

AJR Information

Volume LII No. 4
April 1997

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss...

**Stripping
whitewash from
the Wehrmacht**
Richard Grunberger p2

**How to tell our
'story'**
Rabbi Julia Neuberger
p5

Failure of a mission
AW Freud p13

Biased Broadcasting Corporation

On the March 10 evening news bulletin Jeremy Bowen reported Israeli 'ethnic cleansing' of East Jerusalem, which 30 years after its conquest in the '67 War 'contained far more Jews than Arabs'. What he signally failed to mention was that pre-1967 no Jew was even permitted to visit Hashemite East Jerusalem – site of the Wailing Wall – and that the Israeli conquest occurred after Jordan had ignored urgent Israeli pleas to stay out of the conflict and joined Syria and Egypt in attacking the nascent Jewish State. The earlier War of Israeli Independence had been accompanied by the total expulsion of Jews from their (sometimes century-old) places of residence in E. Jerusalem □

Unfair to whom?

For starters, let's have a quick quiz. Who won the world war? Was it Churchill, Roosevelt, or Stalin, or all three? Or does the glory belong to Generals Montgomery, Eisenhower and Patten, with a little help from Marshal Zhukov and Bomber Harris? And who won the Battle of Waterloo? The British would say Wellington – and that is what I learned at Hendon County School. If I had stayed in school in Berlin long enough, I expect I would have been taught it was Bluecher. And whom would the French pick? Surely even they could not persuade themselves it was Napoleon!

In talking about any war, any victory or defeat, surely you would not leave out the leaders, the winners and losers. In discussing Waterloo, surely you would not even leave out the same Napoleon who lost that battle and with it his liberty for the rest of his life? And could you sensibly talk about Israel's Six-Day War in 1967 without mentioning Moshe Dayan?

So what were the rabbis of old up to in the Haggadah when they cut Moses out of the story of Passover? Were they the first and the greatest re-writers – and distorters – of history?

Does not the first and most authentic draft of the story, in the Torah, give Moses a central role? And is not the Haggadah, the rabbis' re-write therefore monstrously unfair to Moses?

The one explanation of their seemingly eccentric behaviour which will not wash, is to write them off as ancient fossils who did not know what they were doing. They were a lot clearer in their aims than some of us are today. In writing Moses out of his story, they pursued one simple objective. They wanted to switch the spotlight on God alone and that may have chipped away some of the credit of Moses, but was not totally unfair to him. Because stunning as was this reluctant leader's achievement in loosening the dictator Pharaoh's grip on his little band of Hebrew slaves, and even more stupendous as was this stutterer's feat in persuading these slaves to leave their safe and settled homes for a manna ramble around the desert, the deed was not that of Moses alone.

The Egyptian first-born did not die simply because

Moses wanted to teach Pharaoh a harsh lesson. The sea did not divide at the moment of desperate need simply because he pointed his staff at it. The sea did not go back to cover the dry strip – and drown the Egyptians – simply because the Israelites had finished their crossing. Just as some April day some years ago, the sea around Holy Island, Northumberland, did not recede because I wanted to drive over the causeway to see the vicar on some pastoral matter, and covered the causeway some hours later just because I had finished my business and was on my way home to Newcastle.

And just as Alan Shearer and Paul Gascoigne could score no goals, or Will Carling could win no rugby match – and lose no wife – without factors beyond their control.

To have left God – religion's shorthand for the unforeseen and unpredictable – out of the Passover story would have been as unfair as to leave Moses out of it. As far as God is concerned, it is an unfairness of which we are guilty most of the time through most of our lives. We tend to pride ourselves on our successes and blame ourselves for our failures, without giving any space, let alone weight, to the unseen and unforeseen X-factor which religion calls God.

To tell the story of the Second World War, as of the Exodus, of the establishment of the State of Israel, as of the recent liberation of Eastern Europe from Communism, without any regard whatever to that X-factor, is to leave a gap and distort the picture.

Seder night and its Haggadah come on April 21 to restore the balance.

□ Rabbi William Wolff



London's memorial to Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved tens-of-thousand Hungarian Jews from deportation to Auschwitz from Budapest in 1944.

Stripping whitewash from the Wehrmacht

The *Crimes of the Wehrmacht* exhibition has been touring German cities for the last two years, prompting diametrically opposite species of outrage. On the one hand thoughtful, and frequently younger, Germans react with horror to the irrefutable evidence of Wehrmacht atrocities. On the other hand, conservatives are appalled to see the myth that Hitler's warriors in fieldgrey – unlike those in black – fought with clean hands evaporate before their eyes.

The myth was not of purely German manufacture. In the postwar – and Cold War – decades, Washington and London colluded with Bonn to turn Denazification into little more than a cosmetic exercise. They failed to remove the guilty men from positions of power and sidestepped the issue of general German complicity in Nazi crimes. Whitewashing the army was part of that mendacious rewrite of history.

Ultimately though, in the words of the proverb, *Lügen haben kurze Beine*. During the time the exhibition criss-crossed the Bundesrepublik, more and more ex-soldiers have come forward with gutwrenching photographs of atrocities. But there has also been a contrary conservative-shading-into-neo-Nazi mobilisation of forces that aim to sweep unpalatable truths under the carpet once more. In Erfurt, for instance, rightwingers sprayed exhibition panels with the word 'lies'.

The Wehrmacht exhibition is currently agitating public opinion in arch-conservative Bavaria, whose provincial cities – like Passau, featured in the film *The Nasty Girl* – seem stuck in a swastika-hued timewarp. In fact, Bavaria is turning into a veritable battleground between truth seekers and self-designated 'patriots'. The CSU Mayor of Regensburg boycotted the opening of the exhibition in his town. In Munich the local CSU leader did the same and convened a 'counter-ceremony' at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

But even in Bavaria, a region whose traditional ethos is succinctly evoked by three place names – Oberammergau, Bayreuth, Dachau – the truth seekers do not altogether lack political clout: in Munich the Social Democratic city council is playing host to the exhibition at the Town Hall.

□ Richard Grunberger

Profile

Now't beyond our Ken

Kurt Abrahamsohn was born in Stettin into a conventional middle-class German-Jewish family, headed by his lawyer father. He too wanted to read law, but at the age of 16, in 1936, his schooling was interrupted as the dictum 'get the children out' became the Jewish community's priority. An uncle's contacts enabled him to arrange a place for Kurt at a private school in Taunton, Somerset.



Ken Ambrose

He left that school at 18 and went to work for A. Goldrei & Co Ltd. in London, suppliers of bakers' sundries, who were happy to employ refugee children. Officially he was a 'student employee' and his name was anglicised to Ken Ambrose. As Ken he enrolled as an evening student at the London School of Economics.

His father was arrested during Kristallnacht in November 1938. Ken worked hard to find a safe haven for his parents in Britain and a family in Kent agreed to act as guarantors. When his parents arrived before Easter 1939, Ken became their provider. In late August a letter from the Jewish Refugee Committee asked when he intended moving on. But the outbreak of war on 3rd September meant that he remained in his 'protected occupation' and doing firewatching at night.

In June 1940 Ken was interned and shipped to Australia in the infamous Dunera. During his ten months there he was treated like a POW, but returned on the first boat, re-enrolled at the LSE and

was soon back with Goldrei. In 1943 he enlisted in the RAF, classified paradoxically as a 'friendly enemy alien'. Not cut out to be a pilot, he became an interpreter, was posted to Paris and followed the army into Germany. At the war's end he finished his degree while still in uniform and, at *The Hyphen* youth club, met his wife-to-be Hilde.

In 1950 Ken joined Marks & Spencer where he spent twelve years in management. From 1962 to 1985 part-time lecturing for the WEA became full-time teaching of Management Studies and Training at Central London Polytechnic; he also had consultancy assignments for the UN in Europe and the Far East.

