



Kindertransport Newsletter

A special interest group of the Association of Jewish Refugees

**Contact: Andrea Goodmaker at AJR,
Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore,
Middlesex HA7 4RL
Tel : 44 (0) 20 835 3070
Fax : 44 (0) 20 835 3080
e-mail: andrea@ajr.org.uk**

**AUTUMN/SEPTEMBER 2007
Editor: Bertha Leverton**

**Chairman:
Hermann Hirschberger**

Previous issues may also be viewed at: www.ajr.org.uk/kindertransport.htm

Dear Kinder and Friends,

For us Summer has at last arrived and the terrible floods which devastated Northern England are over. Did any of you suffer? Israel suffered from a heatwave instead. At our age we have to try to keep well and I am pleased to say that all of you attending our lunch date (first Monday in the month) seem fine, but please let us know if you need visiting or meals on wheels, as our wonderful AJR staff are able to help (also financially if necessary).

Hermann is still tirelessly working to get pensions for the Kinder who were younger when they came to England and hopefully he will prevail before too long. The late Eli Ered had also been trying for many years, but to no avail. It seems the Austrians are more amenable to help their former citizens, so ask AJR if you need help.

At the August lunch (very well attended) Hermann was our speaker, telling us about the great reaction he had from the pupils of his former school in Karlsruhe. They insisted to have their teachers abandon several lessons to extend his talk time to three hours. Hermann, accompanied by his wife Eva, Judy Benton, Otto Deutsch and myself are scheduled to speak in Berlin on 3 – 6 September. On the 17 September I am PG off to Israel until the day after succot. (Please no calls then) I am looking forward to spending Yom-Tov with my Israeli family and also a few days with Inge (who sends all of you good wishes). We hope to join the Israeli group's annual meeting in Netanya when I will tell them of our Reunion plans. (Sorry no trip to Israel). End of 2008 it will be 70 years ago, we started to arrive in England. On 21 November 1938, the decision to allow entrance to an unspecified number of mainly Jewish children was taken. Had the war started later, more than the approximate 10,000 would have been saved.

This is why (The Planning Committee) chose Sunday 23 November 2008 as a good date to hold a (full day/evening Reunion) to celebrate 70 years since our arrival in England. Everything is in its early planning stage, but we are able to tell you the venue. The JFS (Jewish Free School) which is a wonderful new most modern building in Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex. It is the largest and most modern Jewish school in Europe, in its own extensive grounds, own large car park, gated security and own kosher kitchen. Synagogue also on the premises. We are indeed lucky. The school has over 1000 pupils, so we will have enough space. So put the date into your forward calendar and hopefully we will all be well and able to attend. We cannot give you any specific prices yet, but it will be below the £100 mark. We are aiming to produce a top quality souvenir brochure and as this entails a lot of work and effort, I would ask you kindly to send any Reunion material direct to my home address. Our brochures are never discarded, they are reference books address books and memorials

to our loved ones. It would be very helpful to know how many of you would like to attend, and would welcome visitors from Europe, USA, Israel etc. together with second and third generations.

For information about Israeli meetings phone Inge (00 972 25632223).

Here is news of the USA Kinder bi-annual Reunion: no firm details yet, but it will be held November 2008 in California, but the first weekend at a hotel. Details from Kurt/Margaret Goldberger Tel: 001 516 938 6084 email margkurt@aol.com. It's quite remarkable how so many of us are working/lecturing/striving ahead at our age. We have several very good speakers, telling our history to groups and schools. Jewish and non-Jewish.

If any of you can think of any eminent speakers to lead group discussions at our 70th meeting please let us have their names, so we may approach them to enhance our Reunion.

I thank all of you who kindly enquired about me after my knee op, which has healed well, though it takes time to get walking properly. I wish all of you who have had ops, or not been well a speedy and full recovery.

Receiving the Kinder-Link Newsletter from the USA and Israel makes interesting reading and keeps us in touch. I especially appreciate the wonderful directory of names, telephone numbers of all US members. The nearest we come to this are our brochures which are like a reference book with lots of useful information. I am just beginning to work on the new one to be ready for the Reunion 2008. I really appreciated the many cards, letters and phone calls after my knee op. It's great to have so many good friends.

Many thanks to Bernd (our Kinder Rabbi) for your Yom-Tov contribution. May we all be inscribed in the book of life and good health.

Hermann, Andrea and our committee join me in wishing you a healthy good year.



Bertha

Article by Inge Sadan

It is now well over 65 years since we arrived on the Kindertransports in Britain or other European countries of refuge.

