



# Kindertransport

A special interest group of

**The Association of Jewish Refugees**  
SERVING HOLOCAUST REFUGEES AND SURVIVORS NATIONWIDE



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**Previous issues may also be viewed at:  
[www.ajr.org.uk/kindertransport.htm](http://www.ajr.org.uk/kindertransport.htm)**

Dear Kinder and Friends



From the Editor's Desk

Once again it is Newsletter time. People are still talking and writing about the great events of June, the Reunion and meeting with Prince Charles. There has been plenty of activity since regarding the Kindertransport, particularly in the Media and requests from a variety of people for KT information to assist with their dissertations. The latter has kept me particularly busy. Several of us have appeared on TV and spoken on radio. I have experienced both, which includes German radio –in which Eve Willman also took part - and TV. Jane Merkin from Suitcase 1938 and I were interviewed on the Jeremy Vine show (BBC radio 2) by Vanessa Feltz. Once again, this Newsletter could not appear without the unstinting help of Andrea Goodmaker and the support of Michael Newman.

*Bernd.*

Hi fellow Kinder

On the 21st November this year it will be exactly 75 years ago that Noel Baker the member of parliament for South Derbyshire stood up in parliament and suggested that the house agrees to allow up to 10,000 children between the ages of 3 and 17 into the country without the usual formalities. Next month it will be 75 years since the first group of just under 200 arrived, mainly from orphanages many as a result the infamous 'Kristal Nacht', at Liverpool St Station. Two extraordinary events linked and entwined together.

One, the start of a terrible infliction on millions of Jews; the other the saving of a minute number. So, on the one hand we should commemorate on the other never forget the horrific consequences.

As the dark winter months close in we will be celebrating two more events.

One on the 20th November at a tea in the Houses of parliament with the rededication of the plaque. The other, at Liverpool St Station on the 1st December remembering the first 'Kindertransport' to arrive there 75 years ago.

I wish you all a very happy Chanukah and a lovely time with your families over the festive period.



### **Flickering Lights**

Our major Festivals require much preparation, especially for the housewife, and a lot of 'shul going.' Chanukah, on the other hand, is termed a 'minor' Festival as it is not mentioned in the Torah like the major ones. Yet, its eight days have a fascination throughout the Jewish world. In Israel, for instance, many buildings are ablaze with the lights of Chanukah. Again in London, in the denser Jewish areas, you can walk down the road and see house after house displaying the lights or even the big in public places. The burning lights indicate the essential message of the Festival.

Antiochus attempted to destroy Judaism by desecrating the Temple and prohibiting the basic mitzvot (duties), such as circumcision, observing the festivals or the Sabbath or even admitting to being a Jew (Maccabees, books 1 & 2). However, his plans were thwarted by the Maccabean Revolt led by Judah. The attempts to destroy us by Haman, Antiochus and others to our day, through the prohibition or denial by us of our faith or face death have failed and hopefully will never succeed; we are here; our persecutors are not.

But what is so important about kindling lights for 8 days? The miracle of Chanukah recalls that one container of oil with the High Priest's seal survived. It lasted for

eight days till new oil was available and processed according to Temple ritual. At the rededication of the Temple, the Menorah was lit and would never go out again till the destruction of the Temple. The rekindling of the Menorah clearly indicated that the attempt to destroy Judaism, and thus perhaps Jews, failed. Likewise, wherever in our long history to this day, enemies have tried to get rid of us – but they failed. The one jar, the one remaining stronghold of Judaism, whatever its size, kindled the lights of other centres of Jewish life, which in turn spread the flames of Judaism to further centres throughout the world. The Shoah (Holocaust) saw the destruction of centres of Judaism in Eastern Europe and elsewhere in Europe – but Judaism survived and its flames are now burning ever brighter throughout the world. Even the loss of the Second Temple did not extinguish our light; had it done so we might not be here today.

