

AJR Information

Volume XLIX No. 4
April 1994

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss...

**New title
competition p3**

**The Survivor's
tale p12**

**A Republic
without
Republicans p16**

False analogy

After the Hebron mosque massacre a *Daily Telegraph* cartoon of a bloodstained hand clutching a piece of paper amidst spent cartridge cases was captioned *Goldstein's List*.

Drawing and words alike packed a punch but the analogy was woefully incorrect. *Schindler's List* was set among a continent-wide bloodbath, executed by the most powerful government in Europe. Hebron – site of a pogrom in 1929 – witnessed a local bloodbath carried out by a solitary Jewish fanatic, albeit with the approval of fellow settlers. The majority of settlers and of the Israeli public at large don't share those views; the Israeli government abhors them. □

Reflections on the Hidden Children

Dare we forget?

Twelve days into the countdown from the Second Seder Night to the beginning of Shavuot there is a day of quite distinctive sadness which, in the opinion of one Jewish theologian, 'the thinkers and the rabbis do not yet know how to observe'.

In 1991 it was observed by sixteen hundred Jewish men and women meeting in New York for what was possibly one of the most significant experiences of their adult lives. They came together to remember that which they would rather have forgotten and to examine that which, after five decades, they were unable to forget: their childhood innocence destroyed for no good reason other than that they were Jews. Some did not even know until the time in question that they were of that religion or that 'race'. And others had been raised in the strict tradition of their ancestors. All owe their adulthood to their own courage in the midst of fear and to the defiant altruism of a few, too few, good people. Their forearms do not bear the numbers of camp inmates, since they were never caught, but in peculiar ways their personalities are scarred as though they, too, had been tattooed.

They and their like had been the 'hidden children' and, at their gathering three years ago, some of them took the difficult decision not to stay silent any longer,

but to speak out in order to lighten their burden and to help themselves and each other to come to terms with their traumatic legacy.

A book has just been published which records in deeply moving fashion the details of a number of these 'secret survivors of the Holocaust'. In it, the 'few speak for the many' of their shared past, of their ordeal in the hiding places of their war-time years, their liberation from immediate danger and its aftermath and of their need to find a way to being healed at last and so to be released from the prison without bars of their mental anguish and despair.

The author of *The Hidden Children** brings together twenty-three experiences of long and lonely weeks and months in 'sewers, closets, barns and fields'. Some children were more fortunate than others, finding refuge with a kind and caring Christian family or in an orphanage or convent, so that they were at least protected from the harshness of the elements. But none could hope for more than the slimmest chance of being ultimately spared the dire fate of parents, brothers, sisters, friends; and all were forced to learn such lessons as not ever to give way to tears or sickness since this might have betrayed them. Thus, they became adults overnight.

Their stories are both personal and part of a cohesive whole. Nicole David now lives in London with her husband. When she was four years old, the Germans occupied her native Antwerp and when the Allies liberated Belgium, she had survived by being hidden first by nuns in a convent, then in an attic, later with a large family of Catholics. Her father, too, was still alive, but not her mother. At twelve she made up her mind never to have children of her own lest she would burden them with her own past.

Marie-Claire Rakowski was four years old in 1947 when she was taken from her Belgian rescuers and reunited with her mother and her sister, both seriously flawed by their experiences. Her life with them proved to be one gigantic nightmare and to this day she only thinks with love and gratitude of her Catholic 'parents' who gave her all the childhood happiness she ever had.

Joseph Steiner survived the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto. After the war he spent two years in a DP camp near West Berlin. He now lives safely and in comfort in the USA; but 'in himself' he is still 'hiding',

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Will be held at 15 Cleve Road,
West Hampstead, London NW6 3RL
on
THURSDAY 12 MAY, 1994, AT 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA

Revision of Rules of Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

A draft of the proposed revised rules will be sent to members with the May issue of *AJR Information* and members wishing to submit amendments should do so in writing to:

**The Director, AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate,
1a Frognal, London NW3 6AL**
to reach him by Monday 9 May, 1994.

still 'a runner'.

This year, as in the years gone by, the Holocaust Remembrance Day will be observed by a gathering at the Memorial in Hyde Park in order to pay tribute to the six million dead. Those called upon to be there are enjoined to ask themselves this question: '49 years on – dare we forget?' Needless to say, the names of loved ones lost will stay forever in the memory of those who mourn them. But if Yom Ha'shoah is a day of mourning, it is, in Jewish tradition, also a day of consolation. Let us hope that consolation in full measure will descend on those of our 'hidden children' who, forty-nine years on, dare not remember.

□ DLM

(*THE HIDDEN CHILDREN by Jane Marks is published in hardback by Judy Piatkus, London £17.99.)

Gecas case dropped

The Scottish Crown Office has abandoned its case against Anton Gecas, the Lithuanian branded a mass murderer by a judge. The Lord Advocate, Lord Roger of Queensferry, said a three-year enquiry had not produced enough evidence to prosecute either Gecas or any of the other 16 alleged war criminals living in Scotland. In the light of collapsed cases in Canada, Australia and, most notoriously, the John Demjanjuk acquittal in Israel, it has been said that if this case could not be won, no other ever will.

Mr Efraim Zuroff, Director of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, said: 'Justice has not been served. If anything, the opposite has happened. The result will only encourage crimes of this sort in the future.' □

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Profile

A man exuding warmth



Wolf Salinger.

Photo: Newman.

Wolf Salinger was born in Berlin in 1915, the eldest son of a dentist and an ex-dental student who later on had twin boys. In Weimar days he attended a *Gymnasium* expecting to enter his father's profession as a matter of course. Alas, his *Abitur* coincided with the Nazi takeover and he was denied university admission.

In this emergency an uncle procured an apprenticeship for him with a Jewish heating firm. For the next few semi-normal years of Nazi rule he worked at Berlin building sites, meeting little overt hostility from fellow workers. Eventually he became a pipe fitter, cleaning boilers in blocks of flats.

In 1939 (the twins meanwhile having made *aliyah*) he came to Manchester as a pipefitter/foreman. English acquaintances made applications on behalf of his parents, but the war intervened, aborting all rescue attempts. After internment on the Isle of Man, Wolf went to an underground munitions factory where he welded shell-filling equipment. Such war work involved many hours of overtime; even so he managed to meet and marry Margaret, with whom he will soon celebrate their golden wedding.