Though now retired, he is active on a number of public projects, enquiries and in voluntary work. It was his initiative which launched the first local AJR group in South London in November 1994 which has not looked back under his continued guidance.

Having a suitcaseful of family documents, photographs and other memorabilia, Ken has spent three years sorting out and editing an account of his family's history from 1800 to 1950 – much of it in their own words. At present he is 'just waiting for a publisher'.

□ Ronald Channing

Austria's ex-Chancellor replies to AJR Director's letter

Dear Mr David,

I cordially thank you for the kind letter you sent on the occasion of my resignation from the political functions I had been entrusted with.

From my personal point of view, it is with pleasure and satisfaction that I look back on all these years, on the many experiences I have gathered and on the valuable contacts I have had. That it was during my time in office that Austria has finally engaged in an open debate on its past and made intense efforts to come to terms with the atrocities that had been committed under the Nazi regime, is something which I am particularly proud of.

Wishing you and the friends from the Association of Jewish Refugees all the best and every success for future endeavours, I remain,

Franz Vranitzky

Why Auschwitz was not bombed

Résumé of a Wiener Library lecture by
Dr Richard H. Levy

Two escapees from Auschwitz in April 1944 had provided incontrovertible proof of its function. Their report to Jewish representatives in Hungary and Geneva had a recommendation to undertake bombing appended to it.

The British knew of the deportations and where the victims were being gassed. However, while the British army's capture of the Italian airbase at Foggia notionally brought Auschwitz within bombing range, RAF Bomber Command remained based in Britain throughout the war.

A meeting of the Jewish Agency in Israel on 11th June, chaired by David Ben-Gurion, refused to request Allied bombing by a majority of 11:1 on the grounds that they "should not ask the Allies to bomb places where there are Jews." The Rescue Department of the World Jewish Congress in New York also opposed the bombing of Jews in the belief that it could provide "a welcome pretext for the Germans to assert that their Jewish victims have been massacred not by their killers, but by Allied bombings." American Jewish organisations never asked the US Government to bomb Auschwitz.

The Jewish Chronicle of 14th June 1944 spoke of bombing as "an unusual suggestion" and no further reference to the subject has been found.

In London, Chaim Weizmann and Moshe Shertok met Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden in an attempt to save Hungarian Jewry. Though bombing of the railway lines to Auschwitz was the last of five items, Eden agreed to explore the feasibility of stopping the operation of the death camps.

Bolstered by Churchill's admonition to "get anything out of the Air Force that you can and invoke me if necessary," on the 7th July Eden wrote to the Air Minister, Sir Archibald Sinclair, asking if anything could be done by bombing to stop the murder of Jews in Hungary. Sinclair's reply on 15th July was that "the distance is too great for the attack to be carried out at night." Nevertheless, he would put the proposition to the Americans and did so, but after a further two-week delay. General Spaatz of the US

Army Airforce, was most sympathetic and requested the camp's precise location, a request passed to the Foreign Office, but their negative attitude meant that details were never provided!

Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower always referred political matters to President Roosevelt who, in this case, would have consulted Jewish organisations and advisers. In fact, Washington was not informed of any consideration being given to a bombing project.

When considering the RAF's operational capability to bomb Auschwitz, Sinclair undoubtedly told the truth. Nights were short at that time of year and the RAF possessed no means of defending their bombers at a range of up to 800 miles in daylight raids. No reconnaissance had been undertaken and the chances of finding Auschwitz, let alone destroying four blacked-out buildings at night from a height of 30,000 feet, were extremely remote if almost non-existent.

□ Ronald Channing

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES

will be held on

SUNDAY 8th JUNE 1997
3pm at 15 Cleve Road NW6

Agenda:-

Annual Report 1996
Hon. Treasurer's Report
Discussion
Election of Committee of Management*

**Guest speaker: Stephen Smith,
Director of Beth Shalom
Holocaust Memorial Centre.**

- * No person other than a committee member retiring by rotation shall be elected or re-elected a committee member at any general meeting unless:-
- he or she is recommended by the Committee of Management, or
 - not less than twenty one clear days before the date appointed for the meeting, notice executed by ten members qualified to vote at the meeting has been given to the Society of the intention to propose that person for election or re-election together with notice executed by that person of his willingness to be elected or re-elected.

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Reviews

Unique act of resistance

Nathan Stoltzfus, *RESISTANCE OF THE HEART*, Norton, \$30 (1996)

American historian Stoltzfus tells the extraordinary story of the Rosenstrasse protest in February/March 1943, when some 2,000 Berlin Jews were released from arrest by the Nazis authorities. These 2,000 were either Jews married to Germans or *Mischlinge* with German relatives, and it was these Germans (mostly the wives of intermarried Jews) who secured their loved ones' release, by demonstrating publicly in front of the building in the Rosenstrasse where they were being held. The women continued their street protest despite the terror apparatus of the Nazi state, defying threats from police and SS to shoot them down.

Stoltzfus has produced a meticulous, su-

perbly researched reconstruction of a unique incident. He has interviewed numerous surviving participants, including the first interview ever with Goebbels' top deputy at the Propaganda Ministry, Leopold Gutterer. This personal testimony, sometimes deeply moving, is skillfully interwoven with historical analysis of the issues raised by the protest. Could more Jews have been saved by similar methods? Should the Jewish communal authorities faced with the agonising choice between complicity and martyrdom, have refused to co-operate in the deportations?

The loyalty of the wives is awe-inspiring. Only 7% of intermarried Germans divorced their Jewish partners, despite 12 years of daily abuse and harassment. Of the German Jews who survived the Holocaust, 98% were intermarried and they largely owed their lives to the Rosenstrasse protest. But the power of street protests to save Jews was surely limited to the Reich itself. One can easily imagine what would have happened to the protesting women if they had been

Russians or Poles, and though many more German Jews could have been saved if their fellow citizens had publicly resisted Nazi antisemitism, that would have required a different Germany. The situation of the Rosenstrasse women was untypical: having lost their husbands, they had nothing else to lose and could act with the courage of despair, taking on the regime in a way that most Germans would have shunned as suicidal.

Stoltzfus identified Goebbels, Party leader in Berlin, as a key figure. Sensing the popular mood immediately after the disaster at Stalingrad, the Propaganda Minister opted not to employ force against a public show of dissent by German women bent on freeing their husbands. The Nazis' obsession with the defeat of 1918, which they attributed to a collapse of civilian morale, also made them unexpectedly responsive to this type of protest. Lastly, the protest took place in Berlin; in Vienna, one imagines, popular disapproval would have crushed any pro-Jewish demonstration.

□ Anthony Grenville

Far-flung places

THE JEWISH TRAVEL GUIDE 1997, published in association with The Jewish Chronicle, London, £10.95.

Most of us consider that the roots of our Jewish heritage can be found in the last two or three hundred years somewhere in continental Europe. After the ravages of the Holocaust these are not always so readily located. These days the ease and frequency with which most of us travel means that we should look for Jewish history in some of the more seemingly unlikely places in the world.

The 1997 *Jewish Travel Guide* is a detailed listing of all Jewishly active places wherever in the world it is possible to visit. Not only does it give details of the obvious locations, such as the USA, Great Britain and, of course, Israel, but of literally anywhere in the world where there is an identifiable Jewish community.

Many of us who have taken a Caribbean cruise, or holiday in the West Indies, probably did not imagine that at almost every port of call there would be a Jewish community with a history dating back several hundred years.