To glorify the mitzvah of lighting and its message, in many households everyone lights the chanukiah. Over the ages, the chanukiah has become a work of art in the hands of the craftsman to beautify the mitzvah even further. We may not use the lights, e.g. to read by or light the gas, etc.. We may only look at the lights and see whatever meaning the flickering flame has for us. The lights may flicker, but they stay alight. Our survival as Jews may have flickered at times but it still burns brightly and may hopefully do so till the coming of the Messiah, hopefully soon in our days.

Happy Chanukah

*BK*

### **MISCELANEOUS**

The AJR Journal of Sept 2001 already contained a short article about Gertrude Wjasmuller-Meijer with request for KT Kinder to contact Dr Edgar Flacker. The story of the children who travelled on the SS Bodegraven is told briefly. Also, some back numbers of the Newsletter and the brochure for the 75th Anniversary carried an article about her.

Reviewed (by BK):

A request for information from former girls about the Great Chesterford (White House) Hostel. I have all its archival materials. Please let me have such information, both to pass on to the person who asked and to me on nisraf@compuchange.co.uk.

An invitation to BK to dedicate a memorial to the Jews of Herborn. The archivist of the town noted that there were Kinder from there.

The Fall (autumn in English) copy of Kinder Link (published by the Kindertransport of America) arrived with articles about the reunion and the visit to St James's Palace and how much the events were enjoyed. (see further article Kinder Link)

Also from the States is a volume of Prism, Spring 2013, dedicated to the Kindertransport and published by Yeshivah University, New York. The articles and essays in it are fascinatingly interesting. I hope to review it more fully in the next edition of the Newsletter. Several articles are of interest to us in the UK, apart from items on aspects of the Kindertransport generally, e.g. Rabbi Dr Schonfeld, Frank Meisler's statues.

### **KT on German TV**

Several months ago James Pastouna, a film director working in Germany, approached the AJR with a view to making a short film about the 75th anniversary of Kindertransport to be shown in Germany - in just two days he managed to interview three Kinder - Ruth Barnett, Bernd Koschland and Susanne Medas as well as Sir Nicholas Winton with the help of a Rumanian cameraman - quite a feat!

The film was due to be shown on German TV Frontal21 in September, but it clashed with a very important event - Angela Merkel's first visit to a concentration camp, so it had to be postponed; it was shown on 8 October, a shortened but moving film which gave a clear insight into the remarkable action of the British government to save so many of us.

James Pastouna, an Englishman, hopes to be back in London for the 75th anniversary celebration at Liverpool St Station on 1 December and will be glad to talk to anyone present - he is very enthusiastic and so eager that younger generations of Germans should learn about this historical fact, so a further film may follow.

*Susanne Medas*

Link to programme

<http://www.zdf.de/ZDFmediathek/beitrag/video/2002014/Holocaust-Kindertransporte-nach-England#/beitrag/video/2002014/Holocaust-Kindertransporte-nach-England>

### **CAMP B70**

Fred Kaufman left Vienna as a 15 year old and arrived in the UK on the Kindertransport. As an enemy alien he next found himself behind barbed wire in an internment camp deep in the woods of New Brunswick, Canada and one of 26 such

camps in Canada. Internment Camp B70, located in Ripples, New Brunswick, housed more than 700 Jews in the early months of the war. Kaufman said in an interview, “It was a tough decision to split up the family.”

He was one of 711 men and boys who found themselves stepping off a train on 12th August 1940 and led on foot to the internment camp in Ripples, an isolated town. The camp was in the middle of a forest, where the inmates spent their time chopping up wood into bundles for heating the huts. He was the second youngest in the camp, where, he said, “It was cold.”

The internees were housed in barracks, equipped with stoves which needed the wood that they chopped to keep them burning. The men and boys wore denim trousers with a red stripe down the leg and jackets with a large red circle on the back. This was to identify internees, in case they escaped, and as Kaufman wryly remarked, “The red circle made a good target.” There were 6 machine-gun towers round the perimeter of the camp. At night, the magnificent Northern Lights could be seen –no doubt a pleasant distraction from camp life.

