesterol reduction, antioxidant features, and protection against cardiovascular disease

<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/jfq/2017/1076876/>

Cyclohexanone is used as a solvent in insecticides, wood stains, paint and varnish removers, spot removers, cellulose, and natural and synthetic resins and lacquers. Effects on humans... short-term (acute): Exposure to cyclohexanone can cause dizziness and unconsciousness. Irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat can also occur. 2. Long-term (chronic): Dermal exposure to cyclohexanone can cause dryness, irritation, and inflammation of the skin.

Use of cyclohexanone in tea:

<https://jwoodscience.springeropen.com/counter/pdf/10.1007/BF00780564.pdf>

<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/jfq/2017/1076876/>

<https://jordilabs.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Case-Study-Food-Contact-Leachables-in-Tea.pdf>

## Annex 7: Public records, Helga

### Birth registrations

Ref. code: 351-11\_46498  
Title: Wall-Row, Helga Ellen Maria-Luise (fr. Rönn, Helga Grethe)  
Laufzeit: 1956-1987  
Geburtsname: Rönn  
Date of birth: 30/11/1924  
Rufname: Helga  
Contains also: Theodor Friedrich Wilhelm Grethe, geb. 02.08.1910;  
Maren-Claudia Grethe, geb. 17.03.1946  
Aktenzeichen1: 301124  
Former reference codes: 351-11\_46496  
Comments: siehe 46892  
<https://recherche.staatsarchiv.hamburg.de/ScopeQuery5.2/detail.aspx?ID=1272325>

Ref. code: 351-11\_46892  
Title: Wall-Row, Helga Ellen Marie-Luise (gesch. Grethe)  
Laufzeit: 1949-1967  
Geburtsname: Rönn  
Date of birth: 30/11/1924  
Rufname: Helga  
Contains also: Alfred Rönn, geb. 19.08.1890; Auguste Rönn, geb. 25.10.1895; Theodor Friedrich Wilhelm Grethe, geb. 02.08.1920; Maren-Claudia Helga Grethe, geb. 17.03.1946  
Aktenzeichen1: 301124  
Comments: siehe 46498

Ref. code: 242-1 II\_\_  
Title: Rönn, Alfred Henry, Geburtsort: Hamburg  
Laufzeit: 1928  
Date of birth: 06/02/1906

### Marriage Registrations

Helga Rönn Hugh Wall-Row marriage 1946 marriage certificate , paper copy

### Death Registrations

None

### Divorce papers of 30 July 1946 in Hamburg

Theodor Grethe had married Helga 20th October 1945 and a daughter was born 17 March 1946. Theodor Grethe filed for divorce, probably in spring 1946, on the basis of Helga's adultery. The divorce was granted 30 July 1946. Grethe claimed in the hearing that their last marital intercourse was at the end of 1945, i.e. within six months of their daughter's conception. ("ende 1945 war der letzte eheliche Verkehr"). Helga admitted a "marital relationship with another man" and did not contest the divorce.

Note: the divorce order does not name Helga nor does it give Grethe's full name.



**Transcript and translation of divorce court order ...**

Hamburg, 30 July 1946  
State Administration, Civil Chamber  
**Public Session** (changed by typewriter to "**Not Public Session**")  
Case number 34R 304/46  
In respect of: Grethe

State attorney: Dr. Harmaen  
Case of ... Grethe, geo. or geb. born ... unreadable...  
Plaintiff: Attorney Holste  
As Clerk of the Office to the Defendant: Attorney Dr W. Jeahäuser

[Kläg Vertr. stellte den Antrag die Ehe der Parteien unter Schuldig Erklärung der Beklagten zu scheiden.](#)

Plaintiff submitted the application to annul the marriage of the parties on the basis of the defendant's admission of guilt.

[Bekl. Vertr. nimmt in Einverständnis des Klägers die Widerklage zurück und stellt zu Klage keine Anträge. Parteivertreter verhandelten streitig.](#)

The defendant, with the consent of the plaintiff, withdraws her counterclaim and file no motions to claim. The parties negotiated contentiously.

[Parteien erklären uebereinstimmend:](#)

The parties confirm their agreement.

We married on 20th October 1945 and [have] a daughter born 17th March 1946. Our last marital intercourse was at the end of 1945 [[ende 1945 war der letzte eheliche Verkehr](#)]

[Die Beklagte erklärt:](#)

[Ich gebe zu, ehewidrige Beziehungen zu enim anderen Mann zu unterhalten, die auch jetzt noch fortbestehen.](#)

The defendant explains:

I admit to having, and continuing to have, extra-marital relationships with another man.

