



KINDERTRANSPORT NEWSLETTER

AJR Special Interest Section

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Dear Kinder/Friends

As most of you will by now be aware the reason I am compiling this Newsletter is the sad passing of our dear friend and Chairman, David Jedwab. The *Jewish Chronicle* 23.3.03 published an Obituary to which I can add very little, only my own and all our heartfelt condolences to Sarah and family. I know he would want our Kinder group to continue, having put so much time, effort and expertise into the New Look Magazine he created since he took over the Chairmanship from me in 1999. I cannot promise you such a fine glossy Newsletter (there will be one such to come next time featuring photographs), but I will do my best to keep you informed. USA and Israeli Kinder have also expressed their sadness at our loss. A short memorial service will be held at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, 15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, London NW6 on Monday 12 May at 11.30am. The Service will be conducted by Rev Bernd Koschland and Rabbi John Rayner. It will be followed by the regular KT Lunch. All Kindertransportees are invited. However, pre-registration is essential for all those who wish to stay for lunch (at £5). Please phone 0207 328 0208 no later than Tuesday 6 May. Those wishing only to attend the service (without lunch) are also requested to telephone in advance.

A meeting was held and committee formed to keep our KT-AJR group going. It consists of Herman Hirschberger, Acting Chairman, Erich Reich, Treasurer, Ronald Channing, AJR, Liaising with AJR, myself, Bertha Leverton, Editor (Newsletter), Sigi Faith and Fred Durst, Advisers. We are fortunate to have the services of Andrea Goodmaker (AJR) as secretary. Please send any correspondence to the AJR offices for the attention of Andrea. I will be away in Israel for *Pesach* 13-25 April.

A Newsletter is only as good as the input it receives from its members, so please do write in with your thoughts, comments, complaints, news, funny stories, special birthdays, poems etc. In fact, anything of interest to you and us.

We were all thrilled to hear of the great honour bestowed on the Czechoslovak Kinders' hero now Sir Nicholas Winton, their rescuer. Vera Gissing, who is closest to him, has written his biography, together with Muriel Emanuel *Nicholas Winton and the Rescued Generation*, Vallentine Mitchell, £9.95. Another book called *Serry and Me, Kindertransport and Beyond* by Elfie Rosenberg in Australia, Book number three this time is called *Let One Go Free* by Hannah Hickman in conjunction with Beth Shalom.

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The Stolen Jewish Children
(Extract from *Ha'aretz*, sent by Bill Oakfield)

After World War II a Law was passed in Holland that Jewish children who had been hidden during the war, would not be returned to their parents. While there were many decent Dutch people who did return the children to their parents or relatives, a considerable number did not. The same happened in Belgium and France. Some parents, who survived the Holocaust, were not even allowed to see their children and siblings were not allowed to meet.

These facts have been unearthed by Ema Verheij, a Dutch journalist. She published a book in 1991, called *About the Jewish Children*, and she produced and directed a documentary film. Israel television refused to broadcast the film. Verheij says that she heard all sorts of contorted excuses, which derived from the fear that revelations would embarrass the Dutch and cause a diplomatic incident.

Six thousand Jewish children were hidden in Belgium and were never returned to Jewish relatives or authorities on the express orders of the Pope. The same happened in France. In one case, the Finaly brother's adoptive mother hid them in a Convent to prevent them from joining relatives in Israel.

Many thousands of hidden Jewish children never found out or were never told about their Jewish parents who perished in the Holocaust. So literally thousands of these children are now lost to the Jewish nation thanks to Catholic and Protestant paranoia to convert Jews to Christianity.

There seems to be no efforts being made to right this wrong. As one Jew, who managed to escape to England and who was, thank G-d, old enough to resist attempts to conversion or rather coercion, I can never forget or forgive, that thousands of Jewish children were stolen by Christians and deprived of their Jewish birthright because they were too young to defend their right to live as Jews. They should be included in our six million whom we can never forget.
I make no apologies for reprinting this article from the Israeli Newsletter. Bertha

NEWS ITEMS

ARCHIVES

The Kindertransport archives I gave to the Wiener Library are now catalogues. Howard Folksohn who, with Ann Otto, is in charge of this project, tells me that there will still be additions to it in the future, but anyone interested in our story can now access the files.

LIVERPOOL STREET STATUE AND SUITCASE UNVEILING

We have now received notification that the Kindertransport Statue/Suitcase is to be unveiled at Liverpool Street Station, London on Thursday 3 July. Further information will be published in the next KT-AJR Newsletter and in the *AJR Journal*.

URGENT REMINDER – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE/COMPENSATION

There are two funds from which some of the ‘Kinder’ might be eligible. Both funds are now in the hands of the ‘Claims Conference’.

1. Austrian Holocaust Survivor Emergency Assistance Programme

This fund is available for Austrian survivors/refugees who are in need of medical care, but do not have the financial means to obtain the required assistance. This fund will only be available for the next two years.

2. Former East German Property

The Claims Conference has been given the titles to over 8,000 properties in the former East Germany. If you originate from this region and believe your family owned property there you may also be entitled to compensation.

If you apply please make your voice heard loud and clear that, as possible heirs to some of the properties, it is our entitlement to have sight of the lists which we know to exist.

