



KINDERTRANSPORT NEWSLETTER

AJR Special Interest Section

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JUNE/JULY 2003
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Dear Kinder/Friends

Before starting this Newsletter I have to tell you that the date of 3 July was incorrect and has now been changed to Tuesday 16 September 2003. I am, of course, talking of the unveiling of the Kindertransport Statue/Suitcase at Liverpool Street Station. The unveiling will be performed by Sir Nicholas Winton (none more suitable) and I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Kinder. This is under the auspices of WJR with the support of others including the AJR. A lot of money had to be raised for this project and its future maintenance. We don't know all the people who helped towards the funding, but would like to say that our member Erich Reich helped greatly to achieve the result through organising sponsored bike rides, his speciality. I am told that a lot of dignitaries will be invited and that spaces will be somewhat limited. I urge you to apply in writing as soon as possible to Laura Kaye, Project Manager at WJR, The Forum, 74-80 Camden Street, London NW1 0EG. I have been assured that everyone will be treated on a first-come-first-served basis and proper invitations will then be sent to successful applicants. Apart from those who will need a helper owing to disablement, it is a Kinder-only affair; this means no spouses/Second Generation as space and seating are limited. We hope to make a video as inexpensively as possible.

Everyone will be able to be shown around in groups at a later date, because all Regional Groups will be invited, under the leadership of Myrna Glass and Susanne Green, to travel on a coach outing to London, where they will join London members at the Day Centre for lunch. They will then carry on to Liverpool Street Station, where hopefully they will be welcomed by representatives from the Station and WJR to view the statue at leisure and have tea before returning home. There will be no restrictions on spouses or Second Generation.

NOW TO OTHER MATTERS

The huge list of names published pertaining to the insurance policies taken out by Jews in Germany and Austria who were murdered in the camps is now

available on the internet. If you do not have access to the internet please contact Michael Newman on tel: 020 7431 6161.

I hope you had a nice Pesach as I did in Israel. You might be interested in this. My daughter was reading bits from the paper to me. One item told of the largest Seder in the world, held in Kathmandu, Nepal for 1,500 people. As these are mostly young people on holiday there, the man who registered them all was very surprised to get a visit from an elderly man who lives there permanently. (Sorry about the 'elderly', Gerd, as you are only in your seventies and recently remarried with a little daughter of four!) I knew it must be our Kind Gerd Lederman in Kathmandu, though the paper mentioned no names. Hello Gerd. Hope you enjoyed the Seder.

SOME MORE SPECIAL NEWS

Recently listening to the BBC Radio world news, I heard an interview with Mona Golabeck, the wonderful Second Generation Kinder famous pianist who, with her sister Renée and young nieces, was the highlight of our 1999 Reunion Concert. They will be giving a special concert in October at the Wigmore Hall. I phoned her and she will be happy to meet many of us at her concert, for which I hope to take a block booking. I was assured it will not take place on a Friday night or a Yom Tov day. Perhaps you could let me know if you are interested. JUST received, not yet read, Mona's book *The Children of Willesden Lane*, printed in the USA; more details in next Newsletter.

Regarding the Kindertransport Information School pack for teachers: a very positive meeting was held with the London Jewish Museum and some of our Committee members. This is the project we raised the funds for, mostly at my party in February. It was David Jedwab's dearest wish to update the existing one and I am glad to say many of our suggestions were taken on board. A short dedication to David's memory will also be included. The very moving memorial service for David was well attended and all stayed on afterwards for lunch and meeting. Thanks to the Day Centre staff for the way they arranged the rooms for us.

OBITUARIES

I am ever mindful that not ALL of us "MADE IT", i.e. spent satisfactory and useful lives. I was saddened when I attended on 8 May the funeral of John Werner, who spent nearly 20 years deeply depressed in Osmond House, and then in Colindale Hospital. His twin sister Chana Braun and her daughter Daphne flew over from Israel and our sincere condolences to them and another sister in South America. In cases like this it is the sad life one mourns most.

We were notified by Stefan Ruff of the death at the age of 95 of Rosie Goldberg, who lived in York. Rosie was a social worker with the Jewish community in Leeds in 1938/40 and was responsible for placement and after-care of Kindertransport children in the Leeds/Huddersfield/Bradford area.

The 60th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was held at the Logan Hall. The hall was filled to capacity for this very moving tribute, and every one of the speakers spoke most movingly. The audience (from very young to very old) combined to pay tribute to the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto: they held the might of the German army at bay longer than the Belgians withstood the invasion of their country.

NACHES REPORT

Sarah Schreiber's 80th Birthday, June 2003 – Daughter Ruthy Morris, Masters Degree and Book Launch (the story of her mother's life) 12 June 2003

80th Birthday Peter Presscott formerly Pokurny

80th Birthday Walter Kohn (Nobel Prize-Winner, USA)

Judy Benton - The way Judy Benton joined the Kindertransport was quite remarkable. Returning home one day (30 November), she was informed by a neighbour that her parents had been arrested and the Nazis were looking for her. Judy, living in Meissen, hastily packed a bag and went to the nearest town with a larger Jewish community and found the Gemeinde, who told her to go to the station, where a Kindertransport train was leaving shortly for London. Having no papers to include her on that transport, she noticed a large toy store near the station and bought herself a children's dressing-up outfit of a Red Cross nurse. She pretended to be a nurse looking after children and was not questioned.

Today she has the great *naches* of a large family in London and the USA. She proudly showed me the most prestigious Jewish American magazine *Lifestyles*, where her son David Benton, adorns the front page and has his story told inside. He is the President of the Rittenhouse House Hotel in Philadelphia, where film stars and presidents stay.