[Parteien erklären übereinstimmend:](#)

[Wir verzichten gegenseitig auf Unterhaltsansprüche im Falle der rechtskräftigen Scheidung für die Vergangenheit und Zukunft und nehmen die Verzichtserklärung der Gegenseite an.](#)

[Kläg. Vertr. wiederholte den Klagantrag. Parteien verhandelten streitig.](#)

Parties unanimously declare: We mutually waive maintenance claims in the event of a final divorce for the past and future and accept the waiver of the other side. The plaintiff's representative repeated this statement. Parties negotiated contentiously.

[Nach Herstellung der Öffentlichkeit wurde das anl. Urteil verkündet.](#)

The judgement is official as soon as the relevant **Verdict** announced.

Auf Rechtsmittel wurde beiderseits verzichtet.  
(Unterzeichnet:)  
Dr. Harmsen.

Kunkel

There was no right of appeal on either side.  
(Signed:)

Landgericht <sup>3a</sup> Hamburg, den 30. Juli 1946.  
Zivilkammer

K... ..  
Nicht-Öffentliche Sitzung 20. Aug. 1946

Aktenzeichen: 3a R 304/46 In der Sache

**Grethe**

Gegenwärtig:  
Landgerichtsrat **Dr. Harmsen** gegen  
als Vorsitzter

**Kunkel** als Beisitzer, erschienen bei Aufruf

der Kläger m. Rechtsanwalt **Holste**,  
die Beklagte m. Rechtsanwalt **Dr. W. Jehuäuser**,  
als Urkundsbeamter der Geschäftsstelle.

Klög. Vertr. stellte den Antrag, die Ehe der Parteien unter Schuldigerklärung der Beklagten zu scheiden.  
Bekl. Vertr. nimmt im Einverständnis des Klägers die Widerklage zurück und stellt zur Klage keine Anträge.  
Parteivertreter verhandelten streitig. v. g.

Parteien erklären übereinstimmend:  
Wir haben am 20.10.45 geheiratet und eine Tochter, die am 17.3.46 geboren ist. Ende 1945 war der letzte eheliche Verkehr.

Die Beklagte erklärt:  
Ich gebe zu, ehewidrige Beziehungen zu einem anderen Mann zu unterhalten, die auch jetzt noch fortbestehen.

Parteien erklären übereinstimmend:  
Wir verzichten gegenseitig auf Unterhaltsansprüche im Falle der rechtskräftigen Scheidung für die Vergangenheit und Zukunft und nehmen die Verzichtserklärung der Gegenseite an.

Klög. Vertr. wiederholte den Klagantrag.  
Parteien verhandelten streitig.  
Nach Herstellung der Öffentlichkeit wurde das anl. **U r t e i l** verkündet.  
Auf Rechtsmittel wurde beiderseits verzichtet.  
(Unterzeichnet:)  
**Dr. Harmsen.** **Kunkel.**

LG. Vordr. ZP. (ZH) 20 Div. A. 4  
1 Richter - (8000. 5. 46.) E/0708

*Pa. J. W. Jehuäuser*

## Annex 8: Maren's birth and marriage records

### Birth

On Maren's birth certificate, the father is listed as Theodor Friedrich Wilhelm Grethe, student der Medizin, a student. This helped clarify that the father was not Theodor Grethe senior, the qualified and successful research scientist. As the birth was after their divorce it is likely Grethe was not at the birth nor responsible for filling out the form; the father's occupation was given by Helga to the best of her knowledge.

Both Helga and Theodor are shown as Evangelical as far as religion is concerned.

The place of birth... "After the Israelitisches Krankenhaus in Simon-Utrecht-Straße hat to be cleared in 1939, the hospital was relocated to Johnsallee 68 and 54. Johnsallee 54 was formerly used as a community center (library, events, etc.) and was only used as part of the hospital until July 1942." [https://www.reddit.com/r/hamburg/comments/o316dy/johnsallee\\_68/](https://www.reddit.com/r/hamburg/comments/o316dy/johnsallee_68/) Johnsallee 68 is on the site of the present-day Hamburg University Law School.

### Marriages

Married Geoffrey L Price (probably L for Lepaxton, born October 1943 in Paddington) in July 1967 (Hampstead marriage registry 582006).

#### Marriage

Name: **Geoffrey L Price**  
Registration Date: Jul 1967  
Registration District: Hampstead  
Spouse: Maren-claudia H Grethe  
Volume Number: 5b Page Number: 2086  
Hampstead marriage registry number 582006

After Price died (source Maren 3 March 2023) she married Gary Whaley in August 1993 and divorced him quickly.

