



Kindertransport

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 8385 3070
Fax : 44 (0) 20 8385 3080
e-mail: andrea@ajr.org.uk**

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**Chairman:
Erich Reich**

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

Dear Kinder and Friends,

I hope you still have fond memories of our 70th Anniversary celebrations. The Committee felt that this Reunion would be of particular importance to those of us with vivid recollections of their childhood prior to the outbreak of the war.

Judging from the many congratulatory letters we received, some of which we have included in this Newsletter, the event proved very successful and gave many of you great pleasure.

A week after our event a special Kindertransport monument was unveiled in Berlin. This sculpture has raised much interest since it's unveiling. Flowers and candles have been placed along side it daily. This monument is a reminder to all those who pass by, how very few children survived the Holocaust.

In order to continue with social events we are considering a Summer outing to somewhere like Bletchley Park. If you have any different ideas please contact Andrea. We are also looking at the possibility of a Northern get together in Manchester around September 2009.

Please do keep writing with any new or interesting information you may have.

Wishing you all a happy and restful 2009.

**CHAIRMAN
KINDERTRANSPORT**



**Bertha Leverton, founder in 1988 of the Reunion of Kindertransport, with
HRH The Prince of Wales**



**Kindertransport Committee Chairman Erich Reich and
HRH The Prince of Wales**

LETTERS

Kindertransport Reunion DOVERCOURT KINDER

Dovercourt Kinder won't remember me, but I remember all of you, with your non-stop chatter and eager faces in spite of your situation, which mercifully you probably then didn't fully understand.

My mother, Mary Hughes, ran a refugee committee in York, and urged me, a Cambridge student, to use my winter vacation to answer the call for volunteer staff at Dovercourt, where I helped to run the post office and gave lessons in English. In 1938 I had cycled round western Europe, staying with Jewish couples in Nürnberg and Berlin for whom my mother was able to arrange asylum in America.

Two kinder from Dovercourt, a sister and brother, were given a home by my parents. After the War the sister went to the USA. The brother had a distinguished career at school and university, founded his own successful business, and was eventually awarded the MBE for services to his adopted country.

As I left Dovercourt I inadvertently took with me the key to my room. I have carried it in my pocket ever since, as a constant reminder of the events of that time.

What the world had to learn from those experiences may be summed up in three familiar quotations:

- *I am a human, and I consider nothing that is human to be alien to me. (Terence)*
- *No man is an island ... Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. (Donne)*
- *It is necessary only for good men to do nothing for evil to triumph. (Burke)*

All good wishes for the 70th Reunion, and I'm sure the chatter will be as animated as seventy years ago!

*David Hughes
Far Corner, Hazler Road,
Church Stretton*

Susie and I (and on behalf of our two sons too) want you to know how well yesterday's reunion was arranged and how much we enjoyed and appreciated every bit of it. Would you kindly acquaint all those, who worked so hard to make it all possible, with our thoughts and thanks. It would be invidious to single out any one person, but perhaps our message could be passed to everyone in general, and – with one exception please – to Bertha in particular. It was her imaginative idea that started it all.

The KT/AJR is to be congratulated on the event itself, but further – for obtaining such notable excellent speakers, for achieving wide press publicity of the desirable kind, and for creating just the right atmosphere for us and the next generations to re-live our personal experiences.

While saying 'Thank you', it was wonderful to hear of the political progress in finally correcting the wrongs of the past pensions situation. Hermann Hirschberger and the AJR appear to have done a very good job on this. Again – well done and thanks again.

John Silbermann

While the euphoria is still with me I want to tell you how very impressed my family and I were with Sunday's 70th Re-union of Kindertransport at the JFS in London. All those of us who came here on a Kindertransport at that awful time in 1938/39 owe gratitude not only to those who took us in - and that has been expressed in many places and at many times - but also to the AJR and R.o.K. for helping to keep the knowledge about this unique event alive.

I think that Erich Reich and his committee did marvels in organising things so well and yet managing to keep the atmosphere so informal and friendly. It was wonderful to meet so many friends once more and to hear even more amazing stories; there is clearly an endless supply of these! The speakers were moving and informative and the Chief Rabbi's address brought me and many of us to tears. It was a particular pleasure to see Bertha again; she is a true example to us all.

My decision to bring 2nd and 3rd generation family members with me for the day turns out to have been a good one. My 12 year old granddaughter listened with rapt attention to everything that went on and will surely never forget this day. The presence among us, and happily sharing our tea, of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, was a thrilling bonus and will be remembered with much pleasure. All in all, a great day and my thanks go to everyone concerned.

Dorothy Fleming

I wanted to say how much my husband and I enjoyed the event yesterday - it was very moving and enriching. Thank you to all those who organised it so well. Again, many thanks for a very memorable day.

Gina Burgess Winning

I just wanted to congratulate you on how well organised the reunion was. Everything had been thought through so well.

It was a very enjoyable, stimulating and emotional day.

Thanks to all the organisers.