There is a little-known chapter which took place between 1938-1941, and I wonder whether any Kinder had parents, siblings or other relatives who were part of this. From 1938 onwards, until the Germans invaded Yugoslavia, thousands of Jews managed to escape from Austria or Germany via Graz into Yugoslavia. An Austrian non-Jew, Josef Schleich, organised groups of Jews to train as farmers on his land, so that they would receive certificates to emigrate to the USA as "qualified farmers". Once word got around to many of the desperate would-be emigrants, the number of applicants became so great that Schleich issued the certificates without the people even taking the course, and the suspicious Americans no longer accepted the qualifications.

He then reverted to his previous profession as an adept smuggler, though this time of humans rather than cigarettes, saccharine, etc. Since Graz was very near the border with Yugoslavia, he organised local farmers and peasants to smuggle small groups of people over the borders every few days. This meant taking the refugees through

forests, mountains and tortuous paths, always at night, to evade the border police of both countries. He also organised ships for those who wanted to go to Palestine, and all in all, thousands of Jews owed their lives to him. At the beginning he liaised with the official Jewish organisations as well as the Nazis, who at the time allowed a semi-legal exodus of Jews. The first refuge was Zagreb, from where they tried to reach other destinations. In Yugoslavia camps were set up, including Dragonizci, Lublijana, and others, where the refugees slept in huge dormitories, and were supported by the local Jews, who did their very best to help their fellow Jews, until they themselves were persecuted by the Nazi invasion in 1941. Recha Freier, who had organised emigration for children from Germany, herself used this route, accompanied by 50 refugee children, who then managed to reach Palestine. Meanwhile, in Graz some of the emigrants were housed in Mr. Schleich's house in Glockenspielplatz, as well as outlying farms, sleeping on the floor on straw, always hungry, and very cold in the winter months. Every few days a small group would leave, secretly and silently, with only the luggage they could carry, and often even throwing their goods away during the journey. As my father described it in his diary, "it was an horrific and dangerous experience" and my parents were lucky to achieve freedom on their first attempt. If the refugees were intercepted by the border police, they would be returned to Austria, often beaten and robbed. Much depended on the guide and whether he was honest and not drunk!

The adventures of this period have been described by a few people, including Robert Weiss of Vienna, who wrote about a group of young children, led and guided by older ones, who survived the war first in Yugoslavia, then Italy, and finally Switzerland, led by a young Yugoslav Jew named "Yoshko" and his few adolescent helpers. Their story was filmed, called "Villa Emma".

To return to Josef Schleich, he was arrested both by the Nazis during the war, and the Allies after the war, and was accused by 2 Jews of having robbed them! After several trials, he was released, his guilt not proved, but he died in poverty soon after, in February 1949, a broken man. Yes, he did take money and goods from those who had it, he helped those who were poor, and he was an adventurer, who undertook a mission of mercy. He had 7 children, from 4 different women, and one of them, Hannelore Froehlich, who was born to a Jewish mother who was later deported and killed in Auschwitz, is determined to clear her father's name. Hannelore is a painter, writer and health counsellor, living in Austria. She has written a book "Lieber Pepi" about her father, his activities and trials. She also has many documents, including lists of names of people whom her father had transported to safety. She is a charming and dedicated lady, whom I met last year, when she took me to Graz to show the place where her father organised the transports, and where my own (and Bertha's) parents had stayed for a few days.

Yad Vashem refuses to recognize Josef Schleich as a Righteous Gentile, because they say he took money for his work and is also accused of various misdeeds. But I would like to honour him by planting trees in his name in the Kindertransport Forest. If anyone has any connection with this episode of our Holocaust history, and is interested in acknowledging Mr. Schleich's work, would they please contact me: Inge Sadan, email: net226@netvision.net.il or 16 Chernichovsky Street, Jerusalem 92581; Tel: ++(0)2-5632 223. Mrs. Froehlich's book can be obtained from her at: froehlich.ha@aon.at or Galerie Hannelore Froehlich, A-5110 Oberndorf - Am Stille Nacht Platz. It is written in German.

OBITUARIES

Bob Rosner 1930 – 2007

The early life of Bob Rosner, (born September 1930) was not radically different from that of other Jewish children growing up in the thirties in a comfortable middle-class life in the 1st District in Vienna, where his father was a skin and venereal disease specialist. And then, on the 11 March 1938, the whole of this “normal” life vanished, replaced by a Nazi controlled lifestyle, which was erected in just a few weeks (and sometimes days.) In this brief period, expulsion from school, from one’s flat and from one’s profession became the new norm of Jewish life, with all the attendant cruelties, (sometimes practised by yesterday’s “friends”) that became the hallmark of the Austrian experience.

Following Kristallnacht, Bob arrived on a Kindertransport in Hull in June 1939 and was adopted by Leo Schultz, a remarkable man, later to become Lord Mayor, and who was to have a huge influence on Bob’s later years, especially in the field of human rights.

