

Walther Janssen

From childhood to University

1947 - 1967

Walther's childhood in the little village of Hauset

- **I was born October 5th, 1947** in the tiny little village of Hauset, located in the northeast of Belgium, just on the border to Aachen in Germany
- My mum, **Martha Klein** was born in 1908 in the even so small village of Udenbreth in the Eifel region.
- My **father Richard Janssen** was born in 1909 in the small city of Eupen. The city was, just like Udenbreth, part of the Deutsche Reich, the German Empire.
- After the first World War (1914-1918) the small counties **Eupen-Malmedy** were integrated in the Kingdom of Belgium according to the Treaty of Versailles (1920)
- My parents met each other in Eupen, which now belonged to the Kingdom of Belgium, They **married in 1936** and lived in Eupen
- **My sister Monique** was born in 1939, just before World War II. The nazi regime invaded Belgium on Mai 8th, 1940 and re-integrated Eupen-Malmedy to the Reich
- **My brother Siegfried** was born during the war in 1941. At that time my father was enroled in the German Wehrmacht and belonged to the army invading Russia

Martha and Richard – my parents 1936



Mama with my siblings Monique and Siegfried



Walther's childhood in the little village of Hauset

- My father Richard **was wounded in Federejewo near Tver**, soon enough to return home to Eupen after an odyssey of a few months
- At the end of the war my parents with their children Monique and Siegfried left Eupen and moved to Hauset in **September 1945**. Here I was born two years later.
- The border to Germany was closed during the first years, but opened gradually giving way to **smuggling** between the two countries for Germans to survive.
- However I remember the many visits to the city of **Aachen**, heavily destroyed by the war. With my mother I took the Kleinbahn (tram) at the border station
- With the German Wirtschaftswunder starting gradually around **1953**, life became more easy and the smuggling period faded away.
- Till that time my sibblings visited the primary school in our village of Hauset. Even though in Belgium, education was in German and French language.
- My father worked as a bus driver and could take me around to the many excursions he was driving to, both in Belgium and Germany

Walther greeting the world October 1947



With my sister and brother 1949 and 1952



Happy life in Hauset Frepert 1952



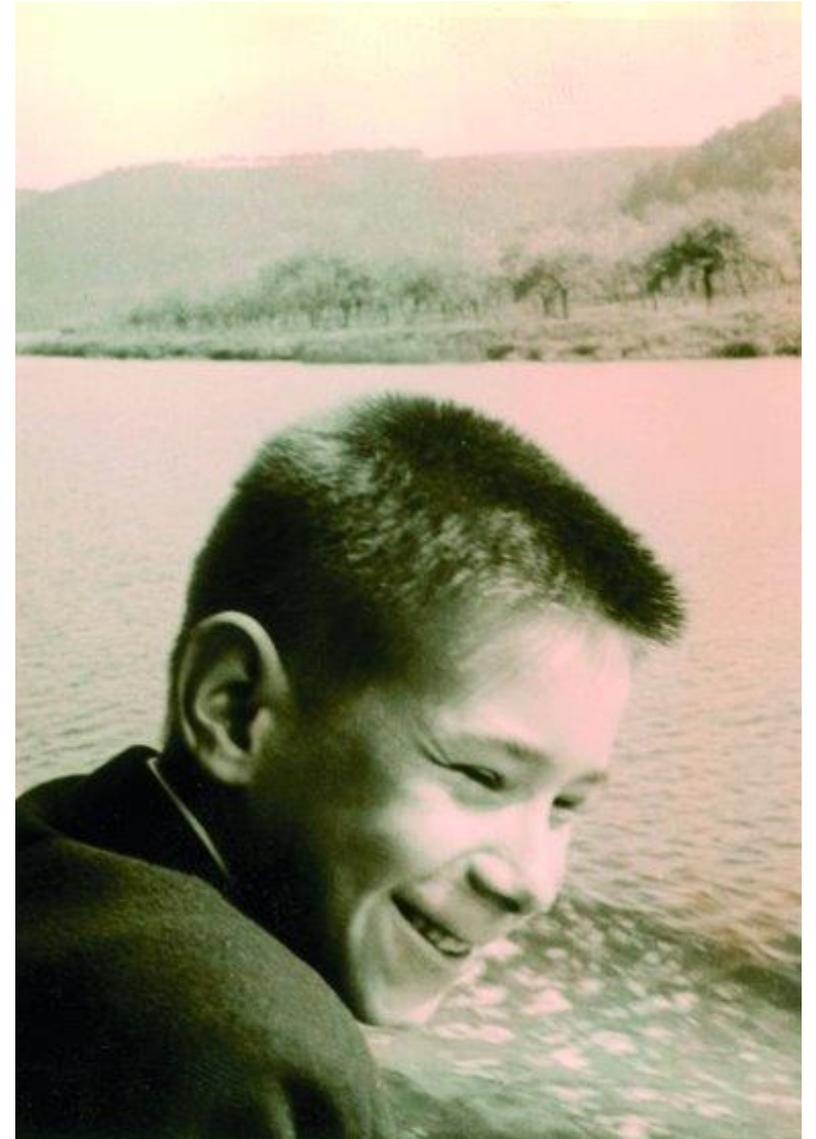
Walther's childhood in the little village of Hauset

- At my sixth anniversary in **1953**, we moved to another apartment in the same village, at a farm house located in the quarter Flög, just 200 m from the border
- Walther was going to live here for 60 years, without any interruption, until he retired in 2012
- The **primary school** was located in the village of **Hauset**, Walther visited this school for six years till 1959. It was a roman-catholic education and village life.

