

on all the main roads into the city. After that he cut across country, using paths and rough tracks. He was well aware of the penalties if he was caught. A younger child might get away with a beating. But
50 boys as strong as he was would be carried off to Germany, for the Nazis were getting short of labour at home.

Another of Edek's dodges was the cartload of logs which he drove into the suburbs.

Some of the logs were split, their centres scraped out and packed with butter and eggs, then glued together again. Once he drove his cartload into a police patrol, which was searching
55 everything on the road. They emptied the logs on to the pavement. Edek didn't stay to see if the glue would stand up to that treatment. He dived into the crowd and made off. Police whistles were blowing and the chase had started, when some kind friend lifted him up and pitched him head first into a garbage cart. Here he lay hidden, under cinders and dust and rotting vegetables.

After that, Edek did all his smuggling at night.

60 There came a morning, towards the end of August, when he failed to return. Ruth questioned other families in the forest, but no one had seen him. After some days of searching, she traced him to a village ten miles away. Edek had called at a house there while the secret police were searching for hidden stores. They had found cheese sewn into the lining of his coat. After setting fire to the house, they had taken him away in the van, with the house owner as well.

65 Ruth returned to the forest with a heavy heart, dreading to break the news to Bronia.

Edek had been their life-line. Food, clothes, money – they depended on him for all these. In the city he had made a home out of a ruin. In the woods no tree gave better shelter than the oak he had chosen. And after dark, when the wind blew cold and the damp oozed out of the ground, none knew better than he how to keep the fire in untended till dawn, so that the glow from the embers
70 should warm them all night as they slept.

Now Ruth and Bronia must fend for themselves. It was an ordeal before which the bravest spirit might quail.

From The Silver Sword by Ian Serrailier

- 1 Who was Bronia? Mark your answer in your answer booklet.
A Edek's older sister
B Ruth and Edek's mother
C Edek's friend
D Edek's younger sister
E a German guard
- 2 In which country is this extract from the story set? Mark your answer in your answer booklet.
A Poland
B Switzerland
C Germany
D Great Britain
E Austria
- 3 Where did the children make their new home? Mark your answer in your answer booklet.
A in a pile of rubble
B on the third floor of a building
C in a cellar
D in a friend's house
E on the first floor of a bombed-out building
- 4 Why did the children visit the Polish Council of Protection often? Mark your answer in your answer booklet.
A They wanted to track down their mother.
B They could get a warm meal there.
C They wanted to get more details about Germany.
D They wanted up-to-date news on the war.
E They enjoyed visiting their friends.

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