In 1946 Bob had the extraordinary experience of discovering that his parents had survived, having been hidden in the countryside for 2 years by a professional colleague of his father. (Out of 45,999 Jews alive in Austria on 1 September 1939, barely 2,000 survived the war!)

Bob graduated as an architect from Durham University, served in the Army, and went on to build a prestigious international practice, specialising in marine development, town planning and landscape design.

But it was 1988, with his visit to the ‘Anschluss’ exhibition and, even more, to the first Kindertransport Reunion, which produced a seminal change in his life and pre-occupations. Having lost contact with each other for many years, we came together that year and remained closely in touch. He was particularly concerned that young people should learn the history of his early years and draw appropriate conclusions. If the scars of those early years were “particular”, the lessons, he felt, were universal. Subsequently he became a passionate supporter and lecturer at Beth Shalom; indeed, he died a few hours after his last lecture.

He would have been hugely astonished to learn of the hundreds of people who turned up at his funeral. A week before he died, I told him of a sentence I had recently come across which he might find useful. The sentence ran: “If 27 January is to be Holocaust Memorial Day, then the other 364 days of the year should be Holocaust Prevention Days.” His comment was: “That is what we ought to be about, and I should like to use it.” I have no idea if he did, but it was certainly what he was about!

He is survived by his wife, Olive. May his memory be for a blessing.

Fred Barschak

TRIBUTE TO SUSI BRADFIELD Z.L.

Susi arrived in England from Berlin with the Kindertransport in 1939 at the tender age of 9, together with her dear sister Paula. They were among the very few children from the Kindertransport that were lucky enough to be reunited with their whole family before the war broke out.

She spent her war years in Sunderland and then moved to London to the family home in Fitzjohn’s Avenue. The Neuwirth’s home was a very welcoming one, especially for their other companions of the Kindertransport who had mostly lost their families and numerous relatives and friends who survived the war.

Susi tried her hand in many ventures, spurred on by her boundless energy and numerous qualities. However, she always put her family first and in 1948 married Freddy Bradfield and settled in Willesden. They later moved to Hendon and then Hampstead

Garden Suburb. In every place their home was always open to family and friends and their Sunday afternoon tea parties were constantly filled with the sound of laughter and happiness. Together with her husband Freddy she was a supporter of numerous charities, especially *Wizo* where she was Fundraising Director for many years. She was instrumental in setting up many important projects in Israel and found novel ways of fundraising in the UK. Through her work in *Wizo* she felt that she was paying them back for their sponsoring of the Kindertransport so many years earlier.

She strongly believed in further education and for her 70th birthday her son set up a Graduate program in Jewish Education for Women at the London School of Jewish Studies in her name. The Susi Bradfield Graduate program has been running for 7 years now and is a great success, with many of the graduates now teaching *Limudei Kodesh* all over the country. She was involved in many Jewish Schools in London, as well as helping the various old age homes and Jewish Care facilities, often speaking at their functions. She was a keen supporter of the UJIA too.

She was a true Zionist, with a home in Tel Aviv which was a social hub, always filled with laughter and so many colourful personalities. In Israel she had so many other wonderful friends and discovered relatives in every corner of the country which they were endlessly visiting.

She instilled in her son Michael and daughter Cherry a very strong message of respect and responsibility and always taught them to care for those who may be less fortunate. She had the wonderful ability to make each person she met feel so special, that in a room full of people she would always make you feel that you were the only one there. Everyone she met always valued her kindness and good advice. She was an amazing 'doer'; the *Nike* motto "just do it" must have been invented by her, for whenever she dreamed up an idea she went straight ahead and "just did it" regardless of any obstacles she may come across on the way. She was the eternal optimist, courageous and a true fighter not only in her beliefs, but more importantly, when ill health started to creep up on her.

She doted on her four grandchildren and despite her illness in later years would continue to travel to Milan to be with her daughter, son-in-law and her two grandchildren there. The recent wedding of her oldest granddaughter in London gave her enormous pleasure as she was such a family focused woman.

Susi was the ultimate example of a woman with a true generosity of spirit and time, graciousness and righteousness, with a unique *joie de vivre* that was a tremendous source of inspiration for so many people. She was loved and respected by all and, more than most, can truly be described as the quintessential *Eshet Chayil*.

Edited from a speech by Susi's daughter Cherry Eman

Ruth Jackson (nee Werner) came to England in July 1939, aged 13, on a Kindertransport from Berlin. She died on 5th July 2007, after 6 months of illness bravely borne, leaving her husband of 61 years, Allan, 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

From a forever grateful Kind, **Ursula Ader**, about her beloved mother, **Edith Kanter**, blind for 28 years, who passed away peacefully on 9 June, after developing bronchial pneumonia. What bravery it was to leave a 3 year old daughter at Berlin Station bound for the Kindertransport in February 1939 not knowing whether we would ever be reunited. Thank the good Lord we were four months later. May the Lord bless her and keep her for evermore in peace which she so richly deserves.