Postwar Wolf renewed boiler plants, and installed air conditioning in the card rooms and spinning sheds of cotton mills. Then came a switch-back reversal of fortune: after the tragically early death of a brother in Israel's Independence War, Wolf obtained the post of senior heating engineer with a London firm. He was to stay there for 32 years, rising to the position of Contracts

Director with a seat on the board. In this capacity he was responsible for installing air conditioning at the National Theatre, St. Thomas' Hospital Extension and other public, as well as commercial buildings.

A long-standing AJR member, Wolf chaired the Otto Schiff House Committee for 10 years, and now does voluntary work at Stanmore Hospital.

A devoted family man, he also suffered the loss of his other brother (on an Israeli aid mission to West Africa) – but in compensation he has a granddaughter and a growing number of Israeli grand nephews and nieces.

After many years of generating warmth, so to speak, professionally, he continues to do so on a personal level.

□ R.G.

Mancunian candidates

Two close associates of the Morris Feinmann Home in Manchester received awards in the New Year Honours list.

Tony Russell, who was introduced to the Morris Feinmann Home by Heinz Kroch, whom he succeeded as Chairman at Lankro Chemicals, received a CBE for public services to the North West. He came to the Home's Management Committee as a colleague and is now a Trustee.

Mr Russell has been Chairman of UMIST (University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology) Council, Chairman of the Industrial Development Board for the North West and Chairman of Trafford Family Health Services Authority. He is currently Deputy Chairman of Trafford Park Development Corporation and Chairman of Stockport District Health Authority. In addition to all the above, he considers it: 'a privilege to be associated with the Morris Feinmann Home'.

Peter Weidenbaum, who has maintained close links with the home for many years, received an OBE for this role as a founder member of the Bolton Bury Training and Enterprise Council. He is Managing Director of Truemetre Ltd, a Radcliffe-based manufacturer of counting, timing and measuring instrumentation which exports 50 per cent of its products worldwide. He is also President of the regional Engineering Employers Federation and is a member of its national council. □

Printed by courtesy of Morris Feinmann Home Magazine

Dreyfus Affair Centenary events

If this centennial year offers far more than could have been reasonably expected, i.e. the conventional symposia, memorial lectures, exhibitions and new editions of relevant books, this is largely due to Budapest-born British-naturalised George R. Whyte, who has been devoting the last seven years to exhaustive research of every conceivable historical aspect of the Affair. When meeting George Whyte these days, one encounters an almost obsessive urge to get to the bottom of any minute detail that may have direct or indirect bearing on the case, or its after-effects. Thus he asked me to check in Theodor Herzl's diaries on information gleaned by the Romanian King Carol and related by him to the German Emperor, regarding the French General Staff's abortive attempt to bribe Dreyfus into becoming one of their criminal accomplices.

Through the Dreyfus Centenary Bulletin of Events (edited by Whyte at Suite 23a, 78 Buckingham Gate, London SWE 6PD) a comprehensive and up-to-date picture is presented on all Dreyfus events programmed in Israel, France, Germany, Great Britain and Switzerland. The Centenary's pièce de résistance is provided by Whyte's own dramatic trilogy. Whilst such trilogies as Schiller's *Wallenstein*, Feuchtwanger's *Josephus Flavius* or Manès Sperber's autobiographical works normally possess chronological links, Whyte's musical trilogy consists of three works, each of which looks at the Affair from a different emotional angle. Thus the two-Act Opera *Dreyfus-Die Affäre*, illuminates the mental anguish suffered by the protagonist, whereas the dance drama *Dreyfus - J'Accuse* tends to focus attention on the protagonist's physical suffering.

Finally it is the social injustice and ridicule, to which Dreyfus is shown to be exposed in the trilogy's third work, in the form of a musical satire, *Rage and Outrage*.

Whyte's two-Act Opera, set to music by the young Swiss composer Jost Meier is a co-production of the *Basel Theater* and the *Deutsche Oper Berlin*, and due to have its World premiere in Berlin on the 8 May. The musical style is inspired by Berg and Zimmermann, very much in keeping with Whyte's powerful libretto and its theme of unjust imprisonment. (Shades of F).

The second work of the Trilogy, *Dreyfus - J'accuse, ein Tanzdrama*, with music by Alfred Schnittke, libretto by George Whyte, and Valery Panov and Josef Svoboda collaborating in choreography and production, will have its world premiere at the Bonn Opera House on 4 September.

Zorn und Schande

It will be within the framework of the established *Schleswig Holstein Musik Festival* that the world premiere of the musical satire *Zorn und Schande* is taking place on the 5 August in Hamburg.

Script and libretto are by George Whyte, who has looked to the writings of Emile Zola and Edouard Drumont and to *chansons* from the time of the Dreyfus Affair for inspiration, thereby lending the work a certain Cabaret ambience. Luciano Berio has done the orchestration and George Tabori is producing.

Whyte makes a point of emphasising the absolute factual authenticity of all the events depicted in his Trilogy. He considers it to be his function to dramatise but not to distort. Whilst Whyte thus shows himself to be a firm adherent to historical accuracy - 'In the Dreyfus Affair the drama is in the truth' - one can only contrast this approach with a play such as John Osborne's *A Patriot For Me*, where the Austrian traitor Redl serves merely as a somewhat feeble background to enable the author to lend his sensationalised and completely distorted fiction some local colour.

Looking at the kaleidoscopic Dreyfus Centenary Bulletin of Events, which owes so much to its planners, its eminent participants and last but not least to its *spiritus rector*, one can only express the belief that the creative genius devoted to the memory of this tragic victim of antisemitism will have produced permanent monuments *aere perennius*.

□ F. W. Rosner

New Title Competition

AJR Information has been in existence for almost fifty years. It began life in 1946 as an 8 page journal which dealt specifically with aspects of everyday life affecting members of the refugee community, concentrating on restitution, immigration and news from the Continent. Nowadays, however, as the concerns of AJR members have shifted in emphasis from those first hard days, the journal's contents cover a much wider canvass: the arts, books, travel, comment and, occasionally, controversy all form part of its regular format. Each month, the magazine devotes two pages to covering events of particular interest to members while fourteen pages cover a diversity of subjects.

In the course of this evolution, from Association Newsletter to widely-read journal, the title *AJR Information* has become somewhat of a misnomer. It no longer reflects the varied content of the magazine, which would hold a great deal of interest for many people who, whether part of the 'refugee community' or not, have never bothered to read it since they believe it to be little more than a bulletin board for the AJR.

