



KINDERTRANSPORT NEWSLETTER

AJR Special Interest Section

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Dear Kinder/Friends

As this Newsletter incorporates the Yom-Tov period of September/October, it is almost a double one, and I will start by wishing us and our dear ones, a good, healthy and peaceful year. So very much needed in Israel (see the very sad obit). Our hearts go out to the family of Elsa Cohen, née Winter, whose life and the life of 16 other innocent victims was so brutally taken. The sad and mourning prayer on Yom Kippur *une sane tokev* (see English translation) always had the women in our Munich synagogue crying. As a young child I felt the sadness, but did not really understand it all. Now we understand it only too well, and it makes us all the more appreciative of any happiness that comes our way.

An idea formed in my mind sometime ago that there must be many of our younger boys who never had a Barmitzvah. They came to non-Jewish foster families or were evacuated. It would be nice if this could be rectified as it is never too late to perform any Mitzvah. As the Torah is read not only on a Shabbat, but also on Mondays and Thursdays, the ceremony could take place in a synagogue (or hall) on either of these two days. The Bracha (blessing) is not long and easy to learn (even phonetically) and would be recited collectively with the Rabbi reading the appropriate text from the Torah. I would hope that their families would like to attend, and as many Kinder (including us girls) as possible. This would of course be followed by a sit down Kiddush and presentation. What an appropriate way to mark our 65th anniversary year in 2004. I have four barmitzvah boys already, including one from USA, so please let me have your names and I will start the ball rolling! Sorry girls if you think this is sex discrimination, there is no law in our nation that says girls must Batmitzvah be. So please do not blame this on me, but a party you can still enjoy by supporting a Barmitzvah boy.

LUNCHEON MEETINGS

Our monthly Luncheon meetings at the Day Centre are quite well attended, and a few new faces have appeared. If you have not yet joined us, you are really missing out. Our next meeting is 4 August and on 1 September Rev Bernd Koschland will talk about the most famous Jewish historian of all time - Josephus Flavius.

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY

The two day seminar on Kindertransport held at Sussex University was very informative. Learned papers were presented, discussions held, information exchanged formally and informally. Kinder were well represented and I am glad I was there.

TEACHER'S PACK

Plans are going ahead with the Teacher's Pack being reproduced by the London Jewish Museum.

BOOK LAUNCH

I attended Ruthy Morris' book launch (for her Master's Degree). It gives the history, with many wonderful photographs, old and new, of her mother's (Sarah Schreiber) life story in honour of her 80th birthday. It is a most remarkable book and will surely be sought by most museums and serious researchers.

SUITCASE UNVEILING – LIVERPOOL STREET STATION, 16 SEPTEMBER 03

I hope that all of you who want to attend the Suitcase unveiling, have been able to obtain places. I feel lucky that I never had the headache of having to refuse anyone entry to our Reunions owing to space. I hope to obtain a video of the occasion, kindly offered to be made by Alfred Buechler. Talking about videos, here is some great news: Warner Brothers have kindly agreed to supply us with copies of the Oscar winning film *Into the Arms of Strangers* at half price. All you need to do is send a cheque for £8.95 made out to KT Publications for video including postage or £9.95. for DVD. Send orders to Bertha Leverton, 8 Canons Park Close, Edgware, Middx HA8 6RJ and I will despatch this to you as soon as possible, an address label would be a help to me. A better present to take someone than a box of chocolates. Also bear in mind that we still have the Reunion books and videos at £5.00 the package. The new office space is smaller, hence this offer. If anyone going to Israel or New York could take a few over with them, it would be welcomed.

AUSTRALIA

Recently I had occasion to speak with Rabbi and Mrs Raymond Appel, from Australia who were guests of honour in my Stanmore synagogue. I found out that Eva Engel, who started a new Kindertransport group in Sydney, is well known to them and I conveyed our best wishes to her from us all. As I am in the privileged position of not having my lines cut by the editor, you have to read this before getting to the rest of the Newsletter. My very best wishes to you all.

An important article

KT-AJR received a disturbing article, 'An Accusation', from Bill Oakfield who now lives in Israel.

The August 2003 issue of AJR Journal, which has been received by all KT-AJR members, has printed the article in full. Please make a point of reading it and of expressing your views, either to the AJR Journal, or direct to me at the KT-AJR Newsletter.