Our condolences to Sue Rosen on the loss of her mother **Mila Harris** on 11 May 2007.

Monique Behrend died 2 June 2007, in Israel. Sorry we have no details.

NOT THE VICTORIA CROSS

My wife Eve Kolman, back in 1942 as Eva Rosenberg served this country by volunteering to join the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service). At that time the War office was restricting the choice for “enemy aliens” to serve only in the capacities of either nursing or the cookhouse.

After initial training in Yorkshire she was posted to a Heavy Anti-aircraft Battery in North London where after a while a friendly sergeant realised her potential in a more active role.

She trained ‘on the job’ on predictors and plotting of aircraft and was in action in Finsbury subsequently moving to Kent to intercept V1 (flying bombs) and remembers running from her hut to the Command Post with her tin hat (steel helmet) and her army great coat over her pyjamas with shrapnel raining down. She was later discharged on medical grounds. So far a resume of her military career.

Eve and I met in Germany in 1946 whilst working for the US Army and married in 1947 and now have two children and five grandchildren. I thought to surprise her at the beginning of 2005 by getting for her the War Service and Defence Medals she had never applied for.

In the first instance I telephoned the Ministry of Defence who put me in touch with the MOD Medal Office in Gloucester. An official there told me there would be a delay of at least nine months. They had moved their office and there were many applicants.

Over a year having past I telephoned the Medals office and was told there would be a further delay, but one could get priority by sending a doctor’s certificate stating that she was “terminally ill”.

At this stage I contacted my MP (Mr Stephen Pound, member for Ealing North) who contacted the then Undersecretary of Defence. Despite sending a photocopy of Eve’s army pay book they wanted further evidence of her entitlement to be assessed. In February 2006 she was awarded the War Service Medal, but no Defence Medal.

The next milestone came in a letter from the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency in Gloucester dated 14 June 2006 giving the history of medals, ribbons and stars stating that Eve was 17 days short to qualify for the Defence Medal.

A letter from my MP passed on from the MOD set out the qualifying criteria. That between 14 May 1942 and the 31 December 1944 you had to serve 1080 days and that Eve was short of 17 days. No appeal would be allowed.

Letters to the Secretary of the Cabinet Office of the Honours and Decorations Committee in Whitehall remained unanswered.

There the matter rested until through Lilian Levy, the archivist of the AJR we received on application Eve’s and my records kept by the Children’s Refugee Committee (World Jewish Relief) covering the war years.

It quite clearly stated that Eve had joined the ATS six weeks before the War Office date of her joining the Forces.

A copy of this document, together with a letter was duly dispatched to the Medal office in Gloucester.

On the 26 April the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency informed me that the additional evidence had been reviewed by the head of the MOD Medal Office and

had decided that Eve was eligible to receive the Defence Medal and hoped it would be a source of pride and pleasure to us both.

The Defence Medal was duly delivered courtesy of the Royal Mail. The whole saga took neigh on 2½ years, but as my MP put it, perseverance and diligence paid off in the end – he suggested I write a novel.

Ernest E Kolman

Time on our hands?

The other day I showed my great-nephew Motti an inscription my father put into a Chumash which he gave me as I left for England on a Kindertransport . It struck me that this inscription signalled an escape to safety and freedom, a signal I could only interpret later in life. This thought led me to think about the forthcoming Festivals.

Rosh Hashanah this year also signals a year of freedom, but in a different sense, for it ushers in a *Shemittah* year, when, according to the Torah, the land lies fallow. It thus enabled the Israelites of old in *Eretz Israel* and enables the Jew of today in Israel to devote the time to try to come closer to Him Who is our Provider, “Who feeds the whole world in His goodness, grace kindness and mercy...” (from the Grace after Meals). In this way time became available for the farmer to study G-d’s laws and so increase spiritual harvesting.

The message for those who are not farmers in *Eretz Israel* is nevertheless the same. We spend much time in Shul on Rosh Hashanah with its many prayers interspersed with the awakening call of the *Shofar*. We spend even longer in Shul over Yom Kippur, abstaining from physical food and general mundane matters to give us time for serious reflection. Time is what we must find for matters of the spirit, in the way that the *Shemittah* underwrites a period of respite for strengthening our faith.