Rachel Merkel

Just returned home from KT 70 Reunion and want to tell you how much I enjoyed it and how impressed I was by the excellent organisation, the thoughtful speeches, melodious music and the tasty food. Of course, it was great seeing many of us so happily together again, especially Bertha speaking so well, bringing back happy memories of 1989 and 1999.

My sincere gratitude and appreciation for all those who obviously worked very hard for such a brilliant event.

Gerd Ledermann

To everyone at KT and AJR who helped to make the 70th KT Anniversary such a tremendous success.

We knew so little about our departure except the terrible heartache we all felt. At each Reunion we learned so much of what really happened, that 70 years later we can fit the pieces together, and that is due to Bertha who had the wonderful idea of getting us together and learning from one another.

We cannot thank you enough Bertha because since the 50th Anniversary, so much has happened, and because of the Reunions we all seem to be much closer to one another, give you our thanks for organising such a wonderful day for us.

Sonja Arnold

So pleased to hear the event was a great success.

Rosemary Lewis

Congratulations on a wonderful event.

Mr & Mrs Subak-Sharpe

Congratulations to you, and all who were involved in what was an outstanding day-it surpassed my expectations and was a real credit to you, the AJR and the RoK.

David Rothenberg

I would like to express my thanks to all concerned with the organisation of the 70th Anniversary event on the 23rd November. We had a fantastic day, the speakers were all most interesting and the atmosphere most congenial. Congratulations for such an enjoyable experience.

Helga Brown-Steinhardt

Just a note to congratulate you on a most successful event. Everything went like clockwork and Erich Reich was an excellent Chairman. The lunch was first-rate and very generous. Prince Charles was made welcome in a relaxed atmosphere and the security was discreet. I came with my daughter and granddaughter and I think it was a valuable experience for them.

Lenore Vajifdar



Chanukah party at AJR Centre 21 December 2008 for first candle

SEARCH NOTICES



Dovercourt

Can anyone who was at Dovercourt remember two Cambridge students, Sherard Cowper-Coles and Brian Young who came to help at Dovercourt particularly in translating?

Frances Williams (PhD Student) Tel: 07843 272136
email: franceswilliams@yahoo.co.uk

I would be delighted to hear from anyone who came on the Kindertransport and spent time in Scotland during the war years.

I have car registration number **M574 ROK** anybody interested in having their special plate (ROK Refugee of Kindertransport) please contact Larry Lisner 07786 432474 or 01702 300812.

Does anyone remember my father or aunt, Erich Michel and Hannah Buchwald. Came from Berlin March 1939 aged 11 and 12. Contact Cathy 07891 872692.

Henry and Ingrid Wuga looking for Leo Fridler and Wolfi Rosenthal.

Did anyone know Lore Freudenthal, aged 9, came to UK 25.8.39 from Frankfurt or Kassel, Germany. Contact Gina 07505 083913.

Does anyone know or remember erich Bauer or Thomas Schloss, who were pupils at Truro School during the war years? Contact Louise Garcia 01209 217672.

Looking for anyone who has information on my father Otto Kurt Toch or my Uncle Henry Toch. Transport of 12 December 1938 from Vienna. Contact Susan Toch email: anaturalresource@gmail.com tel: 001 360 848 5328, PO Box 1261, Anacortes WA 48221, USA.

Looking for anyone who knew my mother and/or aunt, Erika Turkl, Daisy Turkl. They were on Winton's transport from Prague and attended school in Cornwall, Thelema School. Email: knkruger@gmail.com

MARTIN GILBERT'S MAP ON PAGE 28 OF THE BROCHURE

If anyone has noticed that their hostel has not been mentioned on the map can you please let us know.

A "Sainsbury Boy" comes to the Reunion

John Rosen (formerly Hans Rosenbaum), then aged 8 together with his older brother Walter, aged 10, born near Essen (Germany), was put on the Kinder Transport train by their mother on 15 March 1939. They arrived with all the other children on the train at Liverpool Street Station – from where they were collected, together with approximately 20 other boys and girls of similar ages, by various friends and colleagues of the then Mr and Mrs Alan Sainsbury – later Lord Sainsbury.

Their selection must have been quite at random as none of the children had any connections in England. We were housed in a large detached house in Putney, West London. There we were looked after by a domestic staff including a Matron, English and Hebrew teachers. We shared a room with two other brothers. I remember that although most of the children were on their own there was another group of two girls and two boys of the same family.

We were looked after in the most generous way by Mr Sainsbury and his friends who obviously funded the whole matter. We were often visited by "Mr Alan" as he came to be called and his wife and others of his friends. We were taken in small groups to visit the Zoo and other places of interest in London. In the summer the whole group was taken to the sea-side for a holiday.

All the children were provided with clothing, medical care and even individual pocket money of "2 pence per week". We were able to correspond with our Parents in Germany and received their post as well. Obviously we hoped that our Parents would be able to leave Germany. I recall we tried to save some of our pocket money to give to them when they arrived!

We were particularly fortunate that our Parents managed to escape to London just one week before the outbreak of war.