In Curaçao, the former Dutch Colony, in the Netherlands Antilles, an island



Curaçao's Temple Emanuel synagogue, built in 1864 but no longer in use as a place of worship.

famous for its orange liqueur, there is a still thriving community dating back to 1651. Curaçao has two active synagogues, (Ashkenazi and Sephardi), a Jewish school, and supermarkets stocking kosher food. The defunct Temple Emanuel (built in 1864) is a major tourist attraction on the island. Almost all cruise ships leaving Miami call at San Juan in Puerto Rico. Arriving Jewish passengers may be surprised to learn that the current Jewish population is more than 4,000. This compares with the Jewish community of under 5,000 in, say, New Zealand where we would all expect there to be a

reasonably substantial thriving community.

To continue our review of frequently visited locations: the former British colony of Barbados currently accommodates only a very small community, but has a great deal of Jewish history. It was founded by refugees from Brazil after its reconquest by the Portuguese in about 1650. The synagogue and cemetery in the aptly named Synagogue Lane in the island capital of Bridgetown are still in use – and are in the process of restoration after years of neglect. Members are currently raising funds for the restoration of the tombstones, many of which date back two or three hundred years.

No matter where the Jewish visitor sets foot the local community extends a welcome; short stay visitors are advised to contact the appropriate community (as detailed in the *Jewish Travel Guide*) in advance.

This annual publication is a reference book no concerned Jewish traveller should be without when planning a trip at home or abroad.

One slight caveat: the guide would be even more valuable if it offered recommendations and practical advice for the travellers on a par with that found in travel guides of more general interest.

□ Philip Goodmaker

How to tell our 'story'

In the last few months, I have reviewed a great many books to do with the Holocaust, from Martin Gilbert's *The Boys* to Anne Karpf's extraordinary account of her childhood. But I am increasingly aware of Holocaust survivors' accounts fatigue on the part of many literary editors, something which seems to me to be particularly British. It seems as if more and more accounts are published in the United States to some considerable acclaim, whilst the British public, or the literary editors, have decided that enough is enough.

It is worth considering why this might be. People have felt their memories in some way released by the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, or of the end of the war. There is also the sense that elderly survivors do not wish to go to the grave with their memories still intact inside them; although they know it will be excruciatingly painful to recall some of the worst nightmares, they feel it should be, in some way, 'on the record'.

Those seem to me to be perfectly good explanations of why so much material is being published now. Yet the voices I hear are saying things like 'There is too much. People are bored...' or 'We have read the story before...' or 'It's is very moving but the writing is appalling...' and so on. None of the stories is exactly like any other. Indeed, reading Martin Gilbert's group biography of *The Boys*, I was struck by the differences between the 732 people whose experiences he was recording.

But there is one point it is worth listening to. And that is about how these accounts read in the eyes of the reader who lacks family knowledge, or experience. This may well be someone who has real sympathy (there is nothing antisemitic or even unsympathetic about this response), but does not share the curiosity many of us have for every tiny detail.

We Jews want to read the personal accounts for many reasons. First, we do not want the story forgotten, nor the names of those of our families who perished to pass from historical accounts in daily use. These accounts are one way of ensuring memory for relatives who probably never even had a grave, whose place of death is unknown.

Secondly, we think it important that people who have a story to tell should tell it loud and clear – to put it on the record, certainly, but also to free them-

selves of some of the pain, in order to gain a form of spiritual peace. That may sound grandiose, but there is an element of wanting to extract accounts from people who for fifty years and more have been unwilling, and often unable, to speak about their experiences.

Thirdly, we believe that a large number of accounts will somehow make it all more real to those who read them – our children, who were not there and did not know the survivors in the early years in this country; children at large who study the Holocaust at school; the world at large because for so long they did not know, or did not want to know, and then later they could not, or did not want to, believe it.

These are some of our motives. Yet I am not sure that all of them are generalisable to a wider reading public. Indeed, I think that one of the magnificent things about Martin Gilbert's *The Boys* was precisely the nature of the group biography. That does not answer the individual need to tell the story, but it might answer the problems of a reading public less keen to read individual stories (or perhaps it is only the literary critics who are getting bored).

Whichever the case, I believe that we need to think about why it should be that there is less public enthusiasm for reading people's experiences just at the point when more are willing to write them, and may not have much time left. And perhaps we should contemplate ways of telling a group story, or a series of group stories, as well as encouraging individuals to tell their own stories, even though they might not all be published right now.

This is painful stuff, and I am aware that some AJR readers will think that I should not be saying it. But I am certain that we still have much to tell the wider world, let alone our children and grandchildren, but that when we do it, we must make sure it gets the notice it deserves. And if that means a different tactic, so be it. After all, the survivors who go round schools talking to young children about their experiences have made a whole generation in some areas understand a little of the Holocaust and its implications for families and fractured lives. If it can work to tell the history like that, and it is impressive and moving to see it, then surely we can think of new ways of publishing – with perhaps more material on video in this extraordinarily screen orientated age, and look to telling the young just as much, but perhaps a little differently.

□ Julia Neuberger

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Letters to the Editor



EUROSCEPTIC RIPOSTE

Sir - I heartily concur with Ernest David's comments (February issue) and am puzzled why the majority of our 'ilk', matured in a Liberal Jewish environment, should support sentiments tending towards the political left.

Ludicrous laws have emanated from the bureaucrats of Brussels concerning the origin of Yorkshire pudding or the shape and colour of bananas and sausages. EMU is the last straw and handover of independence. The total gold and foreign currency reserves would be handed over to the Central European Bank in Frankfurt and we would have no more say over wages, taxes, VAT, interest, pensions etc. With many impoverished East European countries clamouring for admittance, our cost of living must invariably rise if the common budget is to be balanced. How masochistic have we become?

Wembley
Middx

Anthony Goldsmith

Sir - In 'It occurs to me' (February issue) I have found affirmation. It just about summed up what we Central European refugees have long suspected: the EU is more a unitary state in the making than a federation!

I personally feel that blood relations are more reliable bedfellows than can be found anywhere! They fought for your country and always came to its assistance, even quite recently when your sole sailor had to be picked up by Australian efforts which not only cost the country millions of dollars, but demonstrated to the world its readiness, willingness and bonhomie. It is still not too late to renew old ties and forge them afresh in a world crying out just for this!

I have found your thoughts most refreshing. Good luck to you for expressing them so lucidly in *AJR Information* for the first time ever!

Woollahra
Australia

Edith Fischl-Lee

Sir - Ernest David is quite right in stating that the only democratic institution of the EU, the European

Parliament, is a toothless creature. He does not mention that Britain has been in the forefront of preventing this institution from gaining any power lest it takes away authority from the British Parliament. It is hardly fair criticism first to make the Parliament powerless, and then criticise it for being so.

If anyone believes in complete economic union, he must believe in a common currency. Would the United States have achieved their enormous wealth if every state had its own currency? A common currency does not necessarily mean political union. Britain and the Irish Republic had a common currency for very many years, yet could not have been further apart politically.

Nor is Ernest David's example of Bosnia relevant. The state of Bosnia was formed through a referendum with only the Moslems supporting it. The Serbs and Croats were violently opposed. The European Union is a voluntary association. If any nation wants to secede, nobody will stop them.

Ilford
Essex

Peter Prager

THE PAST IN THE PRESENT

Sir - I wholeheartedly agree with Mr Jaray's letter of February stating '*AJR Information* breathes everywhere a cold indifference to British interests and British tradition'.

New Cavendish Street
London W1

RH Hellmann

My 'indifference' to British interests resembles Edward Heath's. As to tradition, I invite my critics to quote instances where *AJR Information* breached the British tradition of democracy, tolerance and civilised values. Ed.

VORSPRUNG DURCH TECHNIK

Sir - It should perhaps have been made clear in your review of *Zwangsarbeit bei Daimler-Benz* (March issue), that this work was actually commissioned by Daimler-Benz and as such is not an independent unbiased account of their

reparations to their former forced employees.

