

KINDERTRANSPORT NEWSLETTER

AJR Special Interest Section

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Dear Kinder/Friends

The great day finally came and went. It was very special and moving. The hard work organising it all was truly worth it. Memories will linger on, and thanks to Alfred Buechler some wonderful moments are captured for us on video. The actual ceremony and the unforgettable speech by Rabbi Dr Jeffrey Cohen is there in full, and special thanks to Hermann Hirschberger who was a most able and professional Chairman on the day. In a few months (I'll give you the date as soon as I know it) we will all see the LWT film shot by Oliver Mann and his team. It will of course be more professional than Alfred's, but as the whole film will only be condensed into a half hour programme I cannot be sure of how much time will be devoted to the most memorable speeches all of those present, were privileged to hear. Also the prayer Rabbi Cohen composed for the Batmitzvah girls in Hebrew and English is on tape. Thank you Alfred for knowing when not to edit.

Rabbi Cohen, we not only thank you for your talk but your involvement with us, the Kinder, since 1988. Thanks to you Rev Bernd Koschland, for leining and taking the service and guiding the Barmitzvah boys on the day. Everything ran so smoothly, one might be forgiven for thinking it was rehearsed beforehand, I assure you it was not. Hermann Hirschberger, it was you who took responsibility as our Chairman for the smooth overall running of the whole day, the organising of everything and everyone, like the protocol with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Harrow who honoured us with their presence as did Toni McNaulty our friend and MP and now a Minister of State. Lady Jakobovits, who spoke so eloquently from the heart, made a special effort to attend in spite of her tight schedule. And another speaker Prof Judith Romney-Wegner whose husband Peter, one of our Barmitzvah boys, flew in from the USA, as did (Ruth Heineman) Sonya Chayen and my daughter Mirry Reich came from Israel.

Judy Benton expressed her feelings on being part of the Kinder family and Marion Marston recited a very moving poem, I spoke for just two minutes, but hope that the main point that I wanted to make came across. There was one special lady at the celebration who stole the show. It was Sigi Faith's mother, 100 years young in August. We wish you good health till 120 Irma Faith. You are an inspiration to us all. We all wanted our photo taken with her. There was no shortage of snappers, or of journalists.

Mr Jack Lewes, President and Chief Warden of Stanmore Synagogue was presented by us with a picture to be hung in the synagogue hall. It was designed and made by Eva

Hirschberger an artist well known for her art work in chuppa, torah mantels etc. Other presentations of artwork in glass, Menorahs (Chanukioth) were made in Israel by Mirry Reich (www.mirrrys-artglass.com) as were the candlesticks for the Batmitzvah girls. The boys had a tallith and kippa in a velvet bag and a beautiful silver kiddush cup and plate. All the presents are from Israel where I went shopping during Pesach. This was only possible because of the very generous donations we had received ever since the idea of this celebration was made known to you through our Newsletter. I thank you all. Especially our Committee, Herman Hirschberger, Ronald Channing, Erich Reich, Sigi Faith and Manfred Durst. Also the AJR for providing us not only with premises, but also Andrea Goodmaker, secretary, who was a great help during all the preparation and on the day itself. Thank you Andrea. Linda Rosenblatt handed a framed congratulatory certificate to all celebrants on behalf of WJR. The reception and lunch catered by Simon Kalman and his team was excellent. The concert given by Jack Davidoff and his orchestra (captured on video by Alfred) was very much appreciated and well received. My thanks to you all.

The Habima, bi-annual magazine of Stanmore synagogue will have a write up in their September issue and feature several pages of photos taken by Godfrey Dayan in colour. They can be ordered by the numbers next to them, don't be misled by these photos, the finished article is of top quality and very good colour, postcard size, price £2.00. per copy. Videos from Alfred Buechler £7.50. including postage, orders from the KT office please. In the next Newsletter we will hopefully let you know the date/time of the screening of the film made by LWT (London Weekend Television). I am told they have shot some first class material.