To correct this misconception of what *AJR Information* is actually about, a name change has been suggested. AJR members are invited to submit suggestions for a new title.

If you would like to propose a new name for this journal please write it on a postcard and send it to: Mr E. David, AJR Director, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frognal, London NW3 6AL.

The final selection, which will be made by the AJR Editorial Committee, will take place in mid-August. The proposer of the chosen title will receive a £20 Marks and Spencer gift voucher. □

CLUB 1943

Anglo-German Cultural Forum
Meetings on Mondays at 8 p.m.

at the Communal Hall
Belsize Square Synagogue
51 Belsize Square
London NW3

Apr. 4th. No lecture (Bank Holiday)

Apr. 11th. Mr Peter Mayer. 'Caught between three fires'. A family's memories of a Russian pogrom, the Holocaust and the Stalin terror. The search for survivors.

Apr. 18th. Mr Daniel Marks. 'Without a City Wall' (Film, in German with subtitles). Berlin after the fall of the wall.

Apr. 25th. Mrs Ruth Boswell (TV producer of 'The Chief'). 'The Making of a Television Series.'

May 2nd. No lecture (Bank Holiday).

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Sunday 10 April, 1994, 11.30 a.m.

Reviews

Doppelgänger

Philip Roth, *OPERATION SHYLOCK*, Cape, 1993, £14.99

This novel is sub-titled 'A Confession'; at times the reader might be tempted to change that to 'A Confusion'. Roth's manipulation of 'the twilight of the characters' which he so brilliantly demonstrated in the *The Counterlife* is even more pronounced in this his yet more brilliant book. This time we get two protagonists calling themselves Philip Roth.

Philip One lives in Massachusetts, USA, and works on his famous and notorious books. He has a minor knee operation which is bungled, and since he is in much pain he is prescribed the drug Halcion. He suffers hallucinations and eventually life-threatening withdrawal symptoms. During his recovery he decides to embark on a series of interviews, for the *New York Times*, with the Israeli writer Aharon Appelfeld. And that is when Philip Roth-the-Second comes on the scene.

In Jerusalem this character expounds, clothed in the aura of the celebrated author, his gospel of Zionism-in-reverse: if another (Arab-instigated) Holocaust is to be prevented all Ashkenazim must leave Israel and reemigrate to Germany, Russia and Poland and all the places where their cultural roots (and murdered kin) lie. This piece of political sleight-of-hand is called Diasporism.

The real Roth is incensed; he feels he must confront the fraudster and spoil his game. So off he flies to Israel. Still shaky from his recent illness he attends a session of the Demjanjuk trial, and, while deeply shocked by what he has heard and seen in the court room, is suddenly confronted by himself,

not a fake but a double who moreover greets him with every sign of affection.

From then onwards all goes helter-skelter. The author, who is adored by many and hated by others – mainly Jews who regard him with the affection the Moslems have for Salman Rushdie – does not know what to do. Roth-the-Second has him in his power. If Number One were to go to the police they would suggest he see a psychiatrist. So he cuts his losses and meets fellow-writer Appelfeld in an East Jerusalem restaurant. Their conversation is interrupted by the arrival of a crippled philanthropist who introduces himself as Louis B. Smilesburger and hands the real Roth a million-dollar cheque to further the cause of Diasporism. The stunned Philip accepts the cheque.

As if that were not enough, in a market place the real Philip meets his old friend and erstwhile fellow student, the Palestinian Arab George Ziad, once a liberal and now an ardent PLO supporter. Ziad embraces as an ally the man he takes to be the new, Diasporist, Herzl. For further good measure the befuddled Philip finds himself playing just that role before his long-lost friend.

In the end Philip Roth, eventually back in the US of A, is confronted by 'Smilesburger' now revealed as a Mossad executive who has driven Phil into using George Ziad to introduce him to Yasser Arafat (in Athens). Ziad is assassinated, and Smilesburger uses every ploy he knows to coerce Philip R. into not revealing the Athens story. Thus the book ends abruptly without its final chapter (eleven). Instead there is an avowal that the whole thing is fiction... but the last four words negate this avowal.

My advice to Jewish lovers of literature: read, shake your heads and enjoy.

□ John Rossall

Pest-watcher from Buda

Andrew Szanton, *THE RECOLLECTIONS OF EUGENE WIGNER*, Plenum Press, New York, \$24.50

As a preamble to this review I need to declare an interest: I don't have even O'level Physics, but my father was Hungarian. The definition of a Hungarian is – allegedly – someone who enters a revolving door behind you and comes out in front. Whatever the truth of this piece of folk wisdom, Hungarian Jews, at any rate, have created three major phenomena of the modern world: Zionism (Herzl, Nordau), the British film industry (Korda, Leslie Howard, Gabriel Pascal) and the atom bomb (von Neumann, Szilard, Teller, Wigner).

The last-named is the author, though not the actual writer, of this biography. Eugene, alias Jenő, Wigner was born in turn-of-the-century Budapest, the son of a prosperous tannery manager. Nominally Jewish, he attended a Lutheran *gymnasium* where a whole raft of budding geniuses, such as the mathematician Johnny von Neumann, and Wigner himself, enjoyed the tutelage of inspirational teachers.

After the Great War Hungary briefly came under the control of Communists, many of whom were Jewish. Purged from his job Wigner senior expressed his anti-Communism in a bizarre manner by converting to Protestantism. Nationally anti-semitism was on the increase, and with a quota limiting Jewish admission to universities, Eugene Wigner went to Berlin to study. Although initially intending to become a chemical engineer, so he might follow his father into the tannery, Eugene was soon drawn into the study of Physics.

The time and place were propitious. Einstein's Relativity Theory had recently been proven, and Planck was working on quantum mechanics; these two giants, and other scientific luminaries like von Laue and Heisenberg, were all to be met with in Berlin. By 1930 Wigner had made enough of a name for himself in scientific circles to be invited to Princeton. From 1933 onwards he used his influence to bring threatened colleagues to America.

More importantly, when in 1939 he heard of Berlin-based Otto Hahn's success in bringing about nuclear fission, he alerted

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the U.S. authorities to the need for undertaking atomic research in order to forestall Hitler. Wigner was one of the troika of scientists who in July 1939 persuaded Einstein to send the letter to Roosevelt that triggered the Manhattan Project. As a collaborator on the Project he was also present when in December 1942 Enrico Fermi initiated the world's first controlled chain reaction in a large underground room of the University of Chicago; the rest is history. It could therefore be said that Wigner was both politically and scientifically involved in the making of the A-bomb.