After a year, wrote the Star, Britain realised that many of the internees could contribute to the war effort and were given a choice to return to England and join the military or obtain a sponsor and remain in Canada. Kaufman chose the latter.

The camp closed in 1941 for three weeks to prepare for the arrival of prisoners-of-war. The camp held 1200 of them and finally closed again in 1945. In 1977, a local teacher enlisted a group of students in a project to learn more about the camp. Word got round about the project and soon a museum was set up in a nearby town. In 2006, volunteers developed a trail to the camp. The teacher said that it was important for the generations coming up to know about their history.

Kaufman never returned to the site as he preferred to keep it in the past. He was grateful to have left Vienna, and despite unhappy memories of his past, he was thankful that he “Was lucky to get out.”

This story had a happy ending. His parents managed to escape from Austria during the war and the family was reunited. As he put it: “My story had a happy ending.”

[The above item is based on an article in the Toronto Star of 4th August 2013, and sent to me by my sister from Toronto, where also Kaufman lives.]

*BK*

## Reviews



Jonathan Romain, *The Berkshire Kinder*

If it is well known that those who came to Britain on the Kindertransport were scattered throughout the country, what has not been appreciated is how many spent time in the Home Counties. Their story has now been recorded as part of a book on the area *Royal Jews: A Thousand Years of Jewish Life in and around the Royal County of Berkshire*.

Many started off elsewhere, such as Annie Baskier, who had originally been settled in Brighton. However, because of the public fears of German spies on the coast in 1940, she had been sent inland to a Quaker hostel in Speen, near Newbury.

She was able to join Godolphin and Latymer Girls School, which had moved out of London en bloc, and shared premises with a local school there. As happened in many similar situations, the local children had lessons in the morning, with games and 'prep' in the afternoon, while the newcomers did the reverse.

Annie recalls being subject to no less than three curfews: the school insisted she be indoors by dark, the hostel demanded she be in by 8.00 pm and the government ordered a 10.30 pm limit. In contrast, Victor Simons came direct to Berkshire from Germany. He was lucky enough to be taken in by a family who treated him the same as their sons, boarding at the same school as them during term-time and spending the holidays with them in Wargrave.

Not everyone had such good experiences. Beatrice Musgrave was billeted with three separate families in Reading: 'Two were very hostile to us. One of them more or less forbade us to be indoors during the day; the other, a vicious father with a terrified daughter, accused us of scribbling graffiti on his lavatory walls and got rid of us that way. The third family were kind and cosy, and provided our first taste of grass-roots English life'.

Helga Nettel reflects those whose transition to a new country and culture also involved leaving Judaism. Arriving from Prague, she was fostered by a family from the Christadelphians, a non-conformist church who were at the forefront of offering hospitality to Jewish children, along with the Quakers.

They did not actively proselytise, but it was inevitable that some children in their care would adopt their faith, as happened with Helga who remained a Christadelphian throughout her life.

As a generalisation, most of the kinder had a positive time in Berkshire, and certainly a wonderful contrast to their lives in Nazi Europe. It is typified by Hans Hellman of Frankfurt who arrived in a local village and joined in a game of football. Sixty years on, he still recalled the moment: 'I was absolutely exuberant. I ran to my house mother and told her: Somebody who is not Jewish wants to play football again with me tomorrow'.

Royal Jews (396 pp) costs £15.99, but is available to Kindertransport readers at £9.99 from: [admin@maidenheadsynagogue.org.uk](mailto:admin@maidenheadsynagogue.org.uk) or 01628-673012

Peter Thorogood, *The Kinder Kid*, 18 pages, illustrated (Private printing)

The booklet is the personal story of Ken Overman, born Kurt M Oppenheimer in Hungen, Hesse, Germany, as told to Peter Thorogood. The town had about 25 Jewish families. Anti-Semitism was rife and affected the Jewish inhabitants severely as they were known to the other inhabitants of the small town. After Kristallnacht, Ken and his father were sent to Buchenwald and released shortly afterwards. Ken came on the Kindertransport, aged 15, and eventually joined the St. Marks Hostel in North Kensington. He took up work and in 1943 joined Royal Armoured Corps. On discharge he went into various types of business and finally settled in Suffolk, where he played an active part in local life, including a term as District Councillor, as well as very active in Masonry. He is greatly respected by the local residents. He married Stella in 1986.