KTA, USA Group announce their forthcoming Mayor function (held every two years) this time near San Francisco from 22 – 24 October 2004. Details from the office. I hope to be going and it would be nice if some more Kinder would attend.

I often get phone calls from Kinder abroad, and sometimes we meet and if possible they attend our lunches, as did Mr & Mrs Alfred Meyer from USA. On Friday evening 25 June Irene Corbach joined me for a Shabbat meal (Cologne) she is a devout pro-Israel Christian and loves Jewish rituals. I was also contacted by Professors Kibata from Japan who will visit me. Do you remember them? Several years ago they became so interested in our story that they arranged for performances of the play Kindertransport by Diane Samuels to be performed in Japan, in front of their royalty. We received a copy of their magazine with pictures. Pity we could not read it. I shall have lots to tell them when we meet.

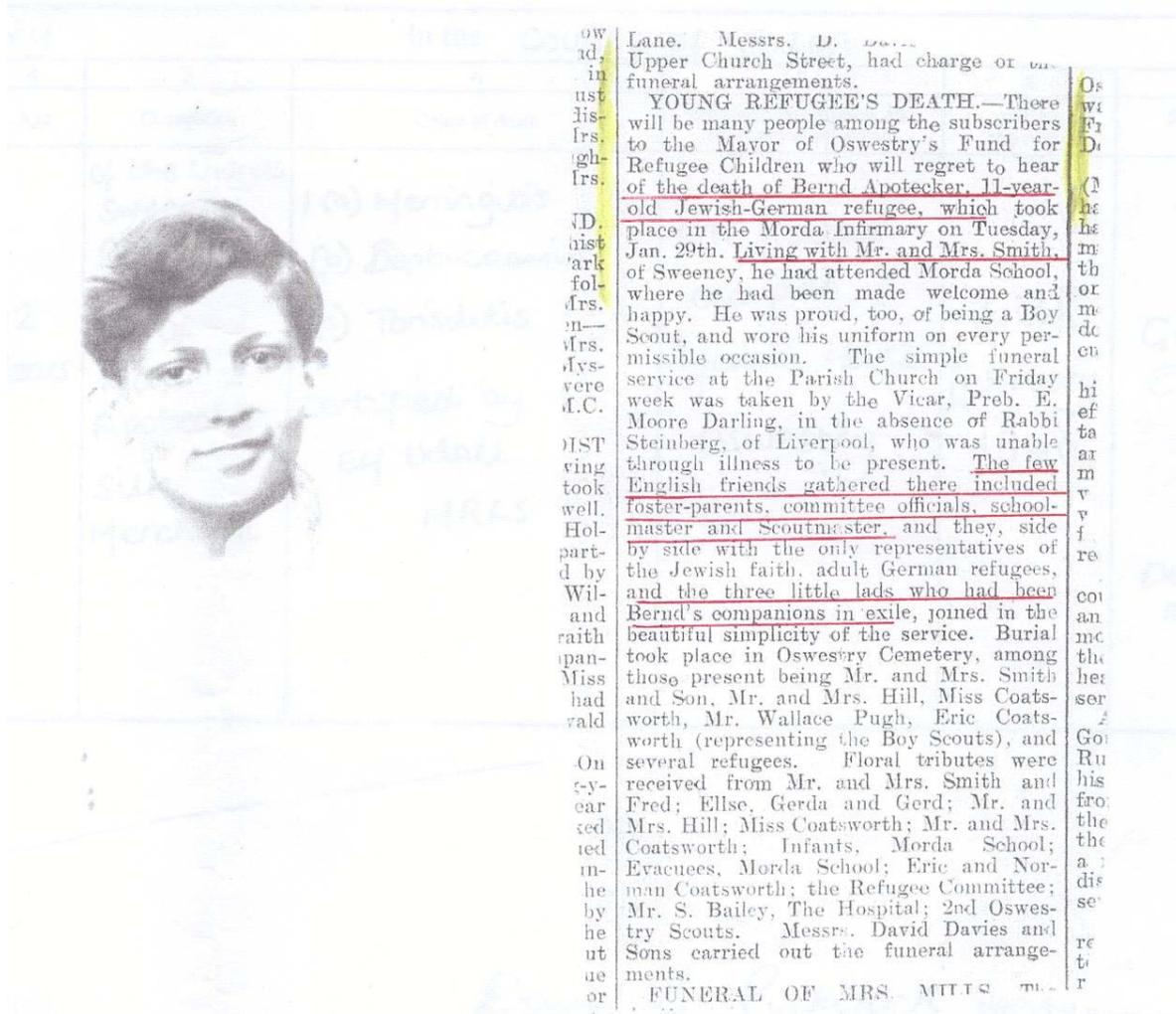
EDUCATION PACK

At long last the Education Pack for schools is being launched. It has been in the making for a very long time and the finished article is very special. Report will be in August AJR magazine.

SUITCASE IN LIVERPOOL ST STATION

We are getting endless complaints about the suitcase in Liverpool Street Station. Litter lying about from nearby McDonalds, people sitting on the plinth eating their sandwiches and stubbing out their cigarettes on it. All that could so easily be rectified by a few words of explanation affixed to the monument. Too much to ask for? How much effort does it take and how much would it cost to have a few well chosen words incised onto a piece of metal and screwed onto the plinth? I just hope that when the powers that be finally get around to it the little word "Jewish" will be included. So many official notices seem to fight shy of it,