The following is an edited version of a letter from Elma Verhey in response to the extract from *Ha'aretz*, 'The Stolen Jewish Children' sent in by Bill Oakfield:

I refer to the extract from *Ha'aretz* which appeared in your March/April 2003 issue. This article was based in part on my book about Jewish children in the Netherlands, *Om het joodse kind*.

While it is true that legislation was adopted in Holland ensuring that Jewish children hidden during the war should not automatically be returned to their parents, your extract (or the article in *Ha'aretz*) misses some very important details.

Most foster parents, confronted with the natural parents, gave the children up. How many did not is uncertain, but it was probably no more than 10 or 20. Most problems arose with orphans. Indeed, 6,000 children were saved in Belgium, and many were baptised.

How many were not returned to the family I do not know. But this was not an order of the Pope: he refused to call on his followers to give the children up, but he did not order them to keep the children! The Finally brothers were eventually returned to relatives in Israel thanks to an archbishop in France. And I am almost sure that in Belgium, as in Holland, most parents got their children back. I doubt whether 'many thousands' never discovered they were Jewish. In later years, most children did. The struggle over the hidden children was extremely bitter; Professor Isaac Lipschitz, himself a hidden child, calls these years the 'little shoah'. But we should not make the picture worse than it is!

Email elma.verhey@weekpladpers.nl.

Welcome to our new member, Ursula Dohan, who writes the following: Thank you so much for accepting me as a KT member, and your recent Newsletter. It means a great deal to me: a sense of belonging and a recognition somehow, of my own, personal part, of a *Mischling*! And all the trauma connected with this.

NEWS FLASH

Eva Engel is forming a new group in Sydney, Australia, and has sent us the following report:

KINDERTRANSPORT EVENING: CHILD SURVIVORS GROUP SHOAH WEEK: 4 MAY 2003

The buzz that preceded the start of the evening at Hakoah Club on 4 May developed into great excitement for those present. Most of the audience had been sent (just prior to World War II) from Europe to safety in England via "Kindertransports". For many gathered (those who were very young children at the time) it was a "first" of meetings, getting together or just finding out what really happened. The older "children" present told those who could never piece together the horrible happenings that the younger ones may never have realised (many having been babies or toddlers).

Through the stories told, amazing coincidences were realised. People connected – some were on the same transports; some lived in the same places once they had arrived in England; some even lived close to each other (with so much in common) without knowing it for years. For all that were there, this gathering was an outlet of expression that needed to happen. Many people had questions – it was an emotional event, and everyone was so glad to be together.

The Child Survivors Group in Sydney hosted the evening. Litzi Lemberg welcomed the gathering, and Eva Engel gave an overview of the subject of the night, how it came to be (the honouring of Nicholas Winton in Great Britain) and introducing Professor Konrad Kwiet, who explained the politics and facts of the Kindertransport. Following Professor Kwiet, there was testimony from four transportees: Marian Paul (German transport); Yetti Windt (Polish transport); Kitty Finger (Austrian transport); and Nora Huppert (Czech transport).

The floor was then opened, and wonderful stories surfaced, regarding all kinds of escapes, some extremely dangerous – all stories of young children, unaccompanied by parents, who so courageously tried to reach safety. The evening could have gone on for many more hours, but all present wanted to get together again.

The next meeting is on Sunday 15 June, when the film on Sir Nicholas Winton and the Prague Kindertransports *The Power of Good* will be screened.

FORWARD DATES

AJR Head Office is moving on Monday 14 July 2003 to the 2nd Floor, Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore, Middx. HA7 4RL, tel: 020 8385 3070 fax: 020 8385 3080.

Unveiling of Statue at Liverpool Street Station, 16 September 2003.

Chanukah Party, Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, Monday 22 December 2003.

Future Kinder Lunches Monday 7 July 2003. Panel Discussion with audience participation: "Hard and Soft landings on arrival in the UK".

Monday 4 August 2003

Monday 1 September 2003

Monday 13 October 2003

Monday 3 November 2003

Monday 22 December 2003 – Chanukah Party

SEARCH NOTICES

Herbert Bruch, born 1932 in Kempen (north Rhineland), emigrated to England in 1938 without his parents, presumably as Kindertransportee. I believe he is related to my grandmother, Hedwig Lambertz, also born in Kempen. Any information, please contact Rodney Eisfelder, eisfelderr@acslink.aone.net.au.

Deborah Oppenheimer, producer of the documentary *Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport*, is writing a children's book about her late mother's Kindertransport experience and life in England during the war. Her mother, Sylva Avramovici, and a group of refugee girls were taken in by Sir Samuel and Lady Roberts and lived in their Manor House known as Cockley Clee in Swaffham, Norfolk for two and a half years. Deborah is trying to find the last matron of these girls, known as Jenny Gee or Jenny Gerstein, who was at Cockley Clee from February to October 1941. Any information, please contact Deborah Oppenheimer, deborah.oppenheimer@warnerbros.com.

Israeli Kinder looking for Ricky Jeidel (Munich).



Arriving in England: Liverpool Street Station
3 March 1939

The above photograph was sent in by Ingeborg Ball (née Fuss).

Three other people on the photograph are Käte Kreide, Edith Raphael (née Pünktchen) and Marion Gottschalk.

The appearance of the photograph in the last Newsletter prompted two letters, and the following are names of some of the boys who have been recognised: Seligson, Weinberg, E Kolmann, Weil, Dominik (Polish), H Schwartz, Katz, K Marx, H Walter, Penas, Hermann, Steinberg, Rothschild(?).

If anybody is interested in Pakefield Camp, please contact the AJR office.

We used to have a very lively Letters page which was an important part of our Newsletter, so if you want to keep it interesting, please do write in.

Hope you had a good Yom Tov (Shavuot).