This small booklet makes interesting reading, and though brief, gives a very good background to the life of a 'Kind.'

(A few copies of the booklet are available. Please contact me on [nisraf@compuchange.co.uk](mailto:nisraf@compuchange.co.uk). A small charitable donation would be appreciated. First come, first served.)

BK

Christoph Gann, *Das Schicksal Eva Mosbacher & ihre Eltern*, 2013 (in German); 75 pages in double columns

Judge Gann, author of a work on Raoul Wallenberg, lecturer with special interest in the community of Meiningen (near Fulda). Apart from being a biography of Eva Mosbacher, virtually the first half of the book is an excellent summary of the life of Germany Jewry under Nazi rule, with reference to Meiningen and Nüemberg – the towns of the paternal and maternal ancestors of Eva. The account of the Jewish

persecution is amply illustrated with photographs of family and places, as well as with copies of related interest to the history of the period. There are examples from *The Stürmer* such as a page showing who is Jewish; another extract about an Aryan consulting a Jewish doctor. There are copies of correspondence between Eva and her parents. Eva finally came on the Kindertransport and was taken to Cambridge, where she entered Perse School for Girls. Like other Kinder, she was worried about her parents and they about her; attempts to reach the USA failed and the parents were eventually deported – again a familiar story. Eva trained as a nurse and worked at Adenbrook Hospital. She spent a few weeks with relatives in South Africa. Eventually she settled in Wimbledon. She died tragically on 10th November 1963 aged 37, according to the death certificate through depression- coincidentally on the 25th anniversary to the day of Kristallnacht!

Christoph Gann makes the point that was common to most Kinder: the uncertainties of what happened to parents – were they alive or not? If not where did they die? Where is their tombstone? If parents were alive and reunited, what would be the mutual reaction between them and their child? Could they readjust to each other?

I found the book, relatively short compared to other books on the subject, enthralling and a valuable contribution to Kindertransport and Holocaust literature. A worthwhile read and would be useful in English translation as a good ‘text-book’ for the background to Holocaust/Kindetransport studies. The tragic death of Eva could well illustrate what has happened to some Kinder and might have happened to others had their lives not been allowed to follow other paths. I recommend the book highly.

*MIK*

## **LETTERS**



Dear Bernd,

We were very moved by the stories in your newsletter. It reminds us of our mother/grandmother who is no longer alive.

*Vivien and Deborah Samson*

## **Tynemouth Hostel**

Dear Editor

In your search section (KT) page 14, was a very short notice, with which I feel, I can help a little. I

David Summerfield, if he is the Mr. Summerfield, whom all my contemporaries and myself loved and admired, (we did not know many first names of adults in those days and assumed they hadn't any) was the chairman of the Newcastle committee, which for 7 long years looked after the refugee hostel in Tynemouth, Northumberland. I ought to add, that because we were enemy aliens, we could not stay at Tynemouth by the sea, a protected area, so the hostel was moved to Windermere in 1940, to my total delight. I hated the sea and the distance it seemed to present from home and my dear ones. The committee and Mr. Summerfield, however continued to look after us from Newcastle.

There never was a hostel in Whitley Bay. We went each Saturday to Whitley Bay however, to attend the small synagogue there, as Tynemouth did not have such. I am sure the Jewish community in Whitley Bay, was larger than in Tynemouth.

Alisa Tennenbaum was indeed in the Tynemouth/Windermere hostel for 6 years and the luckiest of us all in that she had a father in England and a mother who survived Auschwitz. The rest of us all lost our parents. She did not have to stay to the bitter end of our time there. Some others, who had one parent in the country, also left before the end. Alisa now lives in Israel. I mentioned her in the last copy of the AJR Journal, as we had met again at the recent reunion of the KT. We grew up together. Mr. Summerfield was an old man, or so we all thought as adolescents, but he was not able to visit us much in later years. The Newcastle committee was however very good to us. As well as the Summerfields, I remember with gratitude the names Wilks, Freedman, Collins, and Burton.