substituting it with “victims of Nazi oppression”, or similar. All I can say is that had we, the Kinder, had a real say in the matter, it would have been included right at the beginning. Your comments please.

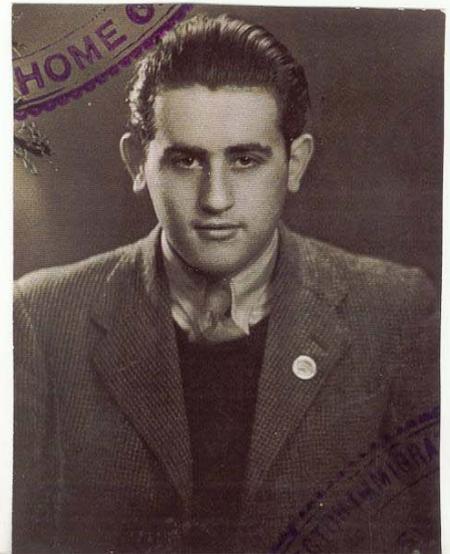


YOUNG REFUGEE'S DEATH – there will be many people among the subscribers to the Mayor of Oswestry's Fund for Refugee children who will regret to hear of the death of Bernd Apotecker, 11-year-old Jewish-German refugee, which took place in the Morda Infirmary on Tuesday, 29 January. Living with Mr & Mrs Smith, of Sweeney, he had attended Morda School, where he had been made welcome and happy. He was proud, too, of being a Boy Scout, and wore his uniform on every permissible occasion. The simple funeral service at the Parish Church on Friday week was taken by the Vicar, Preb. E. Moore Darling, in the absence of Rabbi Steinberg, of Liverpool, who was unable through illness to be present. The few English friends gathered there, included foster-parents, committee officials, school-master and Scoutmaster, and they, side by side with the only representatives of the Jewish faith, adult German refugees, and the three little lads who had been Bernd's companions in exile, joined in the beautiful simplicity of the Service. Burial took place in Oswestry Cemetery, among those present being Mr & Mrs Smith and Son. Mr & Mrs Hill, Miss Coatsworth, Mr Wallace Pugh, Eric Coatsworth (representing the Boy Scouts), and several refugees. Floral tributes were received from Mr & Mrs Smith and Fred; Ellse, Gerda and Gerd; Mr & Mrs Hill; Miss Coatsworth; Mr & Mrs Coatsworth; Infants, Morda School; Evacuees, Morda School; Eric and Norman Coatsworth; the Refugee Committee; Mr S. Bailey, The Hospital; 2nd Oswestry Scouts. Messrs David Davies and Sons carried out the funeral arrangements.