Postwar, too, he remained alert to the threat to America and freedom. The Sovietisation of his native Hungary pained him deeply, and, together with Edward Teller, the so-called father of the H-bomb, he tirelessly warned the U.S. public of the Russian threat. His sense of foreboding about America's future deepened in the 1960s, the period of campus revolts and 'flower power'.

But that decade also brought compensations: in 1963 Wigner received the Nobel Prize for Physics for his researches into quantum mechanics.

Publicly his life had thus been one of great achievement. Privately over eight decades he experienced traumas – two of his wives died – as well as great joy. He was able to save his parents from the Holocaust, and his U.S.-born children, to his great satisfaction, came through the disorientating Age of Aquarius quite unscathed. A remarkable and – largely – fortunate man.

□ R.G.

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See Naples and die

A modern Rip van Winkle awakened after 50 years would find one familiar name in the headlines – that of Mussolini. What a strange rehabilitation for the bullfrog, the only horseman of the European Apocalypse to die at the hands of his own people! Fancy the Duce legitimising his genetic-as-well-as-political successor, Alessandra, who ran for Mayor of Naples. She, at any rate, ascribes her frighteningly large following to the undimmed charisma of her grandfather.

Can a sizable number of Neapolitans really only remember the man who 'made the trains run on time', and not the dispenser of castor oil, instigator of political murder, bomber of Abyssinian tribesmen and dispatcher of thousands to perish in frozen Russia?

Maybe they remember him as the playwright who wrote the Napoleon drama *Hundred Days*. By coincidence, after Napoleon's death the family name also served as a rallying cry. The Emperor's son, the Duke of Reichstadt, was sprung by Bonapartists from his golden cage at the Vienna Hofburg and spirited back to France, only to die *en route* before he could be crowned Napoleon II. Better luck attended the Emperor's nephew Louis Bonaparte who, taking advantage of the turmoil after the 1848 Revolution, made himself Napoleon III and presided over the outwardly glittering, but corrupt *deuxième empire*.

Subsequent Bonapartist claimants have been known as pretenders – a word not unknown in British history. After 1688 we firstly had the uninspiring Old Pretender, and then the much more romantic Bonnie Prince Charlie of '45 fame. In conformity with the more benign historical tradition of these Isles both men died in bed.

That has never been the fate of claimants to the Tsarist throne. Already in Tudor times, when Henry VII made Lambert Simnel – impersonator of one of the princes murdered in the Tower by Richard III – merely a scullion in the royal kitchen (hence the Simnel cake), Muscovy had a number of false Dimitris who died bloody deaths. Opera-goers who have seen *Boris Godunov* will be familiar with the story. Even in Catherine the Great's reign rebel leader Pugachev, who claimed to be the Tsarina's discarded and murdered husband, was able to cause absolute mayhem.

But to return to the great evil-doers of the Twentieth Century, Stalin's daughter ended as a religious maniac, and Hitler left no acknowledged heir. On the other hand

Rudolf Hess's son, Hans Rüdiger, is trying to rival Alessandra Mussolini – but without similar success.

In North Korea meanwhile, the ultimate Orwellian fantasy figure Kim Il Sung is grooming his son for the succession, undeterred by the fate of the Ceausescus.

In the civilised world, by a quirk of fate, the great Winston Churchill has been succeeded by a namesake who sheds little glory on the family name. But let's not write off genetic endowment: Israel once again has a President Weizman, just as it did in 1948, the year of its birth.

□ R.G.

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Lilly Cyvia

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Letters to the Editor

BLUMENAU BOUQUETS

Sir – I have followed Ralph Blumenau's series of articles on the history of the Jews in the German-speaking lands with growing interest and appreciation. I have found them most instructive, excellently written and truly valuable. The concluding Reflections (Part 17) in your current issue are a fitting, thoughtful, well-balanced drawing together of the complex threads he has enabled us to pursue – an admirable piece of writing.

Thank you for bringing these articles before us. I hope Ralph Blumenau will return to your pages before too long. I also feel that this concluding instalment, especially, deserves a wider audience, e.g. on radio and television (Channel 4?).

Please convey my compliments and thanks to the author.

Northfield Road
London W3

Mrs E. Houlton

Sir – 'A History of the Jews in German-Speaking Lands' by Ralph Blumenau has been particularly absorbing. Some months ago I had the opportunity to speak with Mr Blumenau, and I put to him the idea that he should consider publishing the whole series in one volume. May I repeat this suggestion now in the hope that your influence will help to bring this about? Our Synagogue Library has already got on its shelves Mr Blumenau's complete set of articles from *AJR Information*, but were it published under a separate cover, that would of course be preferable. I have no doubt at all that many libraries would welcome a copy.

Belsize Square Synagogue
London NW3

Henry Kuttner

... AND BRICKBATS

Sir – I found the series 'A History of the Jews in German-speaking Lands' extremely interesting, but was shocked to learn, in the very last paragraph, that in Ralph Blumenau's view the 'Holocaust is a terrible and haunting example, but not a unique one, of the depths of unbridled barbarism ... to which mankind can sink'. Because here I profoundly disagree with him.

Firstly, it is only in the attempted annihilation of European Jewry that the eradication of a whole people was planned. Every single Jew, man, woman or child, was targeted and none was exempt.

Secondly, the technology available to the

Nazis was a prerequisite of the enormous numbers of people killed. Massacres on this scale would have been impossible in earlier centuries. Furthermore, this technology was coupled with a bureaucratic organisation which made possible the diversion of vital war resources for the arrest, transportation and assembly of millions from all corners of Europe.

Thirdly, all the other cases of so-called genocide (a term much too freely used these days), whether we are speaking of the Armenians or the Cambodians, took place within the framework of political conflict or socio-economic upheaval. It is only in the Holocaust that the mass-murder was motivated by demonic beliefs which led to an all-consuming, irrational, ideological obsession which demanded the total eradication of an entire people.

Crespigny Road
London NW4

(Dr) Henry Birnbaum

Sir – Mr Blumenau's last paragraph slightly reeks of 'A horror shared is a horror halved'. In the jargon of the current Winter Olympics, I maintain that the downhill world record for sadism and brutality, set up by Germany some 50 years ago, has never been broken. Rightly earning a gold medal for the meticulous bureaucratic thoroughness and scale of bestial achievement! Not even Idi Amin of Uganda could match the decline from Beethoven to Buchenwald and from Brahms to Belsen, for which Germany must surely stand unique in the eyes of the world.