It should be noted that Daimler-Benz did not make any payments until 1988 and then to the Claims Conference and the German Red Cross. They have never paid any compensation to individual slave labourers who helped to enrich the company, nor have they contributed to the German social security system in respect of such people.

I trust that people who buy Daimler-Benz products and those of other companies who benefited from slave labour do so in full consciousness of the facts.

Croft Way
London NW3

M Lafontaine

ILLEGAL OCCUPATION

Sir - I am astonished that *AJR Information* which generally holds admirably radical views, advertises 'Israel's Finest Wines' from the Golan Heights (January issue).

Perhaps I should remind readers that the Golan is not Israel, but a large part (13,000 sq. kilometres) of Syria under Israeli occupation since 1967. Due to Israeli expulsion tactics, 130,000 Syrians were forced to flee and almost all their villages destroyed. The remaining Syrian/Arab population has faced continuous repression. Furthermore, by the end of 1995, 13,500 Israeli settlers were living in the Golan in 38 illegal Jewish villages.

Rochdale
Lancashire

George S Abendstern

The 'Golan issue' will only be settled when Syria stops stirring the Lebanon pot and accepts co-existence with Israel. Even a Likud government would then be obliged to withdraw. Ed.

NIGGARDLY HOME OFFICE

Sir - Further to your obituary of Ester Simpson (January issue). She was a very remarkable woman who helped countless refugee scholars as secretary of the Academic Assistance Council.

The generosity of the academic community in the 1930s is in stark contrast with the overall attitude of the Home Office, which allowed the 10,000 'Kinder' to enter Britain only after much pressurising and after securing firm financial guarantees that the children would not be a burden on the state. Alas, many less fortunately placed adults who would have

jumped at the chance of entering Britain in the years before the war could not obtain entry visas and perished.

Hugo Road
London N19

Leslie Brent
Emeritus Professor

BULLET-SCARRED BALLOT

Sir – Since the Crusades, there has been no 'Arab land' in Palestine. Turkish-ruled Palestine contained a small number of feuding Arab families (see Joan Peters' painstakingly researched book *From Time Immemorial*). Arabs started flooding into the country in the wake of the British and the Jews, to take advantage of better living conditions.

It is gratifying that Mr Eric Sanders (December issue) allows the Jews to have their own mini-State – however indefensible along boundaries laid down by much disputed UN Resolutions.

Jerusalem, Israel

ES Schwab

AJR INFO A MASS CIRCULATION JOURNAL

Sir – I have had 45 letters and telephone calls in response to my query about *Das Männlein im Walde*. I cannot possibly reply to all of them, particularly as some did not give an address. But all deserve a big thank you.

Wembley Park
Middlesex

Ilse Shindel

SPREADING THE WORD

Sir – I always look forward to *AJR Information* and get plenty of food for thought from it. I go round my area giving talks on my experiences as a refugee – 35 or so talks last year – and my timetable is full for 1997.

Surfing for relatives on the Internet does bring results. My Canadian cousin came up with a large hitherto unknown family connection and they had a grand reunion in the States.

Deddington
Oxon

Marianne Elsley (Josephy)

JECKE

Sir – *Jecke* (January issue) is the initials of 'Jehudi Kshe Havana' (a Jew of limited understanding). It was given to us early arrivals (1933), as a derogatory term for not knowing the language, being too polite and too punctual.

Temple Fortune

Hannah Toeg

HAIDER'S COURT JEW

Sir – John Patton (Letters, February) lists 'Franco terror' and Mussolini's 'jails and torture chambers'. These were, however, child's play compared with the torture chambers of the Lubianka and the horrors of the Gulag. In Italy and Spain Fascism prevented a take-over by infinitely worse Communism.

Parliamentary Democracy on the British model is, indeed, the best available system, but many countries are not suited to it. Where only the two alternatives are available, non-racist Fascism is by far preferable to Communism.

Old Coulsdon
Surrey

G Schmerling

FRANK FOLEY

Sir – I am a journalist with the *Daily Telegraph* and am working on a biography of Frank Foley, British Passport Control Officer in Berlin during the 1930s. Anyone who came to Britain from Germany during that time would have had to go through his office and I am anxious to interview anyone whom he helped. I wonder if you might be able to help me.

The Daily Telegraph
1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf
London E14 5DT

Michael Smith

FOOTBALL HERO

Sir – I am addressing myself to any reader interested in football who remembers Austria's national *Wunderteam* of the early 1930s.

The Guinness Record of World Soccer states that Matthias Sindelar, their centreforward and one of the greatest footballers of all time, was Jewish. I have never heard this before. Can any of your readers confirm or deny it?

Hampstead
London NW3

Ludwig Berlin

HELDENTENOR

Sir – Looking through some family papers I came across a couple of signed photographs of Leo Slezak, who was a big name at the Vienna Opera.

I know my grandfather was a great friend of his, and they stem from that time, dated 1927.

I am not particularly interested in them, but wonder if any readers collect items of this nature. I would be pleased to hear from anybody interested.

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The AJR at Work



Centenarians Herta Arndt, Eve Green, Eva Jellineck and Regina Schneck planting a tree.

GENERATION TO REGENERATION

Four lady residents of the Otto Schiff Housing Association, whose combined ages of 400 years would take us back to Elizabethan times, planted an apple tree in the grounds of Leo Baeck House in The Bishops Avenue, London, in celebration of *Tu b'Shvat*, the Jewish New Year for Trees.

Mrs Herta Arndt (above) who was born

in 1893, watched by Mrs Eve Green, Mrs Eva Jellineck and Mrs Regina Schneck who were all born in 1897, is helped by Henry Jonas to trowel in the bedding soil. Otto Schiff residents plant a tree or shrub every year for future generations to enjoy. Mrs Arndt and Mrs Schneck have been AJR members for many years.

□ TI

A sense of loss

Many of the AJR's much-appreciated voluntary workers are themselves former refugees, or are the children and grandchildren of refugees. It was therefore both familiar and illuminating for a group of them to hear psychologist and co-founder of London's Holocaust Survivors' Centre, Dr Gabby Glassman, discuss the consequences of uprooting and loss at a specially organised meeting held at the AJR Paul Balint Day Centre.

Dr Glassman, who was born in Holland and whose parents were Holocaust survivors, specialises in the counselling of

survivors, refugees from Nazi persecution and their families. In her experience, consciously or unconsciously, parents often put pressure on their children to succeed in life beyond the realms of reasonable expectation. By so doing, they attempt to compensate for their loss of educational opportunities, families, homes and even their identities.

Paradoxically, while their own experiences tend to make them lose sight of religion or 'God', they still expect their children to adhere to the tradition and practice of Judaism.

□ DP

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Tuesday	7 April
Thursday	24 April
Wednesday	30 April
Tuesday	6 May

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No appointment is necessary, but please bring
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Books, letters, bills, etc.

It occurs to me . . .

Last month we published a cartoon which had appeared in a Swiss French language newspaper, which to any Jew appeared to be viciously anti-semitic. However, when we complained to the Swiss Ambassador, we were told that in the paper's view "to any sensible Swiss citizen, the caricature refers to the Swiss Cabinet with the first figure depicting and reinforcing some characteristics of the nature of the previous President of the Swiss Confederation." The editor of the Swiss paper denied the cartoon was antisemitic. He merely used the symbol of black coated, hook-nosed people praying at a wall, to indicate how the Swiss worship gold.

In January, despite a subsequent apology, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, supported its young journalist who thought it odd that a Jew, even a Foreign Secretary, should quote Luther. One wonders if she thought of Luther merely as a Christian, or was her surprise due to Luther's well known anti-semitism?