Now to something very different and very sad. As you can see from the above newspaper cutting, a young Kindertransport boy from Berlin died in 1940 and having been fostered by kind non-Jewish people was buried in their cemetery. There is the possibility he had a sister named Nicu Apotecker who was 16½ at the time and the address given was Berlin-Schoenberg, Heylstr. 5. There is no headstone. Recently a lady from the Jewish Genealogical Society, Lorna Kaye found out about it, notified the local Rabbi. Discussions were held about reburying him in a Jewish cemetery, but it was decided instead to erect a headstone over his grave. He seems to have slipped through the net of the CBF in 1940, though they have now confirmed his DOB and his name as Theo Apotheker. It's so long ago but perhaps there is someone, somewhere who does remember him. Please write in if you do. We are grateful to Mrs Kaye for performing this important mitzvah and collecting the funding for Theo Apotheker's headstone. She also tells us that Kaddish will in future be said on his Yaarzeit. Some of us might also like to have him in mind on that date. Please keep your letters and comments and criticisms coming in. I promise you I have no other functions in mind in the foreseeable future, except our annual Chanukah party to be held at the Day Centre on Monday 13 December. The seating there is limited to 70 persons and very early booking is advisable. Wishing you a pleasant Summer with lots of sunshine.



Current picture of Kurt



Kurt at age 18

**KTA - President
Kurt Goldberger
24 May 2004**

Here is my short history.

Born: August 5, 1925, Vienna. Attended Volksschule (elementary) Boerse Gasse, and Realschule at Schottenbastei, both in the first district of Vienna. I attended Jugendgottes-Dienste on Saturday afternoons at the Seitenstaettengasse Temple.

I left Vienna with the Kindertransport on July 4, 1939, and arrived in England on July 6. I stayed in a hostel in Croydon until the war broke out and was evacuated to Horsham, Sussex. Towards the end of 1940 I joined my mother at the Internment Camp at Port Erin on the Isle of Man.

In the beginning of 1941 we got our visas to the United States but could not leave since there were no ships available for civilians. We then moved to Leicester, where I worked at the English Glass Co until March 1944 when I left for the U.S.

I spent most of my life in the U.S. as an activist in the Jewish community, both as a volunteer and professional. For 21 years, I was a regional director with B'nai B'rith.

Currently, since retirement, I have kept up my activities, and subsequently became president of KTA.

Regretfully, I will not be able to celebrate my Barmitzvah I missed out on with you all, but please accept my sincere congratulations on your organizing this event. Good luck and Mazel Tov to all.

Kurt

LETTERS

Dear Bertha, Hermann and Everyone in KT/AJR – May I express my deepest gratitude for every moment I was allowed to spend with you on Thursday 3 June 2004.

The ceremony of the Barmitzvah “boys” and the Batmitzvah “girls” is an experience which will come with me wherever I go. I will often tell my audiences around the world. It was all so moving. Thank you for allowing me to play a small part at such a great *simcha*.

The Lady Jakobovits

Dear Bertha – I should like to thank you for arranging my late Barmitzvah. This was a real joy for me and my family. I always thought that I was the only child to have missed my Barmitzvah in Vienna – it was actually to be held on 12 March 1938!

And my thanks also for the lovely Kiddush Cup and Saucer, which I shall treasure, and so will my children. Once again I thank you for all you have done since 1989 – may you have many years of health, happiness and continuing success. Shalom.

George Ettinger

Dear Ronald– I know from my mother that you all made her very welcome at the Kinder Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations. She said it was wonderful and moving as did Linda Rosenblatt. Thank you.

*Laura Kaye
WJR*

Dear Bertha – I write to thank you for the memorable day of my Barmitzvah, 3 June 2004, very late, but better late than never. Thanks all of you for this special day.

Thanks to Ruth Montifiore who started this occasion for me, and taking me to the synagogue.