In opposition to this how often do we say or hear from others that the year has passed quickly. In that speeding time, what have we achieved spiritually? Therefore, dear reader, think honestly, search your heart for an answer to the question. As we recite *Ashamnu, bagadnu* etc. several times on Yom Kippur and beat our “heart” - what do we conclude of our past? To what do we waken our heart to do in the future? What resolve will you make for the year and years ahead? Only YOU can answer these questions for yourself.

Sukkot is called *zeman simchatenu*, the Season of our Rejoicing, as, amongst other ideas, it is a harvest festival. But again, most of us are not farmers; we may rejoice that the harvest is being brought in, wherever we may live. That apart, we can rejoice at another form of “harvest.” Produce comes as a result of an initial planting, or tending if it is a tree; likewise at this time of the year we cull the produce of our soul, of the results of searching our inner selves and coming to a conclusion about what we want to do for our spirit in the year ahead, Whatever the conclusions may be, we can rejoice that, if we have acted honestly with ourselves, we have made progress, we achieved something, we have harvested spiritual results.

Sukkot proper closes on a final more serious period, Hoshanah Rabbah, the final day of introspection. Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah bring to a close the Festival season. The completion and restarting of the reading of the Torah, though a happy occasion, emphasises that the time found for elevating our spiritual plane over Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and the days between and after, are used for the study of that Torah, the source of our spiritual existence.

I wish you all *Shanah Tovah*, a happy and healthy year ahead and a year of peace for Israel.

Bernd Koschland

The following appeared in the Financial Times Magazine 14/15 July 2007
by Harry Heber

'I send free glasses to east Europe'

I arrived in England with my sister, Ruth, in December 1938 on one of the first Kindertransports, when Jewish children were brought to Britain to escape the Nazis. I was seven; Ruth was 11. Our father owned a textile shop in Innsbruck. I remember my mother making goose feather pillows and I'd run around in the yard, feathers flying, as she poured them into their covers.

When the Germans marched through Innsbruck, people cheered when they entered the 16th-century market area close by Dad's shop. Days later, the word *Jude* was smeared across his shop window. A big SS man in black uniform, his cap decorated with skull and crossbones, stood in the doorway, defying anyone to trade with the Jews.

I was the only Jewish boy in my class. After the *Anschluss* in 1938, when Austria was annexed by Germany, teachers started to wear Nazi badges with swastikas. Schoolchildren started wearing them too. One of my classmates asked me why I didn't have one. I told him, "Because I'm Jewish."

Just before *Kristallnacht* on the night of November 9 1938, the Nazis raided every Jewish home in Innsbruck. Four of my parents' friends were killed.

Dad queued at different embassies trying to obtain visas for us to leave Austria. A cousin heard that the Central Jewish Administration Council was sending children to England. It cost £50 a child - about £3,000 in today's money. British Jews - many of whom were

struggling financially after the Depression - contributed more than £500,000 to help these refugees. It was a phenomenal amount of money.

My sister went to a family in East Sussex. I went to a farmhouse in the middle of nowhere. It smelt of paraffin. I didn't have one word of English and cried for three days. Then I was sent to a boarding school in Kent.

My sister's new family invited my parents to work as domestics and they arrived two days before war broke out.

WHEN I HEARD THAT MANY JEWS IN UKRAINE, BELARUS AND BOSNIA COULDN'T AFFORD SPECTACLES I KNEW I COULD HELP

In the nine months since I'd left Austria, I'd forgotten German - my mother burst into tears when I couldn't understand what she said.

Eventually, I left school at 16 and was apprenticed to an optician and had a successful career as a dispensing optician. Many years later I read an article about the Central British Fund, which had paid for Kindertransport children. I'd had no idea that this was the organisation that had rescued us. I applied for my file, which was sent to

me along with the identity photo I'd worn on the Kindertransport.

The CBF became World Jewish Relief, which responds to humanitarian crises on behalf of the UK Jewish community. I became a WJR volunteer in 1997. When I heard that thousands of impoverished Jews in Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria and Bosnia couldn't afford spectacles I knew I could help.

I travelled to Odessa, where I met a man who had made do with one pair of glasses for 40 years. I arranged for equipment and ophthalmologists to carry out eye testing at the community centre. Eye tests can identify diseases and even simple reading glasses can motivate someone's life. Prescriptions, with English translations of Cyrillic, were sent to me in London.

Through generous colleagues, discounts and donations, by the end of 1998 I had dispensed 1,000 prescriptions and dispatched a thousand new pairs of glasses to people who desperately needed them. Since then the number has grown to 50,000 prescriptions in 15 countries. We've just started an optical project in Rwanda.

My little voluntary job has become my passion. Volunteering is much more than something to keep an old man busy. If it wasn't for World Jewish Relief, I probably wouldn't be here. Dispensing glasses is my way of giving something back.

As told to Sue Fox.