JFS AND THE KINDERTRANSPORT

A number of your members almost certainly attended the Jews' Free School on their arrival in London. The School has gradually been building up its very substantial archive. This includes photographs and memoirs. Some of these are displayed on the old students' web site at www.jfsalumni.com. The history section includes the memoirs of the late Doctor Enoch Bernstein who was instrumental in helping establish the hostel in Ely where most of the Kindertransport evacuees were placed, including my father. Doctor Bernstein's memoirs have some poignant recollections of the plight of these new arrivals to England. The School is eager to hear your own recollections and indeed copies of photographs, if you were evacuated with the School. An exhibition of the History of the School will be held at The Jewish Museum in Camden Town in the Autumn. This includes a 30- minute film on the history of the school, with a section on the evacuation, including the memoirs of one young man who came on the Kindertransport. For further details or to pass on your memoirs and photographs, please contact the AJR office.

GENERAL

No news yet of the Golabeck concert at the Wigmore Hall. It may not take place until Spring.

Please note: anyone writing to me expecting a reply is asked to kindly supply a telephone number. All my correspondence is done by phone. I find phoning easier and, believe it or not, it's quicker and cheaper. *BL*

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My admiration for ALL the staff (my friends) of the AJR, is profound. Having observed the tremendous task of moving a large office to new premises, dozens of computers, thousands of documents, books etc. into clearly labelled boxes, and all the time things are running as normal till the last minute. Just to watch this amazing ant like miracle is a special privilege. Please note revised telephone and fax numbers at new offices in Stanmore.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bertha – Thank you for sending me your newsletter. It is really very well done and more informative with every issue. I am glad that you have built this up so successfully. I hope we will meet one day.

*Peter Galliner
Berlin*

Dear Bertha – Thank you very much for the newsletter. It was nice to hear from you again after the sad news of David, who we all miss very much.

I particularly liked Judy Benton's courageous story. There must be other stories of a like nature which I am sure everyone of us would like to hear about, if you could trace some of them.

Your efforts are always very much appreciated by all your readers and it is unfortunate that some of us live so far away that we cannot contact you in person, but only by post or

telephone. Many years ago, when I lived in Harrow, I used to pass your address regularly, but live too far away now to do so.
Thanks again for all your efforts.

*Frank Reichmann
Finstock, Oxon*

Why did you pass my door? You should have come in. Bertha

Dear Bertha – Welcome to the old/new editor and the restored old format for the KT Newsletter. A particular welcome to the personal style. The condolences, greetings, and mazeltovs, as well as short tales of the editor's travels to her relatives create a real family atmosphere, which perhaps those of us, who for rational, circumstantial or geographic reasons have moved far from faith and community, specially appreciate. Long may she reign!

*Francis Deutsch
Saffron Walden*

Dear Bertha – I was a Jewish refugee from Berlin, rescued by Pfarrer Grüber and the Kindertransport, arriving at Liverpool St Station on 3.3.39. I was 12 at the time. I, and six other girls of similar age, were taken into Dr Barnardo's.

My youngest son has been delving into family history, and I have just watched the video *Into the Arms of Strangers*.

All these years I have kept the letters my parents wrote me before the onset of war. I have just translated them so that my three sons can read them.

All this had made me very pensive and I wonder if you can throw any light on the reason why we seven were picked for Barnardo's? Possibly, because none of us were orthodox Jews, and after the crisis of Kristallnacht, had been christened into the Evangelical church? But was all that recorded for the Kindertransport and the people who might give us sanctuary? My father survived the war, in hiding in Berlin. My mother perished in Auschwitz.

I wonder if you will be able to help me with this very belated enquiry?

*Ingeborg Ball née Fuss
Sittingbourne, Kent*

Dear Kinder – I recently read a small notice in the papers that the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) has published the names of 363,232 of insurance policyholders to enable heirs of victims to search the list for policies held by their families.

The chairman of the ICHEIC is Lawrence Eagleburger, former US Secretary of State. The list is available on the ICHEIC website, www.icheic.org. The deadline for claims is 30 September 2003. Application forms and details available from the website, or from Tel: UK 0-800-169-8318. There is no charge for their services. There are probably many Kinder who would be interested.

*Lore Steinhart
Israel*

Dear Bertha – Herewith a few suggestions for the Kindertransport Newsletter.

At present the items in the newsletter are not clearly divided. A reader cannot tell where a story begins or ends. This can be done by placing a line, a few letters or some stars between the relevant paragraphs.