They gave us shelter and looked after us most faithfully.

Sincerely,

*Ruth L. David*

*32 Carisbrooke Rd LE2 3PB 0116 2707777 [mailto:ruthdavid29@hotmail.co.uk]*

## **DANZIG**

Dear Bernd

Thank-you for the latest newsletter which, as always, I am pleased to read and learn from. My dear friend Alex Lawrence told me about the recent 75th anniversary reunion which he so much enjoyed.

I may have told you that each year I visit Gdańsk. This year I specially changed from my usual railway route to go by ferry over to the Hook of Holland first (then on through Amsterdam and Berlin) as I wanted to see the new Kindertransport monument there. I was surprised when enquiring about its location at the Stena Line information desk in the terminal, at a café by the station as well as at shops in the town, that no-one had heard of it! Anyway I found it and as always was moved. I went back to some of the people I had enquired from and told them where it was!

Also on returning to the Hook on my way home I went into to the little Tourist Information Centre and told the man there about the seeming lack of awareness which surprised him. He of course was very well informed and showed me some delightful close-up pictures of each of the Kinder in the monument explaining the different expressions on their faces. I also 'reconnected' with the ones at Liverpool St, Friedrichstraße, and Gdańsk during the trip.

There was one most important bit of the story I forgot to tell you! On taking my leave of the kind man in the Tourist Information Centre in the Hook of Holland - he wished me 'Shalom' which touched me.

Kind regards

*Giles*

### **National Archives**

Dear Michael,

Thank you very much for your reply, and I am sorry for my slow response. I'm delighted that you've let your colleagues know about the resource, and we are very happy to add a link to the Kindertransport group to the page; this will be live in the next few days.

Best wishes.

*Kathryn Petersen*

*Education Web Officer / The National Archives*

*Phone: +44 (0) 20 8876 3444 Extn. 2748*

*Email: [kathryn.petersen@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:kathryn.petersen@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)*

*Website: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>*

*Visit our new educational resource on Attlee's Britain:*

*<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/topics/attlees-britain.htm>*

### **SEARCHES**



Where are you?

Dear Editor

I am a relative of Liselotte Steinacher, who was on the Kindertransport from Germany to England. Liselotte married Georg Taussig, and had two sons: Michael and Dr. Peter Taussig. I believe that Michael and Peter are both living in England

My mother, Susanne Wilmersdoerffer Hamilton, emigrated to St. Louis, Missouri, USA in 1937. Her aunt was Elsbeth Wilmersdoerffer Steinacher, who was the 2nd wife of Justin Steinacher. Liselotte was their daughter. Elsbeth and Justin did not survive the camps.

I believe that Peter Taussig is living in London, and I would like to be in touch with him. He wrote an obituary for his mother Liselotte Steinacher Taussig which appeared in the AJR Journal 2006, and mentioned Alma Wilmersdoerffer, my mother's aunt, as well as Liselotte.

Any information that you have would be much appreciated. My mother is in poor health and is trying to locate her family in England.

*Dr. Barbara Hamilton*

#### KINDERTRANSPORT 75TH ANNIVERSARY 2013

Dear Michael

I am Jane Merkin's sister who will be directing Suitcase this autumn.

I'm currently re-writing the script and one of the things we're particularly keen to do is reflect local stories for the places we are performing. So far we have been to:

Glasgow, Newcastle, Hull, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Bristol, Southampton, Harwich

We shall be at Liverpool Street Station, London, 1st December.

I am hoping one way I might be able to contact people is through the local AJR groups and the Kindertransport organisation using the attached questionnaire. I can email it through using the links on the AJR website for contacts but Jane suggested that was the best way to go with this. Below is the questionnaire.