SEARCH NOTICES

Eva Strauss was born in Ludwigshafen/ Rhein in 1922. Her parents were Heinrich Strauss, a lawyer, and Therese, who were deported in October 1940 to Gurs/ Sudwestfrankreich. Nothing further is known of Eva, who in 1939 apparently went by Kindertransport to England. Any information on Eva's fate, pls contact Paul Theobald, Carl-Theodor-Str. 23, Postfach 2110, 67211 Frankenthal, Germany.

My husband's family hosted a child who came on the Kindertransport from Germany. Her name was Susie Kirchheimer, but after she left the family, apparently she got married, went to the USA and has not been heard of since. We watched 'Into the Arms of Strangers' this afternoon on BBC 2 and are sure that one of the children is Susie. We would like to know how to go about getting in touch with her. She should be about 72/74 years old now. Replies please to Doris Levinson dorislevinson@yahoo.co.uk.

Kindertransport Children - I am searching for any refugees who travelled on the Kindertransport into Britain living in Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire or Northamptonshire, who would be willing to share their personal experiences to help with my University dissertation. Please email: setaylor@gotadsl.co.uk or tel: 07815 910916.

I would be most interested to hear from any of the Kindertransport children I remember being with when they first came to England. I remember about 50 of them were housed temporarily in a church in Kingsbury called the Kingsbury Parish Church – Holt Innocents (Church of England).

At that time I belonged to a drama group based in Hendon and we took it in turns to entertain them on various evenings. Unfortunately, I do not remember any of their names – I only remember that many of them loved to sing a song called *O, Mia bella Napoli*. I often sang to them songs from musicals of the time.

During this period my mother invited a number of those children to tea at our house in Hendon. I think they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and played games in our garden. The lady in charge of them eventually left for the US but since no one heard from her thereafter it was assumed she died as a result of the sinking of the liner *The Arandora Star*.

After some time they were moved to a house in Hampstead where I visited them, and that was the last time I saw them.

*Mrs Beatrice Tiger
1a Westbere Drive
Stanmore
Middx HA7 4RF
Tel: 020 8958 7272*

I am trying to contact anyone who spent time in Berks and Bucks before, during or after the war, however temporarily they lived here. It is for a history of the area and any reminiscences or details, however brief, would be of value. Please contact me at : Maidenhead Synagogue, Grenfell Lodge, Ray Park Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 8QX (or phone 01628-671058, or email me at : rabromain@aol.com) Jonathan Romain.

Sue Rosen, daughter of the late Mila Harris is trying to trace her family tree and record any memories that friends had of her. Mila's maiden name was Mila Oesterreicher. Please reply to Rosaviv, 230 Peppard Road, Emmer Green, Reading, RG4 8UA

CONGRATULATIONS

DIAMOND WEDDING

Ernest Kolman to Eve Mary (Marianne) Rosenberg on the 16 May 1947 at the Royal Borough of Kensington Registry Office and some years later at the Tottenham Synagogue.

LETTERS

Sir – I quite agree with Bronia Snow’s letter regarding the play *Kindertransport*. Frankly, anyone as fouled up as the heroine, after experiencing a happy home in England as well as in Germany, would have been fouled up anyhow. It was psychologically unsound, and totally unrealistic.

Gerda Mayer

Letter to the Editor

Kinder-Link – USA

Sir – In the May 2007 Kindertransport Newsletter, Bertha Leverton reports that “the US committee declined to undertake the actual work and (expense) of printing and mailing” the Kindertransport survey initiated, like most worthwhile Kindertransport activities, by Bertha Leverton and her associates in the UK. Postage amounted to \$4 each as against 63c if mailed in the US. Bertha graciously and, to my mind superfluously, acknowledged that the KTA at least supplied the address labels for the US members.

In the absence of an explanation by the KTA committee it seems extraordinarily mean-spirited and inappropriate to miss this rare opportunity to show our appreciation and to assist the UK organisation for yet another project that benefits all Kinder.

Guy Bishop

USA

(See his story in *I came alone*)

Kurt Goldberger, KTA President, responds to the above letter:

When the KTA was first apprised of the AJR/KT survey, we were asked to mail it within a week to ten days. We notified the AJR/KT that we would not be able to do the mailing that fast. After some email exchanges, we indicated that we could do the mailing some time later, as we would have to get volunteers to undertake that task, after having the thirteen page survey printed, collated and stapled. We then received an email from Hermann Hirschberger, President of the KT of Great Britain, that AJR agreed to mail the surveys to our members. KTA depends entirely on volunteers to do all the necessary work, whereas AJR has paid staff. The expenses for this mailing is not just the 63c postage, but would also have included the above mentioned printing, etc.