In both the above cases please contact Michael Newman, Central Office for Holocaust Claims, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frognal, London NW3 6AL Tel: 020 7431 6161.

Birthdays

Heartiest congratulations to Eva Glicksman on her 80th birthday.

To Judy Benton her 82nd birthday. (Judy has a remarkable story of how she, at the age of 17 got onto a Kindertransport. Wait for next Newsletter when I'll tell you more.)

Talking about birthdays, I would like to put on record my grateful thanks for supporting so generously our education project (approximately £6,500 was raised). Thank you letters have gone out to those who could not come, but kindly sent donations. Thanks also for the many wonderful cards (hardly a double among them) which I shall treasure. To Ronald Channing, AJR, for a most wonderful photographic record of a very memorable day; to Alfred and Miriam Buechler and Paul Newham and Mum Marjery, for recording the day on video (my family in Israel will see it on *Pesach*); to the AJR for the bouquet and special birthday cake; to Herman and our dear late friend David for their kind words about me; to Eva Hirschberger for the two outstanding raffle tables (raising £750 towards our funds); to Judy Benton and her daughter Ushy for shopping; to Marie Dome for shopping, schlepping and helping with cooking; to Liesl Munden (all the way from Cornwall) for flowers and helping Marion Marston cutting the cakes, and laying tables. To all of you my dear friends who helped to make this day special by being there. Come to see the photos and video (you are all on them) just phone first. May we always meet on each other's simchas.

I can't help telling you a little family joke apropos the photos on which I look good. An aunt of mine, not the best looking person, was showing, to a large circle of relatives and friends, the photos taken at the birth of her first baby. Everyone said how lovely she looked, when her mother, visiting from Poland, exclaimed loudly, in Yiddish *mochst du nur asoy ausgesehen* (if only you would really look like that). Forgive this long *Megilla* now Purim is over.

Israeli Newsletter has just arrived and reports, among other things, their delight in hearing about the honour 'Sir' Nicholas Winton received, as well as Inge (Bertha's sister's) write up of the birthday party. They send their condolences, as do the US kinder on David Jedwab's passing, also reporting the death of Yasha Lichtson, who before making *aliya* lived at the Bayit in Birmingham

With sincere wishes for Peace and a Very Good *Pesach*.

*Photo sent in by Leonie Flack, Aunt of Barmitzvah Boy.
British born Leon Slagel, celebrating his Barmitzvah in April 1939
and invited all 'The Hostel Boys' to his home in Willesden.*



SEARCH NOTICES

Lilly and Erika Hecker, from Schwarzwasser, now Strumien in southern Poland. My great-uncle Hugo escaped to UK in summer 1939. His nieces Lilly and Erika were in touch with him until his early death in 1964. Their parents survived the war in Palestine but they remained in England. Information please to juliawinckler@gmx.net.

Ruth Hingston née Frank, from Hamburg. Any information please to Janina Zölch, email janina_zoelch@hotmail.com.

Sophie Silberstein née Raps. From Kassel. Spent childhood in Gwrych Castle. Would like to know if other Kinder were there during war. Information please to Bertha Leverton

Ivenna Joivas (Jonas), Hamburg. Searching for girls who were in Roseneath, a hostel in Broadstairs, Kent following stay in Dover Court. Kindertransport 2

December 1938. Information please to Margaret Kahn, email irvingkahn1@attbi.com.

Daniel Ben Yaakov, died 14 March. Born Germany 1 March 1928. Sent by parents with brother to UK before WWII. His late brother became a psychiatrist in the USA. Daniel came to Israel as volunteer in war of Independence. Lost a lung in battle on Mt Zion, Jerusalem. Was expert in military history, interpreter in Eichmann trial. Information for article in Israeli newspaper, please contact Udi Cain, email chaikin@netvision.net.il.

The daughters of John Hayes (Hans Otto Haas), who are believed to be in Bushey, Herts. John's parents, Manfred and Olga née Van Wien, perished in the Holocaust. In Leipzig, John was classmate of Peter Held, now living in London (?). Information on whereabouts of Hayes daughters please to Johann Fleischmann, email johann.Fleischmann@mesusa.de.

ISRAEL AND USA NEWSLETTER PLEASE COPY SEARCHES

OBITUARIES

Huttrer. Felix Huttrer (Bradford Boys Hostel) died 10.1.03. At the Shiva a very special moving tribute was read, sent by Avraham Shomroni, Israel (formerly Alfred Helfgot), spanning the life and achievements of his close friend. Condolences to Mary (Putzi) and family.

Wiener. Harry Wiener (Berlin, London, Manchester), has passed away aged 79. Condolences to all his Hostel friends.

P.S. Owing to shortage of storage space, the AJR have asked us to remove our remaining boxes of Reunion Books and Videos, which we will now clear at bargain prices. This is a very special offer and you all know the quality of this wonderful large book and three-hour video, a lasting record of our 60th anniversary Reunion.

The price for BOTH is £5.00 only plus £3.00 p&p., which you can save if you collect from AJR Head Office, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frognal, NW3 or the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, 15 Cleve Road, London NW6 or on any Kinder lunch. Orders can be taken by Andrea at the office - your cheque should be made payable to KT Publications