Clarence Road
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands

Werner Abraham

ONE OF THE JUST

Sir – The review of *Geschichte der Stadt Freiburg Bd.3* in the February issue refers to 'some marginal resistance to the Nazis', including some 'laudable examples of courageous altruism'.

One such was that of Dr Gertrud Luckner

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who, between 1940 and 1943, as an employee of the Caritas organisation, used her contacts in the area to help many Jewish people to escape across the border into Switzerland. Arrested in August 1943 she spent the rest of the war in the concentration camp at Ravensbrück. In 1948 she started, and continued until 1987 to edit single-handed, the *'Freiburger Rundbrief – Beiträge zur christlich-jüdischen Begegnung'*, which still appears.

In 1951 she was the first German to receive an official invitation to visit Israel. In 1960 a 'Gertrud-Luckner-Hain' was planted there in her honour. In 1966 she was presented with the Yad Vashem medal.

At 93 she now lives in an old people's home in Freiburg.

Latimer Road
Barnet, Herts

K. Ostberg

MISSING IN RUSSIA

Sir – The media have been interesting themselves in Americans missing in Vietnam. I have a personal interest in a far larger number of totally innocent people who are missing in Russia, having emigrated there from countries under Fascist control, only to be caught up in Stalin's purges. This was the fate of my uncle Ludwig Grusemann, architect, my aunt Erna Grusemann, née Herrmann, and my cousin Rolf Grusemann. I have found out some facts about them and have also written to various Russian organisations, so far without any result. I intend to persist until I hear officially of their fate or whereabouts.

I would like to contact others in my situation. We could pool information and resources. I can get help with writing letters in Russian, get names looked up in the Nazi *SD Sonderfahndungsliste UdSSR* (1949) and in the *Protokolle der deutschen Genossen* Moscow 1936 – 41.

75 Wellmeadow Road
Hither Green
London SE13

Karl Peter Mayer

ANTI-AUSTRIAN

Sir – Unlike Mr Herbert Anderson (February issue) – I do not detect any traditional anti-Austrian any more than any anti-German – stance in *AJR Information*. Any resentment that surfaces from time to time is surely anti-Nazi, and that is the common denominator between all of us refugees living in Britain, whatever our national origin or religion. In fact I believe that the Austrian Nazis deserve our detestation even more – if that is possible – than their more Teutonic brethren. Austrian antisemitism had its root even more directly in religious

anti-Judaism, and as such is an even greater abomination, for it is a betrayal of their own Christian religion, which bids them love their 'enemies', charity being the cornerstone of their professed morality.

Connaught Avenue
Grimsby

E. H. Kenneth

CZECH RESTITUTION

Sir – Mr Korda's letter (February issue), appealing for the formation of a Committee to put pressure on the Czech Government to award restitution to all eligible Czech Jews around the world, must strike a cord with many of our compatriots.

Perhaps his letter will encourage yet more of us to come forward and pledge their support for such an action. Surely, given sufficient publicity, an able organiser – preferably someone with legal training and who is au fait with legislative procedure in today's Czech Republic – will emerge to take the matter firmly in hand?

I shall be interested to see ensuing correspondence resulting from Mr Korda's initiative.

Edgwarebury Lane
Edgware, Middx

F. Flatter

FRIENDLY FIRE CASUALTY

Sir – The difference in kind referred to by Mr Zander is akin to speaking of a right and left hand; both belong to the same body.

No Jew with any real understanding of Judaism or of Rabbis Hillel and Maimonides could possibly prefer the muddled waters of Catholicism or any other non-Jewish faith.

Some few have changed for not being able to cope with the terrible pressures of antisemitism, and some simply belong to the 'League of Trembling Israelites'. As for the implied peace recipe: some wish to honour their parents and antecedents and do not want to assimilate. If there is room in this world for Teutons, Africans, and others, there is also room for Jews.

Linsay Drive
Harrow, Middx

H Needham

ISRAELI-TINTED SPECTACLES

Sir – The author of 'Robert Fisk' in February's *Verse and Worse* must have been wearing Israeli-tinted spectacles whilst watching Fisk's TV documentary on daily

life in the Occupied Territories. Did the author of these unfunny verses imply that Robert Fisk's film was a deliberate misrepresentation of what he saw – e.g. Israeli soldiers brutally beating up Palestinian youngsters? He does not tell us.

Quarry Road Park
Cheam, Surrey

Inge Trott

In my 'Robert Fisk' cleriheiw I specifically took issue with the pro-Fundamentalist slant of his dispatches. The benefits Fundamentalism would bring to Muslim populations can be clearly seen in present-day strife-torn Afghanistan. Ed.

BRESLAU BUILDING

Sir – I was recently given a picture which is, I believe, of a building in Breslau, possibly part of the University. As I left Breslau before I was two years old I unfortunately cannot identify the building myself. If any of your readers are able to help I would be most grateful if they would get in touch with me.

Replies to Box No. 1257.

Paul Honigmann

OSSIETZKY

Sir – You would have done better not to publish G Schmerling's letter about Carl von Ossietzky in the February issue! The writer is either too young or too ignorant to refer to such an outstanding personality.

URO Frankfurt

David Atzmon

FUNNY PECULIAR

Sir – Thank you for publishing an excerpt from my rejoinder to 'Diabolical follicles' in your February edition.

With reference to your footnote, I am sorry that I did not detect the humour in your article: to me, the whole matter simply sounded ridiculous.

East Hill,
Wembley Park
Middx

Ruth Willers

AUTO SUGGESTION

Sir – I thought some of your readers might recall the following, in connection with the takeover of Rover by BMW:

When the takeover of Rovers by BMW was announced, I remembered the early nickname of BMW cars. They were known by their Company's initials as *Bayrische Mistwagen*.

Today their image is more upmarket, so Rovers will at least be spared this epithet.

West Avenue,
Pinner
Middlesex

Eva Wittenberg

Museum's 10th anniversary

December 1, 1993 was an important landmark for the Hofgeismar Judaica Museum in North Hesse, Germany. It was, in fact, its 10th anniversary. Perhaps this is not much compared with some of the great international museums, but it is certainly impressive in the context of the region's post-war history. It is also impressive so far as the concept of the permanent exhibition, its development and its growth are concerned.