My first school class, last row behind 1953-1954



Growing up at Primary school 1958



Final class at primaries 1959 – Our family's home in Flög



Walther's childhood in the little village of Hauset

- From 1959 on Walther visited the middle school in the city of Eupen, which is the biggest German speaking city in Belgium, around 15.000 people at that time.
- 1964 he travelled for the first time abroad: to **England and Scotland** with his sister Monique and her friend Hermann
- After seven years, in 1966, Walther made his baccalaureat at the Lyceum of Eupen with a pretty good performance.
- In his village in Hauset, Walther was quite engaged with the youth organisation and in sports

Middle school: College Patronné Eupen 1960



My sister and brother marriage 1963 and 1965



Another middle school Atheneum Eupen 1963-1964



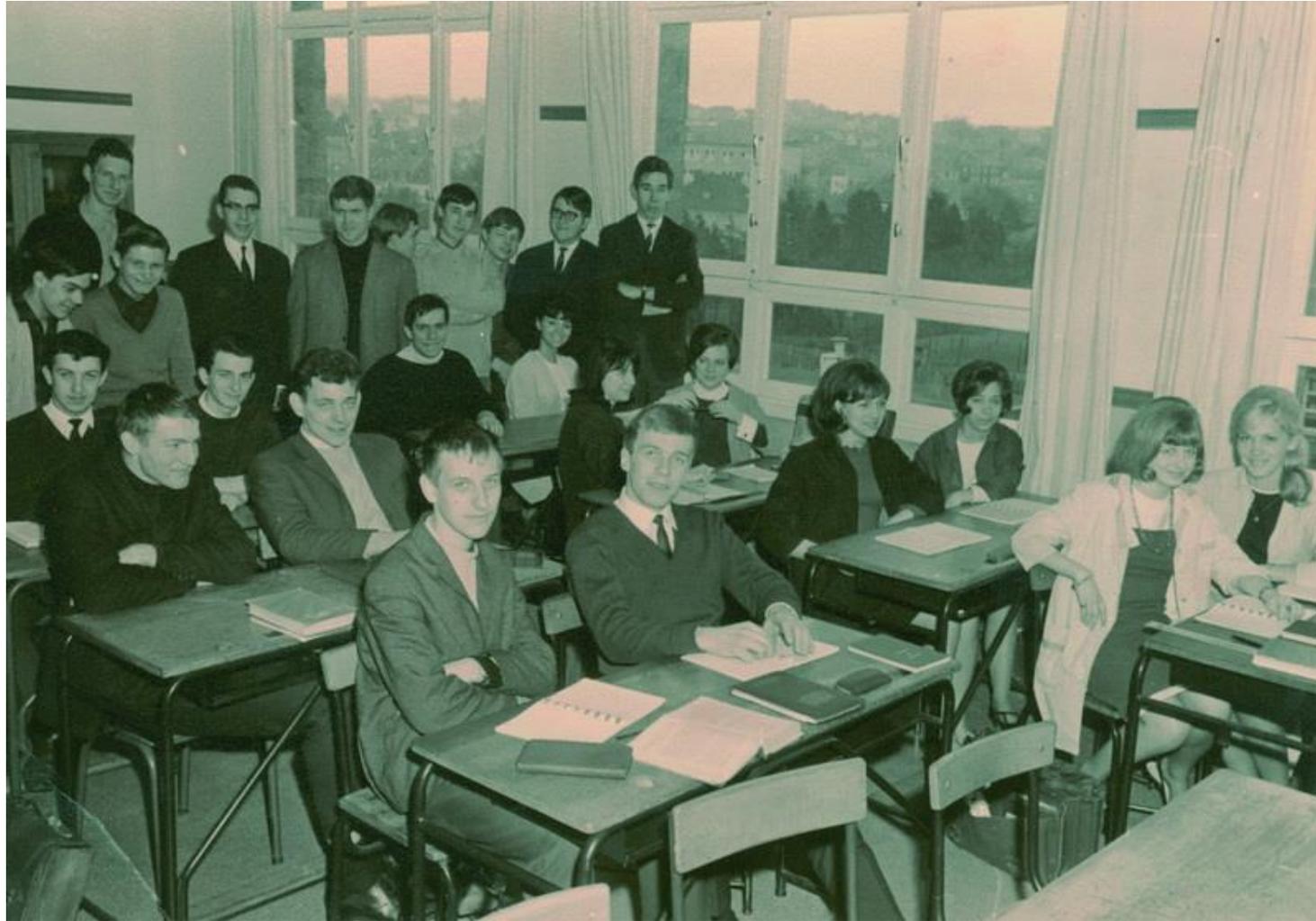
Walther's childhood in the little village of Hauset

- In 1964, Walther had travelled with his sister Monique and her friend Hermann to England and Scotland, visiting beside London such sites as Oxford, Cambridge, Canterbury, Loch Ness
- As well as a round trip to **Scotland** with Edinburg, Inverness, Isle of Skye to mention some points of interest
- After High School, Walther decided to fulfill now his **military service in the Belgian army**, at that time it was mandatory for 12 months.
- He spent this year in Belgium (in 1966) and in West Germany (1967) - he enjoyed this a lot and learned the French language pretty good.
- **Walther entered university in October 1967**, he had chosen Business Management at the **University of Liège** in Belgium, a French speaking institute

England and Scotland 1964



Baccalaureat in 1966



Sports with friends an view from my home over Hauset 1967



In the army now ... (1966-1967)



1 From childhood to university 1947 - 1967

From Childhood to University

Thank you so far

Composer: Walther ©