In London the first visit in 49 years by an Israeli Head of State, while well reported by the press, with very favourable editorial comment by *The Times*, was almost a non event in both BBC and ITV's main television evening news.

Despite both chains showing pictures of riots in Israel, neither found a slot to show President Weizman with the Queen.

These are but three recent examples of apparent antisemitism, although in every case the perpetrator denies or would deny any intention of being deliberately offensive. Am I – are we – too sensitive? Are we too thin skinned in seeking out manifestations of antisemitism? After all, we live in free and democratic societies, where people are allowed to express their opinions, poke a little fun and comment on other peoples' characteristics, unless they infringe the laws on racism.

However, we have six million good reasons to be nervous and sensitive; we have the growth of extreme Nationalist parties in France and Austria; we have revisionists denying that the Holocaust ever happened; and we have young people growing up knowing little about the recent past.

Remember that one definition of antisemitism is 'disliking Jews more than is absolutely necessary'.

□ Ernest David

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Afternoon entertainment –

APRIL 1997

- | | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| Tuesday | 1 | A MUSICAL MEDLEY FOR PIANO & VOICE – Melanie Mehta (Soprano) accompanied by Martin Sharpe (Piano) |
| Wednesday | 2 | OPERA HIGHLIGHTS |
| Thursday | 3 | MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT FOR SPRING – Judi – Bimbi & Rufus Merrie-Frowde accompanied by June Moore (Piano) |
| Sunday | 6 | MY SONG OF LOVE – Katinka Seiner accompanied by Leslie Barnes (Piano) with Guest Artist Laszlo Easton (Violin) |
| Monday | 7 | CHANSON D'AVRIL – Satya Barham (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano) |
| Tuesday | 8 | AN AFTERNOON OF YOUR FAVOURITE SONGS – Suzanna Marks (Soprano) accompanied by Janet Beale (Piano & Accordion) |
| Wednesday | 9 | LESLIE TOWNSEND (Violin) & PHILIPPA BALE (Piano) Entertain for an April Afternoon |
| Thursday | 10 | THE TRENTAM DUO – (Violin & Cello) |
| Sunday | 13 | GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ – Compiled & Presented by Lily Rudolfer |
| Monday | 14 | THE DABROWSKI |

QUARTET – Tracie Penwarden (Soprano) – Andrew Farris (Baritone) – Nigel Cassidy (Tenor) accompanied by Marek Dabrowski (Piano)

- | | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| Tuesday | 15 | SPRINGTIME IN VIENNA – Elizabeth Ward (Soprano) accompanied by Margaret Lion (Piano) |
| Wednesday | 16 | DAY CENTRE OPEN – LUNCHEON CLUB |
| Thursday | 17 | COME DANCE WITH ME – Carmen Lasok (Soprano) accompanied by Phillip Mountford (Piano) |
| Sunday | 20 | DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday | 21 | CLOSED – EREV PESACH |
| Tuesday | 22 | CLOSED – PESACH |
| Wednesday | 23 | CLOSED – PESACH |
| Thursday | 24 | A MEDLEY OF CLASSICAL SONGS – Madge Duncan-Sutherland (Soprano) accompanied by Stephen Baron (Piano) |
| Sunday | 27 | CLOSED – EREV PESACH |
| Monday | 28 | CLOSED – PESACH |
| Tuesday | 29 | CLOSED – PESACH |
| Wednesday | 30 | A PIANO TRIO – Bridgete Hurst – Myrtle Bruce-Mitford – Timothy Barratt (Piano) |

MAY

- | | | |
|----------|---|--|
| Thursday | 1 | MAY DAY CONCERT – Fiona Tanner (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano) |
| Sunday | 4 | MUSICAL SOIREE – Arranged by Deborah Fink (Soprano) with Piano Accompaniment |

Origins

Zaccaria (or Zachariah) Levy, an ancestor of Princess Anne's husband Commander Timothy Laurence, was born in Venice in 1751 and married a member of the Montefiore family at London's Bevis Marks Synagogue in 1786. He died in 1828 □

FAMILY**Birthdays**

Steiner. Kurt Steiner of 29 Yale Court, Honeybourne Road, NW6, celebrated his 85th Birthday on 23rd March 1997.

Deaths

Gordon. Eva Fanny Gordon, née Goldschmidt, born 28.4.1917 in Berlin, died 19.1.97 in Leicester after a long illness. Deeply mourned by her husband Harold, sons Peter and Michael, sister Ilse in America, family and many friends.

Brandt. Jakob Eugen Brandt passed away suddenly on 9th January aged 85 years. Much missed by his family and many friends.

Morgenstern. Erna Morgenstern died 15th February 1997. Sadly missed by all who knew her at the Day Centre.

Alexander. Tamara, wife of Paul A Alexander, died peacefully at the North London Hospice on 8th February 1997.

In Memoriam

Weiss. Karl Weiss, died March 1982, and Tommy Weiss, who left us suddenly March 1956, not quite 11 years old. "*Es ist bestimmt in Gottes Rat, dass man vom Liebsten das man hat, muss scheiden, ja scheiden.*" Lisl.

CLASSIFIED**Miscellaneous**

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Alice Schwab

Art Notes

The Imperial War Museum is showing *Forties Fashion and the New Look* till August 31. It marks the fiftieth anniversary of Christian Dior's romantic but controversial New Look. Over a hundred costumes and accessories are displayed including elegant evening gowns, utility frocks, underwear, patriotic textiles, outfits improvised from blackout fabric and parachutes, Hollywood costumes, uniforms, factory wear, the demob suit, children's clothing and cosmetics.

The Tate Gallery exhibition *Lovis Corinth Pioneer of German Impressionism* runs to May 4. Lovis Corinth is one of the most fascinating 'undiscovered' artists of the early modern period. A pioneer of German Impressionism, he went on to become one of the founders of Expressionist art. This will be the first major retrospective of his work in the UK.



Lovis Corinth, self-portrait, 1924.

The British Museum shows *Heirs of Rome: The Shaping of Britain AD 400-900*, as part of a European Science Foundation Research Programme. One of the most compelling works of early medieval art – the newly-restored great Pictish stone shrine from St Andrew's Cathedral, is displayed here for the first time outside Scotland. The exhibition finishes on April 20.

A reminder: the Denis Mahon collection *Discovering the Italian Baroque* is on show at the National Gallery, Sainsbury Wing until May 28 □

SB's Column

The death of operetta had been forecast for a long time, and when the last masters of that genre – Kalman, Lehar, Oscar Straus – died in the postwar years, alarm bells started ringing. Revivals have been attempted in Germany and Austria. However, younger audiences stayed away and nowadays only a few standard works such as *The Merry Widow* and *Die Fledermaus* still attract the public. Offenbach also proves durable: English National Opera has performed a new version of *La Belle Hélène*. Britain, incidentally, appears attached to operetta: Gilbert and Sullivan are as popular as ever, and Ivor Novello's *Dancing Years* and *King's Rhapsody* appear regularly in the provincial amateur repertoire.

Erich Wolfgang Korngold was an infant prodigy whose first opera *Violanta* was produced at the Vienna State Opera when the composer was 19 years old. He emigrated to the United States where he turned out film scores and where he died, 60 years old, in 1957. Korngold's prentice work *The Ring of Polycrates* will be semi-staged (with piano) at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall on Friday 2 May to celebrate the centenary of his birth.

An indefatigable traveller. Dutch-born actor Johannes Heesters, now 93, is on tour again taking Flatow's comedy *Ein gesegnetes Alter* to many German cities. A highly successful operetta tenor, he still sang Danilo in his seventies.