Many thanks

*Ros*

- (We wish you every success in your venture. Readers please fill in and return the questionnaire to help in this important work. Editor)

#### RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE

NO/EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE AND AGE OF ARRIVAL IN UK: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY AND PLACE OF ORIGIN: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What advice were you given about your future life in Britain? How were you prepared (e.g. how to behave, learned English, learned about British life?)

2. What did you bring with you – what clothes? Toys? Photos?
3. What did you have to leave behind?
4. Describe the clothes that you were wearing when you arrived.
5. What do you remember about saying goodbye to your parents?
6. What was the journey like – crossing the border? Getting the boat?
7. What do you remember about arriving at Liverpool St Station?
8. Could you speak any English? Did you understand what was happening?
9. Who met you at the station?
10. Were you given anything to eat at the station and if so, what?
11. Where were you taken after you arrived? Who took you?
12. What were your first impressions of London?
13. Did you go on to another city or town, and if so where?
14. What were your first impressions of that city or town?
15. How did you leave the station and travel to your new home?
16. What were your first impressions of your new home/school?
17. What felt the most different strange in the UK compared to your home?
18. What happened to you at the end of the war? Were you reunited with your family?

Completed questionnaire to be returned to [suitcase1938@live.co.uk](mailto:suitcase1938@live.co.uk) or by post to: 82 Beechwood Road, Cressington, Liverpool L19 0LA

Dear Andrea,

I hope all is well with you. Can I seek your help once again? The local Quakers have been approached by the Stiftung Denkmal fuer die ermordeten Juden Europas (Foundation: Monument (they say Memorial) to the murdered Jews of Europe). They are researching the Oschinski family, originally from Berlin. Mrs Oschinski, who was 38 in June 1939 (thus presumably born 1901) arrived in England in June 1939 and came as a domestic worker to the home of Stanley Thorne, a Friend, connected with the Quaker school here in Saffron Walden.

She had a daughter, Lore, who arrived in England on the 9 August 1939, aged 15. When she was over 16 she was interned in Rushen Camp, Part Erin, IoM until April 1941 and she joined her mother in Saffron Walden. It seems unlikely that a 15 year old would travel across Europe on her own and I therefore wonder if she came on a Kindertransport.

I would be most grateful for any information KT or AJR have about mother and/or daughter but if there is nothing could you pass this on please for publication as a Search Notice in both the Journal and the KT newsletter. I would be most grateful.

Best wishes

*Francis Deutsch*

Hi Andrea,

I'm looking to make a short documentary film about the Kindertransport children. It will be about child survivors who fled Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic and migrated to the UK to live with foster parents. The documentary would have interviews with refugees and holocaust survivors who tell their stories of how they escaped the Nazi during WW2.

I'm collaborating with Matt Richards, an award winning director/producer, who was working on a similar documentary but hasn't finished it. He has the rights to the book. In 1945, 10 Lancaster planes were sent to Prague to collect all the Jewish children who had survived the Holocaust. They expected to collect 2000 children and bring them back to the UK. As it was, they could only find 745 children alive. They were flown to England where many still live.

I want to know **if** there are any Kindertransport survivors who would be available to be interviewed in the documentary.

*David Michaels, Associate Producer, Tstars Films*  
+44 (0) 7881913983 [Davidmichaels@tstarsfilms.com](mailto:Davidmichaels@tstarsfilms.com)  
<http://www.matrichardsfilmmandtv.com/>

#### TELL YOUR STORY IN FILM

Josh Aronson, a filmmaker from New York, is making a PBS documentary about the late Lisa Jura, originally from Vienna, who lived in the hostel at 243 Willesden Lane. If you lived there too, or if you have a Kindertransport experience to share in the film, please write to Julie Anderson at [juliecreates@gmail.com](mailto:juliecreates@gmail.com)

#### **Rejection through Fear?**

Lucille (aka Cecilia) has written a most poignant and moving account of her early life up to her liberation from a camp. The remainder of the book recounts her later life to the present.