This museum is part of a larger complex devoted to local cultural history. It is housed in a half timbered structure built as long ago as the year 1500, beautifully modernised and adapted for its present purpose. Michael Dohrs, now a pastor in nearby Kassel, has from its inception accepted responsibility for the Judaica Collection. He stresses the importance of cultivating contacts with former Jewish residents of the North-Hessian districts and he likes to think that the Jewish exhibits would have given some quiet satisfaction and gratification to their former owners.

It is of special interest that the anniversary was considered important enough for the head of the Evangelical Hessian Church, Bishop Prof. Dr. Zippert, to pay an official visit to the Museum accompanied by a number of religious, civic and other dignitaries. The Jewish Museum is the proud possessor of a library of some 2000 volumes which, together with the exhibits, enhanced by the facilities available in the museum building for study and meetings, strengthen the efforts of Christian-Jewish co-operation. Equally, if not even more importantly, this makes it possible to teach school children and other young people this facet of German as well as Jewish culture and history. The Museum management feel that some contribution is thus provided to make a recurrence of the tragic 1933/45 events impossible. □

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CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE

The AJR at Work

Concert series continues

AJR members will be delighted to hear that the AJR Annual Charity Concert, which had to be cancelled due to problems in finding a suitable venue last year, will be going ahead as usual this year, on 4 September. Once more, the South Bank will play host. However, this year's venue will be the Purcell Room which has a seating capacity of only 370. The artists will be Erich Gruenberg and Anthony Goldstone who will perform the programme originally planned for the 1993 concert, including works by Schubert, Chopin, Kreisler and Beethoven.

In response to members who have over the years pleaded for the Annual Concert to be held at a time of the year when the weather is, theoretically, more clement, the 1995 concert has been booked for 30 April, when it will return to the place which, over the past 28 years, has been its regular home: the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The artists at this traditional get-together will be the internationally renowned Schidloff Quartet.

The AJR concerts represent more than an afternoon out to our members. They are an annual reaffirmation of the refugee community's spirit and strength. Most of our members came to this country over 50



The AJR Annual Charity Concert Series is set to make a welcome return.

Photo of 1992 concert: Newman.

years ago and, in that time, have made a major contribution, far in excess of their numerical size, to British life in academe, the arts and business. Once a year they gather to meet old friends, compare notes and catch up on gossip. When this community meets the atmosphere is rich, both intellectually and emotionally, and, no matter who provides the musical entertainment, each event is uniquely unforgettable.

Details about these concerts and ticket application forms will appear in *AJR Information* over the coming months.

□ M.N.

AJR BOUQUET

Dear Sir – Thank you very much for the wonderful meals which have been delivered to my home during my illness. I cannot praise them highly enough: beautiful food of the highest quality, prepared with care and thought. I loved it, it saved me and I am, and remain, extremely grateful to all those concerned. You deserve very high praise.

I did not know that such kindness and skill existed. With many grateful thanks,

E.F.

AJR MEALS ON WHEELS

A wide variety of high quality kosher frozen food is available, ready made and delivered to your door, via the AJR meals on wheels service. The food is cooked in our own kitchens in Cleve Road, NW6, by our experienced staff.

This service is available to those members with mobility problems or other difficulties.

The cost for a kosher 3 course meal is £3.00. Delivery charge 50p. Payment for meals to be made to the Driver.

If you live in North or North West London and wish to take advantage of this service phone Joanne Botsman on 071-328 0208 for details and an assessment interview.

Meals can still be collected from 15 Cleve Road on weekdays (Mondays–Thursdays) for £3.00 per meal.

AJR INFORMATION is available on tape

If you, or anyone you know, would like to take advantage of this valuable service

Please contact:

Mrs Irene White 081-203 2733
before 9 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

WHO IS WHO IN THE AJR OFFICE

Director	Ernest David
Editor, AJR	Richard
Information	Grunberger
Publications and	Maurice
PR Manager	Newman
Assitant to Director	Carol Rossen
Sheltered	
Accommodation	Katia Gould
Head of Social Services	Agi Alexander
Day Centre Organiser	Sylvia Matus
Volunteer Co-ordinator	Laura Howe

AJR

'Drop in' Advice Centre

Weekly advice sessions, offering help with benefits, pensions, money matters, social work enquiries, etc., etc., will be held at the

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre
15 Cleve Road, London NW6

between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on the following dates:

Monday 18 April
Tuesday 26 April
Wednesday 4 May
Thursday 12 May

and every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at:
AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frognal, London NW3

No appointment is necessary, but please bring along all relevant documents, such as Benefit Books, letters, bills, etc.

A Message from Ernest David

Purim is behind us and we are in the middle of Pesach. Both mark the miraculous escape of Jews from their persecutors. There is as yet no religious holy day to commemorate those Jews who did not escape from the Shoah, and those who survived, from the camps, by hiding or as refugees. Those who did survive had their lives shattered, or at least violently disturbed.

In February, Spielberg's film *Schindler's List* opened to great acclaim. There are Jews who believe we do not need reminding of these things, who even deny their Judaism, and hide their history from their children. There are Jews who say: We know what happened – why harp on it?

However, there are millions in the Western world, let alone elsewhere, who do not know, and it is axiomatic that those who ignore history are condemned to repeat its disasters. We see this in many parts of the world today, and so, my message to you, is

to speak out. We are the living witnesses of history. Do not forget we were once refugees, and even if we have settled into our new environment, let us not hide this from our children, and our Jewish and non-Jewish friends. □

Police Band

The Metropolitan Police Band, which has provided a rich selection of music to members of the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre in the past, will be making a very welcome return visit on Wednesday 29 June. The concert, provided as part of the Day Centre's regular entertainments calendar, will begin at 2.30 p.m. A larger than usual audience is expected for the event as the uniformed ensemble always present a fine spectacle in addition to providing a treat for music lovers with a varied menu ranging from military marches to classical music medleys via well-remembered 'golden oldies'.

□ M.N.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will be held at 15 Cleve Road,
West Hampstead, London NW6 3RL

on

**THURSDAY 2 JUNE, 1994,
AT 7.30 p.m.**

Please note that under the proposed new rules:

No person other than a committee member retiring by rotation shall be appointed or reappointed a committee member at any general meeting unless:

- (a) he or she is recommended by the Committee or Management or
- (b) not less than fourteen nor more than thirty-five clear days before the date appointed for the meeting, notice executed by 10 members qualified to vote at the meeting has been given to the Society of the intention to propose that person for appointment or reappointment together with notice executed by that person of his willingness to be appointed or reappointed.

PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

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Open Tuesday and Thursday 9.30 a.m.–
7 p.m., Monday and Wednesday 9.30 a.m.–
3.30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.–7 p.m.

Morning Activities – Bridge, kalookie,
scrabble, chess, etc., keep fit, discussion
group, choir (Mondays), art class (Tuesdays
and Thursdays).

Afternoon entertainment –
APRIL

Sunday 3	CLOSED
Monday 4	CLOSED
Tuesday 5	'SANG U. KLANG II' – Angela & Nicholas Arratoon, Diana & Elizabeth Legroux accompanied by Maurice Hermele (Piano)
Wednesday 6	THE STANLEY & BERTHA LISHAK DUO – (Violin & Piano)
Thursday 7	THE WILLIAM PENN SCHOOL ENTERTAIN SINGING AT 'SEVENTY' – Fred Rosner (Bass) & Guest Artist accompanied by Rosa Butwick (Piano)
Sunday 10	

Monday 11	OPERA & OPERETTA IN APRIL – Laurence Hart (Baritone) & Joanne Fellerman (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)
Tuesday 12	SPRING SONG & MUSIC – Sue Kennett (Soprano) accompanied by Richard Hoyle (Piano)
Wednesday 13	THE MELODIANS – Susan Reed, Alun Davies accompanied by Ron Mitchell (Piano)
Thursday 14	Tracey Thurloy & Geoffrey Whitworth Entertain on CLARINET & PIANO
Sunday 17	SONGS FOR ALL – Shirley Gurevitz with Piano Accompaniment
Monday 18	THE RICHARD TAUBER MEMORIES – George Kazanji (Baritone) accompanied by Happy Branston (Piano)
Tuesday 19	MUSIC HALL & CABARET ENTERTAINMENT – Anita Elias
Wednesday 20	TAKE A QUICK-STEP BACK IN TIME – Geoffrey Strum (Tenor) accompanied by Helen Blake (Soprano & Piano)
Thursday 21	SONGS – DUETS & ARIAS BY VERDI & MOZART & YIDDISH & HEBREW MELODIES – Michael Sabel & Satya Barham accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)

Sunday 24	THE HARROW SCHOOL FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS BIG BAND – Conducted by Dave McQuater
Monday 25	SINGING FOR FUN – The Longford Singers accompanied by Margaret Eaves (Piano)
Tuesday 26	WELL-LOVED LIGHT CLASSICAL FAVOURITES – Sarah-Jane Dale (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)
Wednesday 27	'QUARTISSIMO' – Alison Friend – Norma Roth – Suzanne Goodman – Ann Sadan
Thursday 28	DUO KINNER – Madeline Whitelaw (Piano) & David Richard (Violin)

MAY

Sunday 1	'OVERTURE & BEGINNERS PLEASE' – Accompanied by Margaret Eaves (Piano)
Monday 2	CLOSED
Tuesday 3	LIGHT CLASSICS – Trinity College of Music
Wednesday 4	'FRUEHLINGS GLAUBE' – Ruth Warren (Soprano) accompanied by Gary Cole (Piano)
Thursday 5	HEALTH – SAFETY IN THE HOME – Talk by Paul Mazzina

FAMILY EVENTS

Deaths

Plaut Olga F. Plaut. The passing of Olly has left beautiful memories of a lady whose life was an inspiration to all who had the good fortune to know her. Her very existence created a memorial in the minds of her loving family and many friends all over the world. She will be sadly missed by her friends Elli and Grete, her nine great grandchildren, four grandchildren and heartbroken daughter and son-in-laws Margot and Henry Wallace and Harvey Steinhart.

MUSIC FROM TEREZIN

A concert of music from the composers of Terezin will be performed on

**SUNDAY 10 APRIL, 1994
AT 8 p.m.**

at The Sternberg Centre for Judaism, The Manor House, 80 East End Road, Finchley N3

Tickets should be booked in advance from Pam Lewis on 081-346 2288.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY and WIENER LIBRARY

Genocide and Rescue in Hungary, 1944

An international conference marking the 50th anniversary of the destruction of Hungarian Jewry in March-July 1944.

17-18 April 1994 at the Marylebone Room, International Students House, 229 Great Portland Street, London W1.

Registration fee: £35 full; Friends of the Wiener Library and concessions £20.

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Staadecker Olga Staadecker (formerly of Mannheim) peacefully at Eastwood Court Nursing Home, Glasgow, on 12 March 1994. She will be sadly missed by all her many friends.

In Memoriam

Weiss Karl Weiss who left me heartbroken March 1982, also

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Tommy who died suddenly March 1956 not quite 11 years old. 'To the world they were only grains of sand, to me they were the world'.

Miscellaneous

Electrician City and Guilds qualified. All domestic work undertaken. Y. Steinreich. Tel: 081-455 5262. Manicure and pedicure in the comfort of your own home. Telephone 081-455 7582.

Bridge teacher Edith Kaplan, who taught at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, is now booking for spring and summer classes. Anyone wish-

ing to learn, or improve their game, should apply to Box No. 1258.

Wanted Chess Player of medium ability. Box No. 1246.

Notice

Please note that Mr Braham Lassman is no longer, in any way, connected with AJR.

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP

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Alice Schwab's

Art Notes



Picasso: Painter/Sculptor at the Tate Gallery (until 8 May), is a very important exhibition which should on no account be missed. Picasso is known to everyone as a brilliant painter, but this exhibition convincingly shows that his three-dimensional work was intimately connected with his paintings and drawings.

The Ben Uri Art Gallery is showing (11 April–1 May) works by Leonard Baskin, the well-known American Jewish artist. Included in the exhibition are drawings, prints, books and sculpture. From 23 May–3 July the Ben Uri will be showing new acquisitions and old favourites from its Permanent Collection to mark the publication of the revised and enlarged edition of its catalogue.

The *Golden Age 1730–1760* exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum ends on 24 April, but the magnificent new Glass Gallery, displaying over 6,000 objects, opens on 27 April, and *Pugin: A Gothic Passion*, the first exhibition to examine the work of Augustus Pugin (father of the Gothic revival) runs from 15 June to 11 September.

As part of the Spanish Arts Festival in London the Hayward Gallery is showing *Salvatore Dali: The Early Years* (until 29 May). Dali, showman and artist, experimented in youth with a bewildering variety of styles before finding his own individual manner. Early works from his 'teens in Catalonia, his years as a rebellious student in Madrid, and his fully fledged Surrealist works are all included in the exhibition.

