



Liesel's Story, Chapter 4

So I connected with the Alfsens, it was absolutely wonderful, and in 1987 my husband Terry had taken early retirement and the Alfsens kept saying “when are you coming, bring Terry, bring Terry” so we went, the two of us and we stayed in a hotel and we met up with the Alfsens and they took us out and about and we just had the most fantastic time with them. Eileen became like a second mother, if I was upset or if I was happy I would either write to her or I would pick up the phone and I was quite devastated when Christmas 1991 I phoned up, because Christmas Eve is very important, they have their parties and things Christmas Eve, not like we do here Christmas day. So I phoned up to wish them a happy Christmas and this young girl answered the phone and I said “hello, can I speak to Eileen please”, and she hesitated and she said “just a minute” and then another lady came on the phone and I said “It’s Liesel, can I speak to Eileen” and it was her daughter, Kari. She said “I’m awfully sorry but my mother’s died. She had peritonitis and they didn’t catch it in time and she’s died”. Well I was heartbroken. Finn by that time had Parkinson’s and he was very ill and they’d had to put him into a retirement home so I kind of lost touch with them unfortunately. The boys Jan and Per, well, the connection wasn’t there, it was with Eileen and Finn, so really I kind of lost my second family but I’m pleased that I eventually did meet them and connect with them. They told me so many little things, like whilst I was with them apparently when I arrived I was full of cold, I was talking about my Swedish mutti, apparently I’d been somewhere in Sweden, I’ve no recollection of that at all, but when I arrived in Bergen I was absolutely full of cold, my eyes were running, my nose was running, my ears were running, and Eileen said “I wrapped you up in a blanket and sat you by the fire and I just said to Finn, the poor little thing!” But they took good care of me and I eventually came to England.