

LITERATURE

Miesbeck, Peter / Treml, Manfred (Hrsg.): Erinnerungszeichen. Die Tagebücher der Elisabeth Block. Rosenheim 1993.

Panzer, Marita A. / Plöbl, Elisabeth: Bavarias Töchter, Frauenporträts aus fünf Jahrhunderten. Regensburg 1997.

Treml, Manfred: Elisabeth Block aus Niedernburg. Online:
<https://www.stadtarchiv.de/index.php?id=409> (zuletzt 29.06.18)

CREDITS

Large photo: Elisabeth (Lisi) Block, 1928. The picture shows Elisabeth in the autumn 1928 when she was visiting her aunt. The photo was taken in Alpengarten of Kurpark in Bad Polzin. You can see Elisabeth (on the right), her cousins Hanna, Eva, Margarete und Ruth Levy (from left to right) and the nanny Fräulein Lena. **Source:** Miesbeck, Peter / Treml, Manfred (Hrsg.): Erinnerungszeichen. Die Tagebücher der Elisabeth Block. Rosenheim 1993. S. 326.

Small photo: Elisabeth (Lisi) Block, 1941. The picture is a portrait of Elisabeth. **Source:** Miesbeck, Peter / Treml, Manfred (Hrsg.): Erinnerungszeichen. Die Tagebücher der Elisabeth Block. Rosenheim 1993. S. 337.

ELISABETH (LISI) BLOCK

* 1923 – NIEDERBURG



My name is Elisabeth Block, but everyone calls me Lisi. I live in Niederburg, which is close to Rosenheim. I was born on February 23, 1923. Since I am eight years old, I have been writing a diary.

My father is called Fritz, he is a graduate engineer. Since he fought in the war and was injured, he can no longer work in his job field. My mother's name is Mirjam and she is busy in the arts and crafts field. My parents met in Hannover in a Zionist¹ community. They got married in 1920. Due to my father's injury, they moved to Niederburg, where he bought a small property to open up a market garden. We live on my mum's earnings of her art and from our crop in our garden. Sometimes, my father also works as a translator or a painter and we earn some money from that. I have two more siblings: Gertrud and Arno. We are living an untroubled childhood, don't have to worry about anything and live in our own little world.

In autumn 1928, I was living for some time with my aunt in Bad Polzin², because my mother was pregnant with Arno. While being there, I went to the synagogue for the very first time and celebrated sukkoth³. Women were throwing sweets for the children and we were allowed to eat them. At home, we celebrate the Catholic festivities like Easter or Christmas. On Sundays or on holidays, I always attend the Catholic church service with the children from the neighborhood. There is no synagogue near our home. However, I still feel Jewish. Every Sunday, at my aunt's place, we drove with the carriage around her estate, ate cabbage turnip or carrots or went with the nanny to Luisendbad, where we had delicious lemonade and cake. In winter, we celebrated Chanukka⁴, the festival of lights. Together with a lot of other kids, we performed a theater play wearing wigs, white stockings and light blue dresses.

My sister Trude is a lot like my mother: she is very good at drawing and playing the zither⁵. Just like me she enjoys reading books. At home, we have so many books, it looks almost like a library. Trude doesn't put up with everything and she is very cheeky. She also writes a diary like me and she is able to write beautiful poems, which she writes down in a small book.⁶

My brother Arno is a very clever boy, but he is also lazy and a scalawag. My mother always wanted to teach him languages but each time he was acting up because he rather wanted to play outside and couldn't concentrate at all.

During my first summer holidays, me and the neighbor's kids from Niederburg wanted to perform a theatre play for the adults. We kind of concentrated more on the costumes and the decoration of the stage than rehearsing our lines. After a few days, we realized that a play is a lot of work and in the end, we didn't perform it at all.

¹ Zionism is a Jewish movement of people who want to found a Jewish national state in Palestine.

² A town in Poland nowadays, close to the Polish coast of the Baltic Sea

³ Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) is one of the Jewish celebrations. It takes place in autumn and remembers the Israelite exodus out of Egypt. It is also a thanksgiving festival.

⁴ Chanukka or lights festival is a Jewish celebration, which takes place for eight days each year in remembrance of the inauguration of the second temple in Jerusalem in 164 BC.

⁵ String instrument, similar to a harp but on a board

⁶ These diaries don't exist anymore, only the book with the poems is still existent.

Whenever I don't help my parents in the garden or go to the market to sell vegetables and fruits, I really love reading books or spending time in the nature, going hiking or riding my bike.

I am attending the school in our town. I really like going to school. My grades are good, and I have many friends there. In our school, there are often theatre plays being performed. Up to now, I have always played a part. In the play „Der Berggeist“ and „Der dicke Müller Mehlsack“ I even got one of the main parts and I played the „arme Liesl“. During summertime, our school is organizing a lot of trips, e.g. to the Chiemsee. We visit castles or go hiking at the Kampenwand⁷. At the summit, we can look down into a sea of clouds. During carnival season, we are allowed to wear costumes in school, and we are riding a bobsleigh.

My birthday is always a highlight of the year. I always celebrate it with my friends. Each time I am allowed to invite 10 to 16 girls. We are always having a lot of fun. I get along with the older girls better than with the girls my age, so all of my friends are two to five years older than me.

Until recently, my best friend was Marie Liegl, but everyone just calls her Wirtsmarie (innkeeper-Marie) because she moved into the inn together with her mother and she is running it. She was about two years older than me and we always stuck together and played nicely. Our favorite game was to play toy shop. Once in summer, we brought all the flowers from the garden and played flower shop. The adults didn't really like that. Marie's cousin Marianne from Munich often visited us and together we played house in our henhouse. Unfortunately, last year Marie and her mother moved to Zaisering and we lost contact.

⁷ Alpine mountain