Invite readers to contribute to the publication by sending in comments, stories, suggestions, photographs etc.

Incidentally, I think that your address should be shown below your name. How else can readers reach the editor? (We haven't all got FAX).

*Peter Langford
London NW3*

Dear Mr Langford – In response to your letter I would draw your attention to the last paragraph on the front page of the Spring KT Newsletter. We have had a photograph in each issue. Unfortunately, we were short on space in the last Newsletter, therefore it was not possible to add any extra lines or stars to separate the subjects, but they did have clear headings!

I would just like to add how much I am enjoying working with Bertha and wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Andrea Goodmaker
Secretary**

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

All best wishes to Otto Deutsch who was 75 (how nice to be so young) in July. Otto is the mover and shaker in Southend KT and very active also in the Municipality.

Another Geburtstag-Kind is Gerd Lederman in Kathmandu (see letter and photo). Have many more, Gerd, in good health. He will welcome any visitors to Kathmandu. POB 454G, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Belated 80th birthday wishes to Rolf Penzias. I should have known about your birthday, since we started school on the same day. Rolf recently showed me photos from our first class aged six and between us we remembered most of the names.

Happy 80th birthday to Henny Franks (Grunberg, Cologne).

We welcome (Jessy) Josepha Salmon as a New Member. Jessy is the little 8 year-old girl holding the doll on the front cover of my book *I Came Alone*.

The following is an extract from the Bowes Park Weekly News, Friday 17 May 1940 and Jessy was on the boat.

The Captains story

The Captain of the Ostend-Dover boat *Prince Baudouin* who came with them from Ostend Belgium told a sad story how after only at sea for one hour bombing planes began to attack them, seven attacks took place bombs falling aft and astern of the ship, only skilful navigation of a zig-zag course saved them from a direct hit, shrapnel fell all over the decks. The main trouble was shortage of food.

The journey had taken twelve times the normal length of time. Originally the ship was headed for Diepe, France but ended up in the British port of Southampton after being attacked by U-boats while at anchor near the Solent as at that time I had no permission to enter a British port.

OBITUARIES

We all know the signs – a huge bang nearby, followed a few minutes later by the wailing of police sirens and ambulances. This time it was once again in Jaffa Road, Jerusalem; a suicide bomber had blown up a bus and killed 17 passengers, as well as wounding many more. It was only the next morning that we discovered that one of our Kinder was among the victims. Elsa Cohen, née Winter and born in Kempen, was on her way to a shiur when this latest tragedy occurred. Many of our Israeli Kinder knew her, a smiling, gentle person, participating in our functions, as well as doing many good works in other organisations. She had been the wife of the Rabbi of Kiriath Bialik, and when widowed a few years ago, she retired to Jerusalem. Her sincerity, tolerance and good nature endeared her to all of us who knew her, and it is with profound sadness and shock that we mourn her loss, as well as those many, many others whose lives have been so brutally taken through terrorism. Elsa was a very special person and we send our deepest condolences to her daughter and son. May they be comforted by the knowledge that she was admired and loved by so many people.

Inge Sadan, Israel

Dr Leonard Haas, husband of the late Ilse Haas, has died. We wish long life to his daughter and all the family. You might remember them from our Israel Reunion in 1994 which they attended. Ilse, who had been wheelchair bound for many years, joined in all the activities.

KT SEARCH NOTICES

Ina Nothman lived with a guardian who was the headmistress of Abbeydale Grange School in Sheffield. In 1939 her parents sent her to England and her sister to the USA for their education. Her parents owned a jeweller's shop on the Unter-den-Linden. She spoke excellent English and was training to be a shorthand typist. Any information, please contact Andrea Goodmaker at AJR.

Dr Kellner was a local doctor in the Chester area in the late 1950s. He bore a resemblance to the present-day media political commentator Peter Kellner. Any information, please contact Andrea Goodmaker at AJR.

Israeli Kinder – Searching for Mrs Ricky Jacobsohn née Jeidel from Munich, age 10.

USA/Australia, please copy

For me it is always a pleasure to have contact with Kinder from abroad, so was happy to talk to Nina and Max Hofman while in Switzerland recently and met Lore Holzman (Gutwillig). I tried to phone you Klaus Appel, but could not reach you.