In long lasting memory to the lunch, and outstanding music of the Palm Court Ensemble, bringing back these wonderful melodies of the time I and all of us remembered.

I close with a few words, A Wonderful Memorable Day Long to be Remembered. Thank you and all.

Leon Greenman OBE

Dear Bertha & Hermann – It really was a wonderful Service and especially the *Tischgebet* after the Lunch. It was exactly the way my father used to do it.

It was also nice to see many old friends whom you don't too often come across and I think I have probably made one or two new ones. I met one grown up and married girl who was only little when she lived in Erdington, Birmingham and I used to deliver the Birmingham Jewish Recorder to her mother, Rhoda Brown. The mother now lives in London.

The music was delightful and Ursel Goldschmidt and I had a lovely quick waltz in the corner of that lovely synagogue hall.

Anyway, once more many, many thanks for all your efforts and for a truly wonderful day.

Henny Rednall

Dear Bertha – I am writing to you on behalf of the Fairfax family of Bradford, West Yorkshire. I did meet you in London with my father, Richard on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Kindertransport.

Unfortunately, I write to you now with news of my father's death.

He died peacefully, surrounded by his children on 12 February following a fall at his home on the 7 February (his 80th birthday). I know that he took great interest in the work of the Kindertransport and was also an active member of the Holocaust Survivors Friendship Association based in Leeds, often talking with me to groups of local school children. I am also involved in some second generation activities.

My father, like his generation was a truly remarkable man and his personal story of survival lives on through his children and grandchildren.

My mother, who supported him now resides in residential care but asks to be remembered to you, She (Mabel) accompanied him on the Kindertransport reunions.

My dad was born in Breslau 7.12.24 and came to England on the first Kindertransport in December 1938. After Dovercourt he went to a Boys Hostel in Leeds.

He was a life Trade Unionist and Socialist. He leaves a wife Mabel and three children, David, Diane and Mark and six grandchildren.

Diane R Fairfax

Dear Bertha and Hermann – This note is written on behalf of Sussex Tikvah (home) to express our most grateful thanks for the 'Barmitzvah' day arranged by KT-AJR for Hans Albrecht and the other Kinder at Stanmore Synagogue.

Hans was absolutely delighted by the day, by the chance to meet old friends and by the warmth and general arrangements that were to make the day something truly special for him.

Arthur Oppenheimer

Honorary Secretary

Sussex Tikvah

Dear Bertha – But for the Grace of God – here I go. I mean this most sincerely. Forgive me for saying I took exception to some of your views expressed in the last KT letter.

Your derogatory emphasis on 'Jesus' I found offensive. I happen to be, through no fault of mine, a Mischling. A Jewish Mother and an Arian/Gentile Father. My background is very German/Liberal Jewish. I am proud of my Jewish heritage though I practise neither the Jewish nor the Fundamentalist Christian doctrines. A decision I made at maturity. I am,

however, more than grateful that, I was adopted in 1939 into a deeply sincere, fundamental, evangelical family. You would call them missionaries. A family who truly and sincerely believed that, the New Testament complimented the Old Testament, i.e. the Torah. To this day I believe that Christ was/is the Messiah as prophesied in the Old Testament.

The one child, referred to by you, had the same option as I on reaching maturity: to believe or disbelieve. The so called 'missionaries' were in no way out to snatch a soul but, to offer a ray of sunshine at a desperate time. Also the 'seaside' evangelical crusades were and still are not only directed at Jewish refugees in the thirties, but gentiles as well.

With no ill feeling!

Ursula Dumke

Dear Ursula – First, thank you for your letter. Just to tell you that having a Jewish mother does not make you a Mischling but fully Jewish. Far be it for me to denigrate any religion. The only thing I find so wrong, and still do, is the way the missionaries target the vulnerable, and young parentless children certainly come under that category.

I never have and never will differentiate between any of our Kinder whatever shade of religion they profess. Bertha.