For years, the KTA has financially supported projects undertaken by KT Great Britain and in addition welcomed Bertha Leverton as our guest at the biennial conferences.

Sir – Survey: Are there any records of the dates of departues/arrivals of KT’s? I am not certain of the dates when I left Vienna and when I arrived in Harwich, in December 1938. I know it was before Christmas because there was a big tree with decorations and presents at the camp in Dovercourt.

Also, how long was the journey and what was the route, it seemed to take ages before we crossed the Dutch border at Emmerich. We were met there by kind ladies with milk and sandwiches. I think Mrs Wijsmuller was the organiser.

We then rested near Rotterdam for a few hours in a holiday camp by the sea, before proceeding to the Hook for embarkation to England.

Where was that Dutch resting place and who were our kind hosts?

Eric Erber

I am pleased to tell you that the survey has been taken seriously and to date we have registered over 1000 main ones and about 350 supplementary. A most gratifying result. Hermann is the one with the workload, helped by Ronald Channing (AJR) spending many hours to register them. A lot of you have included your personal stories which at the moment have been put on hold and may be used at a later date. These would be enough material for a book.

Please note, that apart from Andrea who is allocated to help me for several days every time I produce a Newsletter, and without whose help I could not do so, I am alone. Again I beg of you to include telephone numbers and try to send me only printed material which I can read with the help of my brightly lit machine.

If there is anyone able and willing to put the stories accompanying the survey onto computer, please let us know.

In answer to the questions by Eric Erber (as far as I know). The first KT from Vienna left 12 December 1938 (from Berlin on 2 December 1938). The train journey from Vienna took two days, sometimes picking up Kinder from Towns in Germany. My friend, Ilse Rosenduft, who came on my transport from Munich says we stayed in a Frankfurt Jewish Childrens Home over night. My mind is a blank on this. All trains travelled to Aachen, the last stop, before crossing the border into Holland, refreshments handed to us by kind Dutch people, then on to embark at Hook of Holland for Harwich, then by bus to Dovercourt. Others to Liverpool Street Station. Those were the one's who had ready sponsors who came to pick them up. The Dovercourt children were sent to people who came to choose us.

The US Committee is under a misapprehension about the work involved to produce the Newsletter. Andrea is kindly allocated to me because of my eye illness so I cannot use a computer. The AJR's printer prints and sends out our Newsletter. All the work producing, compiling and writing the Newsletter is my responsibility. The work on the Survey, which is being evaluated, registered and worked on is undertaken by Hermann, who spends many, many hours working on it.

As this work is of general historical value the AJR is providing the financial support. I am also glad to be able to report that we now have a volunteer for the English books to be reviewed, but still need a reviewer for the ones written in German. Bertha.

Dear Sir - Thank you for carrying the very interesting letter from Ms Vera O'Brien (KT Newsletter May '07). Her reference to the Woodcraft Folk needs underlining. They were the green-shirted, secular, socialist, internationalist parallel to the nationalist, broadly conservative, Boy Scouts.

Most of us are aware that for the British Labour movement Spain – and particularly Spanish children – was the priority. Even Kindertransporte had their precursor in (a?)shipload(s?) of Basque Children admitted by a reluctant government as a reaction to Guernica. Might I ask whether any research has been done – or is any envisaged in consequence of the recent survey – into the role played by the rank and file of the anti-fascist movement in supporting Jewish asylum seekers?

If nothing has been done, is being done, or is being planned to be done, could the issue be commended to the various researchers in the field? – PLEASE!

Francis Deutsch

Our Kindertransport organisation has no official clout. Only fundraising organisations are able to undertake this kind of work. I think we can best be described as a wonderful worldwide Kinder Friendship Club, run by unpaid volunteers. Bertha.

Sir - I was tickled pink by the "Golliwog" article in the KT Newsletter. I had a similar relationship with a one-eyed, one legged monkey. Then my parents sent me to a boarding prep school and monkey was discarded! If ever you find out who the anonymous author was please let me know.

Alan Gill

Lisl Munden writes from Cornwall that the play *The Mischling* had been performed there to great acclaim and might be coming to London in the near future. If it is performed here, we will let you know. Talking of performances, I recently saw the new production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, it was excellent, as good as the first one with Topol. Try to see it.

Bertha

Anyone who has ever been/had a loved one in hospital will enjoy this.

A woman called a local hospital – “Hello, could you connect me to the person who gives information about patients? I’d like to find out if a patient is getting better, doing as expected, or getting worse.”

The voice on the other end said “What is the patients name and room number?”

“Sarah Finkel, Room 302.”

“I’ll connect you to the nursing station”.

“Third floor nursing station. How can I help you?”

