

Wolf's parents ran a clothing shop in Erfurt, Eastern Germany, and he had a younger brother Issy who was twelve when Wolf left Germany.

Wolf finished middle school in 1936, and in 1937, he went to Halbe near Berlin to prepare for the youth Alija. Preparations were then made for him to leave Germany and emigrate to England. In February 1939 he arrived in England and found a job as a farm labourer as part of the Salvation Army farming scheme in Halstead, Essex. He said that after the war ended, he wanted to grow flowers in Palestine and began training at the Royal Horticultural School in Wisley, Surrey. Siegfried was able to begin working as an engineering apprentice making aircraft parts. They were regarded as friendly aliens because of their birth in Germany and their father's Polish nationality.

In June 1943, Wolf and Siegfried volunteered for the RAFVR at Lords cricket ground in London. Wolf was accepted and initially directed toward training as a radio operator and air gunner at a radio training school. As Siegfried was already involved in essential aircraft production, he was asked to continue this as it was a reserved essential occupation. He went on to develop aircraft parts for Barnes Wallis, the famous aircraft designer.

Siegfried

The school days of Siegfried Engelhardt ended in 1936 when he was 14. He was an excellent swimmer and he had won a competition for his school, but as a "Jew" he was shunned. He began an apprenticeship as a bicycle fitter in the bicycle shop and repair shop of Hermann Schulz at Trommsdorffstraße 27.

After a few months, he was sacked because he was a "Jew". In preparation for the youth Alija, his parents sent him in the August 1936 to Berlin. Siegfried lived in Bet Chaluz, a dormitory of the Youth Alija School, Oranienburger Straße 40/41.

During a period of training in agriculture, it turned out that he was not suitable for the work as he was underweight, and he was returned on 6 October 1937 to his parents. He was then sent ten days later to an Alija facility in Leipzig and was prepared for a job as a locksmith.

Siegfried Engelhardt was spared the "Poland Action" because his name was not on the list. He was only asked to go to his parents in Erfurt. He found shelter in the Polish Consulate, and he sought his uncle Max, who lived with his wife Rosa and two sons in Leipzig-Lindenau. The couple ran a bicycle shop with a repair shop. When Siegfried's parents could not be reached by telephone, he called an acquaintance of the family and learned of the deportation of his parents and younger brother Issy to Poland. Siegfried was supposed to accompany his father to Poland, but this failed due to a lack of papers. The Erfurt Registration Authority had changed Siegfried's nationality from "Austria" to "Deutsch". (Register of the city of Erfurt, city archive Erfurt, security filming, signature 2/136-17)

Siegfried stayed with his uncle and helped him in the business. Max Wind, a brother of his mother, was stateless and not affected by the deportation. When news of the assassination of the Legation Secretary Ernst von Rath arrived, Max Wind brought his family and Siegfried to safety. They hid in an apartment that was unused as a result of the "Poland Action". After a week, they returned home and took care of the business, which had been devastated on the night of November 10, 1938, Kristallnacht.

Between 19 and 21 November 1938, Siegfried Engelhardt stayed in Erfurt to retrieve items from his parents' home and raise money. The reporting authority did not record this stay, but the care file provides information about it. Siegfried was present, as the caregiver's inventory in the parental apartment, Georgsgasse 11, and in the shop of the Father, Michaelisstraße 35, recorded. He signed the minutes and acknowledged receipt of some items and papers. (The State Archives of Thuringia, State Archives Gotha District Court Erfurt, Care Files, 1634, Bl. 6-12)

The Erfurt police temporarily detained him for trying had to collect rent. As a minor, he came away with a warning and drove back to Leipzig. On 29 May 1939 he returned from Leipzig to Erfurt.

A letter dated 18 June 1939, declared that Siegfried was now stateless. The immigration police took the stateless passport, to the Polish Consulate and told him that he would be issued with a passport. Eventually Siegfried received the Polish passport and in addition he was given a visa for Palestine which allowed entry to England and he emigrated in June 1939 where he was reunited with Wolf.

Like his brother Wolf, he was started work in agriculture and then he began technical training in a company that produced aircraft parts.

After the war in December 1947, Siegfried Engelhardt was naturalized; He chose the name Stephen Ellis. Between 1948 and 1955 he lived in Israel, then returned to England.

(Stephen Ellis: Interview, conducted on 28 May 1997 by Barbara Goodman, Holocaust Survivors Center Interviews C830/033. British Library, London, Digital Collection, Oral History, Sport: <http://sounds.bl.uk/Oral-history/Sport>)

He died in London on 18 December 2009.

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