Birthday. Austrian-born film director Fred Zinnemann would have been 90 this month. He left Vienna in 1929 for Hollywood where he gave Marlon Brando and Ava Gardner their first major chances. Zinnemann's oeuvre includes *High Noon*, *Man for All Seasons* and the musical *Oklahoma*. He lived in retirement in England □

London's Wallenberg memorial

A powerful and imposing memorial statue of Raoul Wallenberg, former Swedish diplomat who saved Jewish lives in German-occupied Budapest, was unveiled by The Queen in London in the presence of President of Israel Ezer Weizman during his state visit. The moving representation of Wallenberg stands before a wall draped with the Swedish flag and stacked at the rear with 'Schutzpässe' – protective passports he

created to give the recipients Swedish protective status and immunity from deportation.

Through his courageous efforts, some 100,000 Hungarian Jews were saved from deportation to Auschwitz where more than half a million of their compatriots were murdered in 1944. Instead of being fêted by the advancing Soviet army, he was captured and incarcerated; his fate still remains unresolved.

The Wallenberg memorial project was led by Sir Sigmund Sternberg for the Council of Christians and Jews, and Greville Janner MP for the Holocaust Education Trust. The sculptor, Philip Jackson, has created a memorial of outstanding merit and well repays a visit to Great Cumberland Place and the Western Marble Arch Synagogue, in front of which it stands, to pay homage. □ RDC

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Conference to trace looted gold

A delegation from the Inter-Parliamentary Committee on Antisemitism, led by Greville Janner MP, with David Hunt MP and Glyn Ford MEP, obtained the support of Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti in organising an international conference later this year to establish what happened to Nazi gold during and after World War II.

In an address to the Guild of Jewish Journalists, Greville Janner emphasised the progress which had already been made, since the release of documents last October, in investigating dormant bank accounts and valuables in deposit boxes left by Holocaust victims, and in identifying Nazi gold.

Switzerland's response to mounting international pressure had been to establish a commission of inquiry, though it is feared that many deposits and accounts would never be discovered. More recently, Swiss banks decided to create a humanitarian fund and pledged to place 100 million Swiss francs in a holding account for the benefit of Holocaust victims.

Greville Janner recalled that between 1938 and 1942, some 40,000 Jews struggling to escape persecution in Germany and Austria, had reached the Swiss border only to be refused entry. The Swiss requested a 'J' to be stamped on German Jews' passports to facilitate their recognition. Most of the Jews were returned or sent on to France to perish in the Holocaust.

After the war, under the terms of the 1946 Tripartite Agreement between Britain, France and the USA, Switzerland handed over \$60 million of gold looted from the national treasuries of occupied countries and stolen from the Jews. The Bank of England recently halted its final distribution of this gold and agreed that the residue should be held for Jewish and non-Jewish Holocaust victims. According to Mr Janner, there was now a need to renegotiate the agreement with the Swiss as large amounts must still be held by Swiss banks.

The international conference will invite the participation of all countries which held Nazi gold, including Sweden, Portugal, Argentina and, not least, Germany. The pooling of information, said Mr Janner, should reveal the magnitude and destinations of Nazi gold and meet the aim of achieving a return to its owners and their families. □ *Ronald Channing*

Accent-prone

There we were – my wife, myself and Erika – waiting for the National Theatre box office to open. As it did so, three characters materialised from nowhere and insinuated themselves into the queue ahead of us. Erika berated them. They stood their ground and argued back in accented English. Exasperated, Erika snapped at them "typical Continental behaviour!" I could hardly believe my ears: Erika had herself arrived on these shores from Vienna as an adolescent, but sounds like a native.

The incident brought to mind another one of a few years ago. On a Sunday walk with friends near Amersham, we rested in the grass for a breather when some fellow walkers stopped to pass the time of day. As we chatted they enquired in the friendliest way if we were day-trippers from the Continent.

Clearly accent makes all the difference. I used to think that a refugee's acquisition of accent-free English depended on the age of arrival in this country – with thirteen representing a sort of watershed. Over the years, though, I noticed many exceptions that made the thirteen-year rule of thumb untenable. The above-mentioned Erika had been fifteen when she came over – but had immediately been immersed in the atmosphere of a girls' boarding school. At the other extreme, I know a woman who had been fully ten years younger on arrival, yet still has an accent. (The explanation must surely be that she attended Stotley Rough School in Surrey where everybody – matron, staff, pupils – was of refugee origin).

Not that a foreign accent is necessarily a handicap, as has been proved in Washington where key decision-makers – Kissinger, Sonnenfeld, Brezinski – sounded distinctly un-American. Their Westminster counterparts were merely a handful of exotic MPs: Trebitsch-Lincoln, Goldschmidt, Maxwell. However, in this country not a few Royals could, on grounds of accent, have qualified for AJR membership. This holds true not only of the foreign-born first two Georges and Prince Consort Albert, but also for the latter's son, Edward VII.

A German-born princess who never fully mastered her adopted language – Russian – was Catherine the Great. A hundred and fifty years after her Russia again happened to be governed by a despot who sounded only marginally less

foreign: the Georgian Stalin.

Not that France was a stranger to foreign-sounding near-despots, with Cardinal Mazarin hailing from Italy, and Napoleon from Corsica.

Hungary probably got around the accent problem of its rulers by having all debates in the Diet conducted in Latin till the 1840s. On the other hand, Hungarians are known as probably the most accent-prone speakers of other languages ever. During a fairly recent TV interview with Sir George Solti, Jeremy Isaacs felt he had to assure viewers that the famous conductor was not speaking Hungarian. In Hollywood the director Michael Curtiz (Kertesz) was renowned for giving incomprehensible orders of the 'Bring on the empty horses' variety to film crews.

A highly accent-conscious fellow countryman of theirs was Arthur Koestler. Challenged by George Mikes why he, Mikes, always had to book the table when they dined out, Koestler replied plaintively: "Because whenever I telephone a restaurant I cannot make myself understood!" (Actually I have a suspicion that Koestler switched from political campaigning to scientific enquiry – a dramatic switch he announced to a protest meeting at the time of the 1956 Hungarian Uprising – because of his accent awareness).

□ *Richard Grunberger*



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Failure of a mission

The location of the dropping zone had been carefully selected: a mountain plateau, high up in the Italian Alps, between the valleys of the Tagliamento and Piave rivers. The nearest hamlet, Tramonti di Sopra, lay 1,000m above sea-level. The spot was chosen for its difficulty of access with the nearest well-known place, the skiing resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo, some 30 miles to the West.

The parachute drop was to be supported by a reception committee of Italian partisans. These would look after the four British arrivals during the critical first few hours. By the way, "British" in this context does not mean that any of them were British-born or had British nationality; it just indicated that they were fighting on the British side.

The partisans waited in vain. Thinking that they could hear a plane in the distance at about the appointed hour, they flashed their lights in the agreed code. But no plane appeared, nor did any parachutist, and the party dispersed disappointedly at first light. They had looked forward to their supply of arms, ammunition and English cigarettes.

Who were the four parachutists, and what had happened to them? They had taken off the evening before, 11th October 1944, from Brindisi airport, almost 500 miles to the South. Their task was to harass the enemy in any way possible, and in particular to support the Italian partisans active in that area. The war was entering its last stage. With the whole of France liberated and the Russians fighting in East Prussia only the most diehard Nazis still believed in a German victory.

The four parachutists belonged to the North Italian-Austrian Country Section, Special Operation Executive (SOE). Little is known about two of them: Wolfgang Treichel, a German officer of Austrian descent, and his reputed batman, Nikolas Huetz. Both were recruited from a POW camp. It is possible that they volunteered to fight for the British in connection with the Officers' Plot of 20th July 1944. They could well have been implicated in it, and wished to avenge the death of friends or relations.