In London, (for the BUNCE COURT REUNION) I met with Peter and Judith Wegner, USA and spoke with Gitta Zalman-Rossi here from S/A. I met Irene Schmied and spoke with Anne Fox, USA and heard from and hope to meet Lisa Seiden-Leist, Buenos Aires. Also talked to Elisabeth Rheinhuber-Adorno, Germany who hopes to come over in September. I am always happy to hear from you (I will be away from 14-28 August).

I have been asked to include details of a two week holiday staying at the King Solomon Hotel, Netanya from 3 – 17 September 2003 at the special price of £597 per person, based on two persons sharing a twin room. Single room supplement £169. Price includes half board, flights from Heathrow with El Al, coach transfers to and from Ben Gurion airport. For further information and booking form please telephone 8204 4476, 8346 5226 or 7959 4399.

Referring to previous Newsletter, I put two and two together and I did make four.
Best wishes to Gerd, Kamala and Lea.

Hello, Bertha! 20 June 03
Thanks for your 'Hello' and
another enjoyable Newsletter.
Indeed I was the 'elderly'
gentleman! and we had
an enjoyable Seder up here,
where I could tell Kamala
and Lea the story in peace
and quiet - last year K+L
took part in Kathmandu
with 1500! The man re-
gistering is a very nice Chabad
Rabbi, who has been up
here and at a recent Oneg
Shabat he asked me to
talk to 150 young Israelis abt.
my philosophies, our lifestyle
and my Judaism, which I
managed in my rusty Yiddish.
Blasted birthday wishes and
much love from the 3 of us.



Picture sent in by Lily Pollock – can anybody identify themselves.

WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING – 60TH ANNIVERSARY

I was amongst a group of around 50 Ajex and Yad Vashem members and relatives who flew from Gatwick via Polish airlines to Cracow on Sunday 27th April 2003 for the 60th anniversary of the Warsaw uprising. For me, personally, it marked a return to Poland from where aged 7, I, together with my parents and 3 younger sisters, expelled from Germany to a refugee camp in Zboncyn 5 months previously, sailed from Gydynia on the SS Warscawa in February 1939 under the auspices of the Kindertransport.

Now, 64 years later, I was returning to Poland with very mixed emotions.

On the first morning, 12 of us held an early morning service in the Cracow synagogue reading from its only Sefer Torah. The rest of the day was spent visiting various places of interest together with our English speaking guide. This included a visit to the War-time Ghetto, Plaszow, the Jewish Quarter and the RAM synagogue and Cultural Centre. During the course of the day we attended a ceremony at the British Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and visited the graves of Jewish servicemen.

On Tuesday we went to Auschwitz. A wreath laying ceremony at the Wall of Death was followed by the March of the Living; we walked for about 2 kilometers to Birkenau for the main remembrance service. The service was attended by thousands of people from all over the world including large contingents from Israel, the USA, Australia and Mexico. This very moving service was attended by the Presidents of Israel (Moshe Katsav) and Poland (Aleksander Kwaqsniewski) as well as the Chief Rabbi of Israel and other dignitaries. Later that day, Ajex members held their own short service with two trumpeters from the Jewish Lads Brigade sounding the Last Post.

We then travelled by coach to our hotel in Warsaw.

On Wednesday we attended further ceremonies at the Umschlag Platz, Gensha Cemetery, Mila 18, the Uprising Statue and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Aleksander Kwaqsniewski, the Polish Prime Minister, said:

"we should all remember that the Warsaw ghetto uprising was the first organised anti-German action in occupied Europe. In the face of the crushing power of the Nazis, a handful of Jewish young people by their desperate three-week-long fight gave testimony to enormous heroism."

Moshe Katsav, the President of Israel, said:

"the struggle in the Warsaw ghetto was an uprising by people who lacked resources, who had no chance against the Nazi beast and who were, as a result, savagely slaughtered. Their struggle was an expression of courage, an expression of the will to live, an expression of faith in the future".

That evening there was a special concert in the Opera House which began with the decoration and granting of honorary officer ranks to 4 surviving members of the Ghetto uprising. Included in the concert were the Israel Symphony by Ernest Bloch, Psalm 130 and El Male Rachamin by Krzystof Knittel. At the reception which followed I had an opportunity to talk to the Polish Prime Minister Aleksander Kwaqsniewski.

On Thursday a coach trip of some 3 hours took us to the site of the former camp of Treblinka. Although the Nazis dismantled the camp and ploughed up the site, a memorial and various landmarks have been placed on the site of the railway line and platforms.

This trip was a truly moving, emotional and thought provoking experience for us all.

Report sent in by Henry Alpern