This article is not intended as a review, because I want to pick out just a few pages relating to the Kindertransport. Born in Germany to parents of Polish nationality, Lucille finds life miserable at school 'as Polish Jews were dirty and uneducated, different from German Jews' in the words of her teacher. She was unable to understand why Polish citizenship should cause her rejection by fellow pupils, adults and neighbours; consequently she was always in tears.

One night, whilst her younger sister Karin was asleep, her parents called her to her father's study. A conversation followed, which undoubtedly took place in countless Jewish homes, in which they suggested sending her on a transport to England. She had heard about such transports from fellow pupils; she was stunned. In panic she said, 'Never, never will I go alone.' Her mother tried to smooth things by telling her that other children are going. Despite further attempts to persuade her daughter, Lucille still refused. 'Why do you want me to go?' Further attempts to change her mind failed. Lucille could not understand her parent's contradictory outlook – the dangers of Nazism and the hope that it would go away. She prayed that they would go to Palestine as others had done. She lived in constant fear.

Lucille did not go on a transport to England but one of deportation which led her and family to various Concentration Camps. Her parents and sister did not survive.

I selected this section of the book, because it reflects what happened in the homes of Kinder to be and of Kinder that were not to be. I wonder how many of us Kinder ever **reflect back on our response** to being asked, told or just taken to join a transport. When speaking, particularly to children, it is a point I touch on. I was completely flummoxed when a girl of about 8-9 asked me if I was angry when told I was going on a transport. I could not then, and cannot now, answer that question. Angry with

my parents? Germans? With myself? Life? I also wonder how Lucille reflected back over the years. Was she angry with her parents for suggesting going to England? Was she angry with herself for rejecting the whole idea? The book concludes with the underlying, many branched question of the Holocaust, WHY? WHY?

- Lucille Eichengreen, *From Ashes to Life*, Mercury House (USA), 1994

*Bernd Koschland*

### **Nazi archive opens up- 17.5 million names on file**

The first portion of documents from world's largest Nazi archive in Germany was transferred to the US Holocaust museum and Yad Vashem. It made the move closer to being able to find a paper trail of Holocaust survivors own persecution easier, when finally the keepers of a Nazi archive will have delivered copies of Gestapo papers and concentration camp records to museums in Washington and Jerusalem.

But it will be a while before the archive can be used by survivors or victims' relatives to search family histories. Even after it opens to the public, navigating the vast files for specific names will be nearly impossible without a trained guide.

The director of the International Tracing Service (ITS), custodian of the unique collection that has been locked away for a half century in Germany, has transferred six computer hard drives bearing electronic images of 20 million pages to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. Copies will go to the Yad Vashem Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem.

The index of 17.5 million names on file with ITS is the key to finding documents, though it is not in computer-readable format and cannot be used like Google. "The public will be able to come to the museum and see the material in the manner in which we received it," said Paul Shapiro, director of the museum's Centre for Advanced Holocaust Studies.

### **Kinder Link**

No doubt some receive a copy of Kinder Link, the quarterly newsletter from the Kindertransport Association of America. The current edition (Fall – autumn to us here) edition has several reports on the KT reunion in June, especially one on the meeting with Prince Charles. The KTA has proclaimed 2nd December as World Kindertransport Day. Sydney, Australia, has also taken up the idea. Included in Kinder Link is a letter from Mr Vinter of Eastbourne, whose father (Erich Goldstein) was in an orphanage in Berlin that was burnt down. He wonders if there is anyone who can supply the name of that orphanage. There is an interesting letter from Josef Eisinger about his arrival at Victoria Station and being taken away without the paperwork being dealt with, thus making him an illegal alien; eventually he was shipped to Canada.

It is good to read what is going on across the Pond, as one contributor wrote.

### **NOTE:**

**The play Kindertransport written by Diane Samuels is now on tour between now and March. If interested please contact me for dates and places.**

*Andrea*

*Views expressed in the Kindertransport Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Kindertransport Special Interest Group or of the Association of Jewish Refugees and should not be regarded as such.*