The other two were Jewish refugees. Peter Priestley (né Lindenbaum) had arrived as a teenager from Vienna with a Kindertransport, the only one of his family to escape and survive. He was adopted

by a Yorkshire family, whose name he took. He came from a poor background, was good-natured, kind and helpful if over anxious, and not, in the opinion of a number of his colleagues, an ideal choice for SOE. He lacked co-ordination both in mind and body; hand grenade practice with Priestley was a hazardous occupation, as he would throw the grenades straight up instead of forward. But he volunteered to go on this dangerous early mission to Italy, in spite of being terrified. He shamed others who, better educated and endowed, refused this opportunity of a likely early death.

Finally, there was Lieutenant Stephen Dale, born Heinz Spanglet in Berlin in 1917, and nicknamed Ziba, because of an alleged resemblance to a *Zigeunerbaron*. He had been, unusual for a Jew, a seaman in the German Merchant Navy. His credentials were impeccable. He was first arrested as a boy of 16 in 1933 for anti-Nazi activities. Being young, he was released from the Gestapo HQ in the Prinz Albrecht Strasse after a relatively short stay. He experienced another brush with the Nazi authorities when arrested during Kristallnacht and he spent six weeks at Sachsenhausen concentration camp, where he was severely maltreated. Emigrating to England in 1939, he tried to volunteer for the armed forces, but instead was interned and transported to Australia. On his return, he was accepted into the Alien Pioneer corps (87th Coy.) from where he volunteered to join SOE. He was physically and mentally very fit, and difficult to get to know. He, a Prussian, could not always hide his disapproval of his *schlampige* (slovenly) Austrian colleagues. Of his family, his sister was saved by a Kindertransport to England, but his younger brother and parents perished.

A Polish air crew operated the Liberator bomber which took them from the heel of Italy to its northern rim. Not only was there a distinct and fatal lack of communication between the pilot of the aircraft and the parachutists, but also a conflict of interest. The pilot wanted to minimise the time spent over enemy territory, and secondly, he did not wish to fly into a mountainside at night. He knew that the highest peak in the eastern Alps, the Grossglockner, was only a few flying-minutes north of the dropping zone. Hence, in order to avoid hitting anything, he flew at 14,000 ft, well above the tallest mountain. And instead of spending time on carefully searching for the dropping zone, and identifying the signals from the recep-

tion committee, he gave the sign for jumping as soon as he saw some lights on the ground. It would have been better if one of the parachutists had sat next to the pilot to ensure correct identification of the area.

Thus, his four passengers were dropped from about 10,000 ft above ground-level, instead of the prescribed 1,000 to 2,000 ft. Naturally, the people at the end of the chutes took a long time to get down, and during it drifted all over the place. When at last they struck terra firma, they found themselves nowhere near where they should have been, but 15 miles to the east of it. Their reception committee consisted not of Italian partisans, but of German Waffen-SS auxiliary troops, mainly Cosacks. Apparently, the lights which the Polish pilot had seen could have been a badly blacked-out army camp!

Wolfgang Treichel knew what was in store for him when he was about to be taken prisoner, and preferred to end his life quickly; he shot himself. Nikolaus Huetz probably landed somewhere less exposed; he avoided capture and was the only one to make it back to base at Bari, after a three-month trek.

Poor Priestley landed in or next door to the army camp; he described it as almost landing in the cooking-pots. He was in uniform, but had a complete set of civilian identification papers on him. He had cleverly insisted on carrying these papers in a special pouch, fitted with an ignition device.

(To be continued)

□ AW Freud

Making a Will?

Please remember the AJR

Though we cannot take our worldly possessions with us, we can see that whatever is left behind goes where it will be appreciated, do some good and is needed.

Many former refugees have found their association with the AJR a rewarding one. This is an opportunity to support the AJR Charitable Trust.

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**CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE**

Cooking with Gretel Beer



Croute au Fromage

(per portion)

Winteringham Fields at Winteringham, South Humberside is a wonderful small hotel – a real find – with a superb restaurant. They've been inundated with awards, one of the more recent ones being the Egon Ronay kitchen of the year 1996 – where Swiss patron/chef Germain Schwab works absolute wonders. Not all his dishes warrant a chef's master touch – his Croute au Fromage is simplicity itself. And served with a crisp green salad it makes a perfect

light lunch or supper dish.

1 slice white bread
1 cut clove garlic
100g (3½oz) grated Emmenthal cheese
2 tablespoons white wine
3 tablespoons double cream
pinch each pepper, grated nutmeg and crushed garlic
1 egg
To garnish: sliced tomato, gherkins, small silverskin onions

Toast the bread and rub with the cut garlic clove. Crush the garlic clove. Place toast in a small, lightly buttered ovenproof dish. Put cheese into a blender, add white wine, cream and seasonings and spin for 1 minute until all the ingredients are mixed, then add the egg and blend for 30 seconds. Spread over the toast and bake for 15 minutes at 190°-200°C/375°-400°F, Gas 5-6. Serve in the dish, garnished with sliced tomato, gherkins and small silverskin onions.

Note: You will notice that there is no salt in the ingredients – simply because the Emmenthal cheese usually contains enough, but you may care to taste the mixture before spreading it on the toast as different makes of Emmenthal vary □

FORTHCOMING EVENTS –
APRIL 1997

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Tue | 1 | Anna Tzelniker, star of the Yiddish theatre, presents 'A song, a laugh & a tear'. JACS, 2pm |
| Wed | 2 | Gloomy Sunday by Peter Mueller, a play adapted from the -27 Hungarian by Andrew Merkle. InterACT at Teatro Technis, 26 Crowndale Road, Camden Town, NW1. Box office: 0171 387 6617, £4-£8.50 |
| Mon | 7 | Morocco, a recent visit: Ernst Flesch MA shows slides & recounts his experiences. Club 43, 8pm |
| Tue | 8 | Kenwood House Art Collection: Curator Kathy Power introduces their Russian paintings. JACS, 2pm |
| Sun | 13 | 13th Birthday of the Manor House: Star-studded programme & buffet supper, Sternberg Centre, 7pm, £19.50 members & £21.50 |
| Mon | 14 | Templars, Freemasons & Controversy in Enlightenment Germany: |

- Dr EM Batley, Hon Director, London University Institute of Germanic Studies. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 15 Care in the Community: Tony Shepherd, Chief Executive of Otto Schiff Housing Association. JACS, 2pm
- Tue 29 Paintings of Eugen Spiro: Peter Spiro, Sussex University, 5pm
- Wed 30 Letztes Schlupfloch aus Europa: Marseilles, die F-Route und Lissabon, Hafen der Hoffnung: Jens Brüning, journalist & writer, talks in German with slides & video. Club 43, 7.30pm. (Please note revised date & time for this meeting only)

ORGANISATION CONTACTS
JACS at Belsize Square Synagogue, NW3 4HX. Tel: 0171 794 3949
Club '43, at Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254 360
Sternberg Centre for Judaism, 80 East End Road, Finchley, NW3 2SY. Tel: 0181 346 2288
University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies. Diana Franklin 0181 455 4785 or 01273 678 495.

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Message from a bygone age

We were born before the age of television, penicillin, plastics, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, videos, camcorders, frisbees and the pill. We were born before radar, credit cards, atom bombs, laser beams and ball point pens, before dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes and before men walked on the moon.

We got married and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat, and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer data, dual careers, and when a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins, and where sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus. We were born before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies.

We had never heard of FM Radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt and young men wearing earrings. For us 'Time Sharing' meant togetherness, a chip was a piece of wood or a fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1940, 'Made in Japan' meant junk. The term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, a stud was something that fastened a collar to a shirt, and 'going all the way' meant stopping on a double decker bus to the bus depot. Pizza, MacDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of.

