

In fact, it seems probable that the economic burden of it must have far overshadowed the natural aspect of joy. And yet, this child was to lead a charmed life, and to survive—as if by intent of Destiny—one misfortune after another.



The first misfortune came with the Napoleonic Wars which took Heinrich's father and older brothers off to the army, leaving his mother and the younger children to hide in the mountains and forage for themselves. But only one brother and one sister and Heinrich came down from the mountains alive. The rest perished from hunger and exposure.

Sorrow overran its cup when the father returned and found but three young children alive to welcome him; but there was more misfortune to come. The ensuing tragedy, an electrical storm, caught the entire family group working on a road, and, with seemingly planned precision, left only Heinrich alive to bear the family name.

A few years later, Heinrich himself was called to war, where once again a strange charm protected him. At Water-