“Just a moment. Let me look at her records. Mrs Finkel is very well. In fact she had two full meals, her blood pressure is fine. She is to be taken off the heart monitor in a couple of hours, and if she continues this improvement, Dr Cohen is going to send her home on Tuesday.”

The woman said “What a relief” Oh, that’s fantastic. That’s wonderful news”.

The nurse said, “From your enthusiasm, I take it, you are a close family member, or are you a very close friend?”

“Neither, I’m, Sarah Finkel in Room 302. Nobody tells me anything.”

Editor: How true. This will raise a smile with many of us!



CONCLUSION OF GEORGE ETTINGER'S STORY

I end with a recollection: In 1945, soon after Belsen was liberated, some of the survivors managed to get hold of a printing machine and some rolls of paper. They printed an alphabetical list of survivors and a few copies of this document got to England. I remember my parents borrowed this list from AJR (Association of Jewish Refugees). I shall never forget how we looked and searched through this list. We thought that some of our relatives had survived, and the differences of spelling were unsurprising – but we were wrong. None of our relatives' from Vienna or from Czechoslovakia had survived. A few from Poland had survived as they had been sent to Russia before the war started, then to Iran, then to Italy and then to England. My father's cousin Minka and her daughter Janka and my father's cousin Wilek had survived Belsen. My father's sister Blanka and her daughter Rita survived in the Urals in Russia, then returned to Poland and made Aliyah to Israel in 1958. All the rest of the family, my mother's sister Malvine with husband Otto and so many more.....

The rest of the story: I am still here in 2003 to tell my tale. My parents survived in England, my father until 1958 and mother until 1966. My father came from Krakow, my mother was born in Neutra (Slovakia). Both these towns had been part of the Austrian Empire. My parents had met in Berlin.

I am happily married to Susan, whom I met at the wedding of a Czech refugee friend, Hans, with whom we are still in contact. Susan's paternal grandparents came from Russia and her maternal great-grandfather was from the Einstein family in Munich. Her grandfather was an early aviation pioneer – with his brothers he founded Instone Airlines, which later became Imperial Airways.

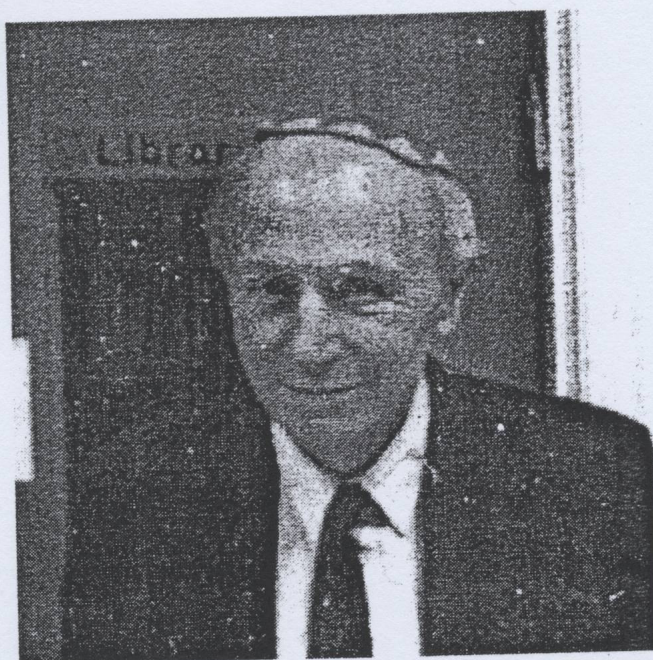
I studied at London University ⁱⁿ weekend classes and obtained a degree in 1946. After post-graduate studies at New York and Columbia Universities, and research in New York City in the early days of opto-electronics, I obtained a doctorate from the University of London.

We came to Bournemouth in 1967 with our two lovely children, Robert and Lucy who both now live in London. I had a satisfying career as an electrical, then electronic, and then early computer engineer, and retired in 1987. Susan, after gaining a degree at Oxford (St Anne's College),

taught English and, since 1971, specialised in English as a second language. She has recently retired as a Cambridge University examiner.

In retirement I have been able to publicise the needs of *Magen David Adom* in Israel. Through the generosity of my friends in the Bournemouth Jewish community five ambulances have been presented to MDA over the past few years.

We visit my cousin Rita and her family in Israel as often as we can. We know that all the world leaders, with their hatred of the Jewish people, are aiming to repeat the Holocaust against all of Israel. BUT WE SHALL NOT LET THEM DO IT!!



References:

- (1) Gedye, G E R "Fallen Bastions". London: Victor Gollancz, 1939
- (2) Golda Meir, "My Life". London: Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1975, p.127
- (3) Libsky, W "Official British Antisemitism". Freeman Centre
11 September 2003 .Freemanlist@aol.comT

