**MEDIA RELEASE:** NEW BOOK OFFERS INSIGHT INTO NAZI PERSECUTION, CONTINUED AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR BY WEST GERMAN LAW COURTS

**MARIN COUNTY, CA, August 19th 2018**. The novella, *Abandoned in Berlin,* celebrates the life of Ellen, the youngest daughter of a Berlin Jewish family, whose home is forcibly acquired under National Socialism March 31st, 1936. At nineteen years old, she flees with her mother to Vienna. She marries an imprisoned Austrian Jewish journalist when she reaches age 21. The two slip away across country to Shanghai February 1941, and arrive by ship as refugees in San Francisco July1947. Ellen would have been one hundred years old on October 10th, 2018.

Efforts to recover the property at Guntzelstrasse 44 through the West German restitution process are made during the mid1950s. They fail. Testimonies from Ellen are ignored; she is under-age at time of sale. The recollections of a Polish Jew, Ellen’s brother-in-law, are considered untrustworthy because of his nationality. Instead, “acts of care” from a1930s Nazi Guardianship Court are used as proof of what happened. The property is returned to the 1936 German buyer.

The book is authored by John R. Cammidge, on behalf of Hilda, Ellen’s only child, who was born in San Francisco, and today lives in Novato, Northern California. Hilda’s mother frequently commented how she had suffered enough under Nazi rule for many generations to come, but never discussed why her Berlin home was expropriated. Hilda decides to find out after a June 2016 Rick Steves tour to Berlin, Prague, and Vienna. What she uncovers is the core of this book. Her greatest shock is the injustice dispensed by the West German courts after the war, and their appalling unwillingness to accept anti-Semitism as the cause of forced sales during Nazi years. This family still waits to garner German apologies, and kindness and honesty. Meanwhile, it will never forget. Vienna had its Lady in Gold; Berlin has its Building in White.

This is the author’s second publication, with a September 5th release date. The book has been made possible with help from the Charlottenburg Land Registry, the Association of German Banks, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Harvard University Law Library, the Berlin State Archives, and the Social Security offices of Dusseldorf and Berlin. More details about the book can be found at johnrcammidge.com. Email contact is hessay@comcast.net.**END**