#### Marriage

Name: **Gary C Whaley**  
Registration Date: 1993 [Aug 1993]  
Registration District: Kensington & Chelsea  
Inferred County: Greater London  
Spouse: Maren-claudia H Price

#### Birth

Volume Number: 13 Page Number: 1561  
Name: **Gary C Whaley**  
Registration Date: Oct 1954  
Registration District: Lambeth  
Mother's Maiden Name: Sawyers  
Volume Number: 5c Page Number: 1461

## Annex 9: Hugh Wall-Row, Helga's second husband

- 1940 The under-mentioned cadets from 163<sup>rd</sup> and 167<sup>th</sup> O.C.T.U.'s to be 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. 21 Dec 1940 Grenadier Guards – Hugh Wall Row 165021 [Ed: *OCTU: Officer Cadet Training Unit*].<sup>52</sup> Probably 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> battalion Grenadier Guards, all of which took part in the Normandy landings June 6 1944 and carried on fighting in North Western Europe. The 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards was among the Allied force which took Hamburg – they surrendered on 3rd May 1945. For the next two months the Grenadiers stayed in the Hamburg area sorting our prisoners, helping to clear up the mess in the city and dealing with the tens of thousands of displaced persons, now roaming the ruins of Germany. In July 1945 much of the force moved on to Berlin, firstly to join the Occupation Forces there, and secondly to take part in the great Victory Parade through the city on 21st July. Lt. Hugh Wall-Row might have stayed in Hamburg
- 1946 Ray Huggins joined 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards in Hamburg in 1946. The place, he said 'was rubble', and one of the less pleasant tasks given to the Grenadiers was to guard the internment camp at Neuengamme. A former concentration camp run by the SS, this was where nearly 43,000 prisoners had perished during the war, and now the Grenadiers guarded their SS captives, the former camp staff at this ghastly place. Ray Huggins, 18 years of age at the time, recalls the experience: seeing the SS soldiers digging the garden and preparing for their kit-inspections.  
([http://guardsmagazine.com/features/Winter2018/01\\_Huggins.html](http://guardsmagazine.com/features/Winter2018/01_Huggins.html))
- 1946 October. Married Hugh Wall-Row in Hampstead. She was registered as Helga E M L Rönn. Hugh Wall-Row also listed as Hugh Row
- 1959 Electoral register, listed as Helga E Wall-Row
- 1986 Hugh Wall-Row is a partner at stockbrokers Dunkley Marshall at 4 *London Wall Buildings*, London SC2M 5NX. " Notice is hereby given that Islwyn Arfn Pritchard has with effect from Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 1986, retired from the Partnership heretofore subsisting between John Stewart Albert Kingsley, David Tyrrell Brown, George William Semark Miskin, Francis Patrick Leycester Bedwell, John Albert Redgrave, John Oliver Kennedy, Christopher Alexander Onne, Islwyn Arfon Pritchard (the outgoing Partner), Bernard Bryan Dunkley, David John Clark, Brian Vivian Rowe, Hugh Wall Row and Graham Millar, carrying on business at Stockbrokers at 4 London Wall Buildings, London SC2M 5NX and at The Stock Exchange under the style of DUNKLEY MARSHALL. *London Gazette* 18<sup>th</sup> April 1986

Hugh's mother, Phyllis Olivia Knight was born on 25 October 1891, in Hailsham, Sussex, England. Her father, John Gray Knight, was 24 and her mother, Anne Philippa Harriman, was 23. She married John Peake Knight on 21 November 1914, in Bromley, Kent, England, United Kingdom. They were the parents of at least 1 daughter. She immigrated to New York City, New York, United States in 1936 and lived in Hailsham, Sussex, England, United Kingdom in 1901 and Preston, Sussex, England, United Kingdom in 1911. She died on 17 April 1975, in Bracknell, Berkshire, England, at the age of 83.

<https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LB1C-5N3/phyllis-olivia-knight-1891-1975>

Not <https://trauer.lokalkompass.de/traueranzeige/helga-roenn>. This is a different person.

### J.P.Knight Ltd., the tug business in the extended Wall-Row family

J.P.Knight Ltd., Tug operator, in which Helga was a 6.83% shareholder. John Peake Knight was Hugh's maternal grandfather and is Hugh Wall-Row's common ancestor with Katherine Holliday who knew Helga well.



<sup>52</sup> London Gazette, World War II military notices, January 1941.