History of Elizabeth Mann’s Passport Picture

According to her notes on the back of the picture, it was taken in October 1938 in Vienna.

Both the front and back of the picture are below. She is age 13. Her birthday is May 25, 1925.

The motto, in German, on the back of the card translates to:

“Forget me not”

Like all Jewish children, life in Vienna after the Germans invaded and annexed Vienna, was intolerable. Their home was taken from them, in most cases the Father was taken away by the Gestapo. Elizabeth’s father’s life was saved because the Gestapo had instructions not to take away the father if he was a War Veteran of World War I. Egon Mann, Elizabeth’s father was a decorated Austrian Officer in WWI. However, the Gestapo took their possessions including her father’s officer’s sword. Their lives were spared.

Passport photo below
This picture was used for her passport dated February 20, 1939. Her passport shows German, not Austria because Germany, under Hitler, had annexed Austria.

She was put on the Kindertransport (children’s rail cars) on
March 8, 1939 in Vienna. She was escorted to the train station in Vienna by the Quakers. Parents were not allowed to see their children off. In many cases, the children never saw their parents again.

She arrived at the port of Hook of Holland on March 14 and by ferry at the Port of Harwich, England March 15, 1939.

Her path from England to the Statue of Liberty, was on a troopship in a convoy zigging and zagging across the Atlantic in 1940 on her 15th birthday. The ship, RMS Scythia, escaped the German submarines this trip but was torpedoed later that year. First stop in North America was Halifax returning Canadian troops to home—Canada was part of Great Britain.

Some history and details of the kinderstransport and of her British sojourn and the crossing are chronicled in below link. You will see the passenger list of the HMS Scythia with the details of the passengers: the troops, the refugees, their names, place of origin (mostly Nazi controlled countries) and Elizabeth Mann’s name showing her age and that she was alone without parents.

See Link No. 5 on 

http://www.adelphi.edu/~allendon/

Other links of interest before and after Link No.5