Dear Bertha – I would like to place on record how much my husband and I enjoyed the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies held for former Kindertransport brethren at the Stanmore synagogue on 3 June last. Everything was so very moving and the sermon by Rabbi Cohen and the speeches by the Kinder themselves were most touching. We attended the luncheon which was first class and the Davidoff Ensemble brought the proceedings to a happy musical conclusion.

I am most grateful to our dear friend Isabella Fisher (one of the Kinder) who urged us to attend this function and of course to Bertha and Hermann under the auspices of the AJR, whose organisational flair made it so memorable.

Rita Davis

„Die Flucht der Kinder“ (75 Min.)

Ein Video über die spektakuläre Rettungsaktion „Kindertransport“ 1938/39 nach England

Die heute in Schottland lebende Dorrith Sim ist eine der sieben ZeitzeugInnen aus Nordhessen und Berlin, die in diesem Video ihre ganz persönlichen Geschichten von Verfolgung und Flucht im Nationalsozialismus erzählen. Sie war 7 1/2 als sie Kassel verließ und eines von beinahe 10.000 – meist jüdischen – Kindern, die 1938/39 mit einem Kindertransport nach England flüchten konnten.

Im Wechsel zum dokumentarischen Charakter des Films steht die theatralische Inszenierung. Jugendliche spielen Passagen aus dem Theaterstück „Kindertransport“ von Diane Samuels. e-mail: heidi-sieker@web.de Heidi Sieker Mönchebergstrasse 33, 34125 Kassel, 0561 / 870 91 86. Preis: 30 Euro incl. Versandt, zahlbar per Verrechnungsscheck, an o.g. Adresse und dem Zusatz: Die Flucht der Kinder



SEARCH NOTICES

Looking for eyewitnesses of the German air raids on Britain

In my field as a political scientist and freelance journalist I am looking for Kindertransport participants and/or other refugees from Bavaria, particularly from Munich and Nuremberg, who experienced German bombing raids from 1940 onwards in Britain, including those who subsequently went on to a third country, such as USA or Israel. The results of this study will be published either on the Website (<http://rijo-research.de>) created by me in 1999, which concentrates on Jewish history in Bavaria and Nazism, or in a book to be published later. I would be most appreciative of any information in this context. Ms. Susanne Rieger, Kobergerplatz 6, 90408 Nuernberg, Germany. Phone: (+49-911) 36 59 051 email: Susanne.Rieger@t-online.de

I am writing a book on the Jewish presence in North Devon in the Second World War. I would like to hear from anyone who lived in North Devon during this time, either as a child from the Kindertransport or as a member of The Pioneer Corps.

I would like to trace Heinz Katsenellenbogen and his sister who lived on Lundy island for a short time. Also, anyone who attended the small Jewish school in Exford on Exmoor. Please contact: Dr Fry, C/O andrea@ajr.org.uk

Seeking Kurt Sondheim, born in Frankfurt/M on 21 August 1926. Came to the UK by Kindertransport 3 March 1939 as a German national. Joined the British army, where he rose to Staff Sergeant, number 14448994, being originally encamped at 9PW, Base Camp, Quorn, near Loughborough. Became a naturalized British subject on 12 September 1947. Please contact Tamar Duke-Cohan, Email t.duke.cohan@rn.com

Lorna Kay, Manchester. Bernd Apotecker died 1940 aged 12 buried in non-Jewish cemetery, Oswestry, fostered by family known as Mr & Mrs Smith. Information please. andrea@ajr.org.uk

Information sought by Laurence Lowenthal about Aschaffenburg. Rose Lore Aschaffenburg Lewald 16.7.32. andrea@ajr.org.uk

AMERICA, ISRAEL AND AUSTRALIA, PLEASE COPY

CONGRATULATIONS to Lore Heineman and husband who celebrated their golden wedding.

CONDOLENCES

Richard Fairfax died 12 February 2004.

Gerd Druckarz died February 2004.

Bill Oakfield from Netanya, Israel, co-Editor of the Israel Newsletter, died recently.

Our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.