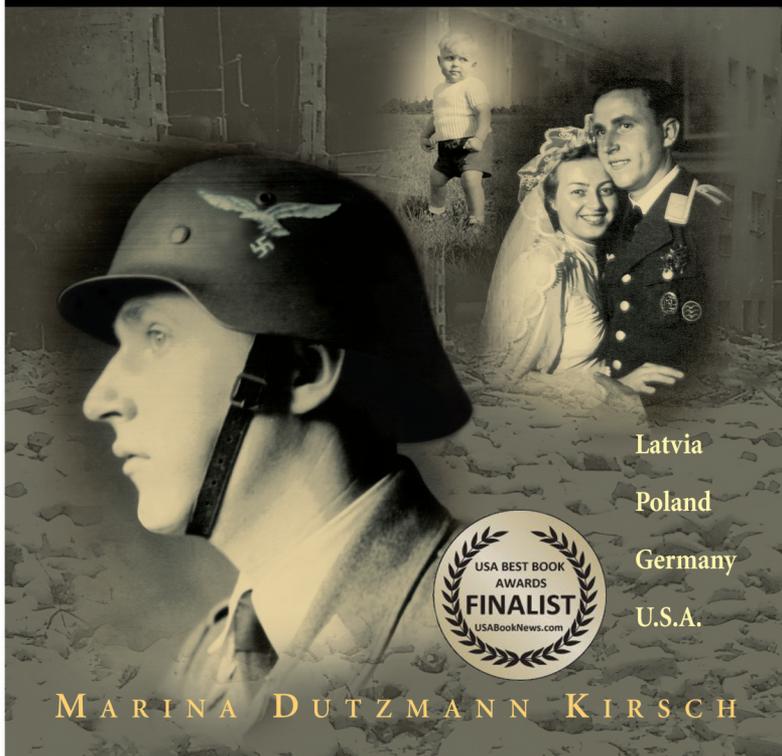




FLIGHT of REMEMBRANCE

A World War II Memoir of Love and Survival



Latvia

Poland

Germany

U.S.A.

MARINA DUTZMANN KIRSCH

*T*he story of a family's escape from Latvia to Germany in 1939 before the Soviet takeover and their experience of World War II upheaval and devastation in Latvia, Poland and Germany, ending in immigration to the USA—an uplifting reminder that even out of the ashes of catastrophe and ruin, love and hope can take wing.



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FLIGHT of REMEMBRANCE

A World War II Memoir of Love and Survival

BY MARINA DUTZMANN KIRSCH

*A*gainst the backdrop of World War II upheaval and three tumultuous decades of European history, this is the true story of my family in war torn northern Europe during the most devastating years of the 20th century. An Award-Winning Finalist in the Non-

Fiction Narrative category of **The 2012 USA Best Book Awards**, *Flight of Remembrance* describes the experiences of my father, Rolf Dutzmann, a Latvian aeronautical engineering student forced under dire circumstances including the threat of execution to flee his homeland and repatriate to Germany in 1939 before the Soviet takeover, and my mother, Lilo Wassull, the young German woman that he meets in 1940 Berlin.

Whereas the account chronicles Rolf's pursuit of his technical dream amidst alien surroundings and against daunting wartime odds while relating events elsewhere in Europe and the Soviet Union that were unknown to my family at the time, it is first and foremost a poignant love story that plays out against a panorama of worldwide chaos and destruction. It is also a story of the seen and unseen forces that coalesce to keep Rolf and Lilo alive through a chain of cataclysmic events that include Rolf's draft into the Luftwaffe and his father's assignment as chief inspector of V-2 rocket mass-production; the bombing of Berlin; the destruction of their homes; their numerous desperate, cross-country escapes from the bombing, the advancing Soviet troops from the east and other Allied forces from the west; the POW camp hardships; and the deprivation of the postwar years. Despite the immeasurable evil, suffering and desolation of World War II, a synchronistic chain of events lends powerful testimony to the potential lying dormant in life's most terrifying adversities.

Flight of Remembrance includes a foreword by veteran author, Dr. Angelo Codevilla, 132 World War II era photographs, a map of northern European locations and journeys, three appendices, a bibliography and an index.

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