We must have learned to speak English quite quickly. Soon we were all escorted in a long line to the local school. Shortly after the outbreak of war the entire School including us the “Sainsbury Children” were evacuated to Reading in the special care of the Head Master – Mr Cook and his wife. We were all billeted in various private homes in keeping with what happened to all the evacuees.

At this point in our lives, the Sainsbury children were spread all over the Reading area and most of us lost touch with each other. Mr cook on behalf of Mr Sainsbury, continued to monitor our individual progress and as before we were all provided with clothing when necessary and the weekly pocket money, increased to 6 pence, continued to be received until reaching school leaving age. With the exception of us two, I believe all the children lost their parents during the Holocaust.

We were fortunate to see our Parents very occasionally when they visited us for a few hours – whilst they themselves were struggling to make a living in their very reduced circumstances – having arrived in England with just one case and 10 shillings!

We remained evacuated until the end of the war – by which time our Parents had progressed from living in a furnished room to a rented flat and we were then ultimately reunited to live as a family again.

During all the war period and beyond, Mr Sainsbury – on behalf of the “Sainsbury Committee” maintained a close interest in the welfare of the children and received regular reports relating to our education and the early years of our employment. Mr Sainsbury sent us birthday cards each year with a special gift on our 21st Birthdays and similarly on Walters Wedding in 1958. John and Walter together with his wife Valerie visited the then Lord Sainsbury on a number of occasions in his London Office where we were received with great kindness and we shall always remember with gratitude the tremendous part he and his Committee played in looking after all of us in those very difficult days for us children.

Jon emigrated to the United States in 1952 and after serving in the Army became an American Citizen and made his life there. John has continued to remember his war time experiences as a Kindertransport child. He made a special journey from Detroit to be present at the 70th Anniversary Celebration on 23rd November 2008.

Kindertransports to The Netherlands

An Unresearched Episode of Dutch and Holocaust History

Between November 1938 and December 1939 some 1,400 Jewish children from Germany and Austria came to the Netherlands – without their parents.

Very little is known of these children and of this episode of Dutch and Holocaust history. Whereas books have been written and documentaries made about the 10,000 children who went to England, it seems that no one has ever researched the children who came to the Netherlands. There are books about some of the places where the children stayed, but the group as a whole has not been researched.

My interest was aroused when I began researching the fate of Uli, a German boy who lived with my grandparents in Amsterdam between November 1939 and January 1942.

My grandparents were then able to flee the country but it turned out to be impossible to take Uli with them. I learned that he went to live with a couple across the street and found two other German boys living there. He was deported to Sobibor in March 1943; the other boys perished too.

I began wondering how many of these refugee children came to the Netherlands. I wanted to read a book about it but found that such a book still had to be written. It is my intention to write it (possibly in combination with an internet site).

The focus of my book will be on the children who perished. Even though there are more and more memorial sites on the internet, very little is known of these children; in most cases, even the names of their parents are not known. In Germany, the rest of the family might obtain a *Stolperstein*, but there will be none for the children who left Germany. I am trying to contact surviving family members, members of the foster families, neighbours and classmates. With their help, I should be able to make a portrait of every child. The more is known about them, the longer their memory will live on.

I would like to write about their lives before the flight too: what did their parents do, which school did they attend, how large was the family in which they grew up? This would mean a lot of research in Germany and Austria unless I find people to work with, which I would like very much.

As I obviously cannot talk to these children, I want to talk to the surviving children to hear their stories about how they were received in this country. And I intend to provide some historical background, for instance political decisions, organisation, numbers.

So far, I have found the names of 1,350 children but I know the list is not complete. By May 1940, when the Germans invaded the Netherlands and it became much more difficult to get out, 399 had emigrated, most of them to safe countries like England and the US, others to Belgium or France. As far as I can see, 443 of those who remained have perished, plus 12 of those who emigrated.

Are you one of the 'Kinder' who came to the Netherlands and stayed here for a while? Did you know any of the children who came to the Netherlands and perished? I welcome every scrap of information! If you are a survivor, I would like to hear your story. If you knew one of the children who perished, I would like to record your memories of this child.

Thank you so much for your attention.

Miriam Mijatovich-Keesing

Heemstede, The Netherlands

OBITUARY

Peter Reiche passed away on 1 December 2008 in the USA. For any information contact Peggy Teich by email peggy.teich@ren.com.

KT LUNCHESES

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK YOUR PLACE IN GOOD TIME

Future Speakers:-

2 February - David Apfel will entertain us with his Jewish humour.

2 March - Elissa Bayer will be speaking about her work in Stock Broking and Life in the City.

Warmest regard to you all from Bertha who has recently returned from Israel celebrating her great-grandson's barmitzvah.

Finally, I would just like to add what a good year it has been for Kindertransport and what a pleasure it has been for me to be so involved. If anyone wants to contact me about anything you can always give me a call at the office.

With best wishes for a healthy, happy and successful 2009 to you all.

Andrea