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, 'grass' was mown, coke was kept in the coal house, a joint was a piece of meat you had on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in.

Rock music was Grandma's lullaby, Eldorado was an icecream, a 'gay' person was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, while 'Aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch, when you think of the way the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are confused and there is a generation gap.

BUT by the Grace of God we have survived. ALLELUIAH!

□ Author unknown

Tribute to Hugo Gryn

Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks paid a moving and powerful tribute to his friend, Holocaust survivor and leader of the Reform movement, the late Rabbi Hugo Gryn, at a commemorative meeting to celebrate his life and work. "Sometimes it is harder to have faith in man than to have faith in God," said Dr Sacks, "but Hugo Gryn didn't lose his faith in man."

Although he was attending the memorial meeting in his capacity of President of the Council of Christians and Jews, co-hosts with the Board of Deputies, Dr Sacks answered Orthodox critics of his participation. He said, the proposition that "those who do not share my faith, my race or my ideology do not share my humanity" had brought grief to the world for thousands of years. Hugo Gryn and he had worked together regardless of religious differences for the sake of their common humanity.

AJR Chairman Andrew Kaufman represented the Association of Jewish Refugees at the meeting which marked the passing of one of Britain's most respected, humanitarian and much-loved refugee survivors of the Holocaust □

Media man

Leon Pilpel, former letters' editor of *The Times* was the second guest to speak at AJR's monthly Luncheon Club, choosing as his subject 'Privacy and the Media'.

In a nineteenth century editorial, *The Times* expressed the view that the press lived on disclosure, and even today an ever-increasing supply of gossip is being published. Leon Pilpel recalled that an early proprietor of *The Times* had been imprisoned for daring to suggest that the then Prince of Wales was only waiting for the death of his father, George III, to inherit the throne! He maintained, however, that contemporary governments were not anxious to legislate themselves power to control the media and any attempt to muzzle the press would probably be frustrated.

He reminded members that, unlike the UK, the American Government was not protected by an Official Secrets Act; consequently, the exposure of the Watergate break-in, which brought about the resignation of President Nixon, was perfectly possible □

AJR SEDER NIGHT

SECOND NIGHT SEDER SERVICE

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for reservations

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for standard wheelchairs

5.45 for 6.15pm prompt start

SEARCH NOTICES

Alfred Mathis. A Mahler scholar in Vienna is trying to trace relatives or friends of the late musicologist Alfred Mathis who died in London in 1949. Please contact Hedi Stadlen, 49 Downshire Hill, London NW3 1NX.

Erika Eckstein, a teacher at Oak Hall School, Haslemere, Surrey, for a period of three months in or around 1943, is being sought by former pupil. Miss Eckstein arrived in the UK in 1934 and graduated from Bedford College in 1939. Subsequently taught in Kent. Please write to: Phyllis Horal, 42 Redington Road, London NW3 7RT.

Ellen Stern, left Germany 1938 for London. Evacuated to Northampton 1940 with her cousin Eva Hertzfelder. Returned to London 1941/2 and emigrated to USA 1947. Any information please to P. Bland, Tel: 01933 222 615.

50 YEARS AGO

REFUGEE CHILDREN

A warning to clergymen not to baptise Jewish refugee children without first consulting their official guardian has been issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury. "Clearly these children and young people should not be thus divorced from their parental faith without consultation with the person who is *in loco parentis* with them," the Archbishop said.

"The Jewish community," said Dayan HM Lazarus, Deputy for the Chief Rabbi, "deeply appreciates the Archbishop's directive against undue religious influence on Jewish refugee children to alienate them from the faith in which they were born and reared."

AJR Information, April 1947

NEWSROUND

49 steps

President Ezer Weizman made Israel's first state visit to Britain 49 years after the foundation of the State of Israel. The Queen has yet to reciprocate, though Prince Philip has visited the Royal Forest planted by British Jews in the Galilee to mark the royal couple's silver wedding.

Victims' fund

Switzerland's President Arnold Koller has announced a plan to establish a £3 billion foundation to compensate victims of poverty, catastrophe and genocide, including the Holocaust. In addition, an interim payment of £45 million will double the funds being made available by Swiss banks for immediate payment to Holocaust survivors.

Night watch

Swiss nightwatchman Christophe Meile has been invited to Israel in appreciation of his saving from destruction old bank ledgers and other documents of the Union Bank of Switzerland which could contain information on the accounts of Holocaust victims.

Golden triangle

Shimon Samuels, director of the Paris-based Simon Wiesenthal Centre's European office, claimed that looted Nazi gold and works of art were passed through Spain and Portugal as part of a 'golden triangle' for transfer to Latin America and the Far East during World War II. Spain, which bought substantial amounts of gold from Nazi Germany, only returned eight ingots to the Allies' Tripartite Gold Commission.

Nothing like a Dame

A plaque commemorating the life of Dame Marie Rambert, born Cyvia Rambam in Warsaw in 1888, was unveiled at her house in London by her first prima ballerina, Dame Alicia Markova, born Alice Marks in London.

Not in the father's name

Catherine Mégret, wife of French National Front deputy to its leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, has been elected mayor of Vitrolles, the fourth city to fall under NF control in southern France. It is reported that Mme. Mégret's father, Dr Sergei Raskovski, whose parents were Jewish immigrants to France from Russia, has disowned his daughter.

□ RDC

Hark the Harold
angel sing

Because it is the done thing to shriek 'Darling, you were wonderful!' after first nights, theatre folk are nowadays known as *luvvies*. Undeterred by the possibility that even this word may not yet be in your dictionaries, I now propose another new coinage: *hatee*.

A 'hatee' (pronounced as in Haiti, of which more later) is someone who thinks footlights fame entitles them to consideration as political opinion formers. A founder member of the 'hatees' was John Osborne, who literally penned an 'I hate you, Britain!' outburst in the heyday of CND. Unsurprisingly Osborne later recanted these views and turned into an abrasive Blimp figure.

Another pioneering 'hatee' was Jane Fonda, dubbed 'Hanoi Jane' on account of her Vietcong sympathies. Jane is now contentedly married to a US media tycoon. Then there was Vanessa Redgrave, famed for her – offstage – performance of the Kalashnikov rifle dance at a PLO camp. She too, seems to have defected from the hatees' ranks; at least she has not delivered herself of any controversial statements of late.

Which leaves Harold Pinter, most steadfast of the 'hatees'. An article of his in December's *Guardian* was so charged with hatred for the US that I expected the paper to combust in my hands. In a grand philippic Pinter charged Washington with near-genocide in Indonesia, East Timor, Haiti, Turkey and South America, as well as diverse other crimes.

I concede that during the Cold War the US backed unsavoury Third World dictators; nonetheless, overall she has played,

and continues to play, a positive role in world affairs. Who helped Britain in her finest hour? Who fed starving postwar Europe? Who faced down Soviet dictators in crises ranging from 1940s Berlin to 1980s Afghanistan? Who promoted – or tried to promote – peace in the Balkans, South Africa, Ireland and the Middle East?

Pinter mentions the UN sanction-induced death of Iraqi children without reference to Saddam – rather like air-brushing Hitler out of the destruction of Dresden. He also trivialises Hitler (as well as Stalin) in his rhetorical question: Did the military coups in Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Chile result in levels of repression and depth of suffering comparable to Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia? The comparison is outrageous, both in terms of numbers and of intensity of suffering. It constitutes an insult to both Holocaust and Gulag victims for the sake of crude political point scoring.

Pinter was born a Jew and in his mind occupies the moral high ground conferred by the term Socialist. He should be ashamed of himself on both counts.

□ RG

AJR

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