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany is sponsoring three exhibitions which explore German Romanticism, namely *German printmaking in the Age of Goethe* at the British Museum (20 May–11 September); *Friedrich to Hodler: A Romantic Tradition*, at the National Gallery (8 June–4 September); and *The Romantic Spirit in German Art 1790 to 1990* at the Royal Scottish Academy and the Fruitmarket, Edinburgh (28 July–4 September).

Interesting exhibitions currently at the British Museum include *The Study of Italian Old Master Drawings* (until 24 April), *Victorian Illustrated Books: The Heyday of Wood-Engraving* (also until 24 April) and *Treasured Miniatures: Contemporary Netsuke* (until 17 April).

The Holbein and the Court of Henry VIII



Three Heads. Giovanni Bellini (1459–1516).

Photo courtesy of The British Museum.

exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery continues until 17 April. The National Portrait Gallery is also the first British venue for the touring exhibition of work by the celebrated American photographer Annie Liebovitz (until 30 May).

Goya: Truth and Fantasy at the Royal Academy (until 12 June) is the first major exhibition of the painter's work to be held in London for nearly thirty years, and includes many Goya portraits and the

surviving oil paintings produced for the Royal Tapestry Factory and which were translated by weavers into decorative hangings for the royal palaces. The National Gallery is showing *Claude: The Poetic Landscape* (until 10 April).

Lily Freeman is showing once again at Burgh House, New End Square, for three weeks from 27 April. She tells me that she has a whole band of people who collect her paintings. □

SB's Column

70 Years ago. 1 April 1924 was the opening date for Max Reinhardt's refurbished Josefstadt theatre in Vienna with Goldoni's *Diener zweier Herren*. This comedy, together with Schiller's *Kabale und Liebe* and *Der Schwierige* by Hugo von Hofmannsthal dominated the repertory for the first few months promoting the illustrious ensemble – Hugo, Helene and Hermann Thimig, Sybille Binder, Gustav Waldau, Anton Edthofer, Hermann Romberg, Adrienne Gessner and Egon Friedell – and managed to maintain a uniquely high standard until 1938 when this theatre became just one of Germany's many stages.

Successes on the Continent. British and American plays rank highly in present-day German-speaking theatres. Recently one could see Osborne's *The Entertainer* at the Thalia in Hamburg, *Dancing in Lughnasa* and *Oleanna* in Vienna, plays by O'Neill and Orwell in Berlin, and *Black Comedy* by Peter Shaffer in Zürich. All these plays were well attended, although numbers of performances do not compare with figures reached in this country.

Birthdays. George Tabori, Hungarian-born theatre director and author of some 20 plays, had his 80th birthday. A controversial figure, he worked in Hollywood during the war, returned to Vienna in the Fifties and had his latest play *The 25th hour* premiered there a short while ago. – Lisa della Casa, born in Switzerland, an operatic soprano of outstanding beauty, is 75. Delightful in many Mozart and Strauss parts, she made Arabella her own special rôle, performing that part also at London's Royal Opera House in 1953 and 1965.

Obituary. Film director Axel Corti has died at the early age of 60. He was an indefatigable worker to the end, his last ambition being completion of the film *Radetzkymarsch*, based on Joseph Roth's novel. His trilogy of refugee tribulations, called *Wohin und zurück* created a television event that left a lasting impression.

Correction. In our report on the first Vienna performance of Lehár's *Giuditta* (AJR, February 1994) the name of Richard Tauber's partner was erroneously given as Vera Schwarz. It was, in fact, Jarmila Novotna (whose obituary appears on p. 15). The mistake is much regretted. □

The survivor's tale

50 years ago the Holocaust reached Hungary

Sunday, the 19th of March 1944 is forever engraved on my mind.

A student at the Jewish Teachers' Training College in Budapest when the Gestapo occupied it, I just managed to slip out of the building and travelled home to Miskolc.

In early summer we, my mother, sister and hundreds of fellow Jews were rounded up at the brick factory of Miskolc-Diosgyor. The gendarmerie treated us very roughly. It was a frightful day and night of shooting, shouting and crying. We heard the cattle wagons arriving as we huddled together on the bare floor without sleep.

The morning brought a miracle. A Hungarian Army officer, Captain Kalman Horvath, ordered all men aged 15 to 70 to gather in the courtyard. The 40 of us had to form a soldier-like company. When the gendarmerie commander reprimanded Cpt Horvath, the latter had his soldiers surround our group with rifles drawn, and shouted: 'These men are enlisted in the Hungarian Army Labour Corps'. Turning, he ordered us to march towards the exit gate.

At the beginning, life in the labour camp was bearable. However, after 15th October, when power passed into the hands of the Nazi Arrow Cross party, camp life changed for the worse. A new sadistic officer took command of our battalion. As the Russians advanced, we were ordered to march west-

wards, towards Germany. Mid-November we arrived in Budapest, where I risked simply walking out of our barracks, while my comrades distracted one of the guards.

I had a boy soldier's identity card on me, stolen during the summer from a shepherd boy who worked near our camp. I adopted his name, Emil Pasztor, and identity.

I was lucky, nobody asked for my papers. During the day I wandered in the street and even went to the cinema. I slept in doorways or cellars and heard the Arrow Cross gangs round up Jews and shoot them on the banks of the Danube. One night I slept in the annexe of the Dohany Street Synagogue, where I heard of a priest by the name of Gabor Sztchlo who gave shelter to Jewish children.

Office in Buda

On a late November afternoon I arrived at his office in Buda, only to be stopped by a fat doorman. We exchanged a few loud words, when an elegantly dressed young, but grey-haired man appeared. It was the Pastor who smilingly invited me into his office. When, recovered from my surprise, I confessed my Jewishness, he said he would send me to a children's home. Then he handed me a document (headed Comité International de la Croix Rouge - Delegation en Hongrie) to the effect that Emil Pasztor, refugee student, was employed as a messenger by the CICR; it was signed Gabor Sztchlo, Evangelical-Lutheran priest, Director of the Childrens' Homes.

In the children's home on Buda hilltop nearly everybody was Jewish, or of Jewish

origin. Life was very orderly and peaceful.

Towards the end of December we heard the distant rumblings of Russian guns. Day by day the front line crept nearer. On 3rd January 1945 in the early evening a German officer came in and curtly told the Deaconess house-mother, to vacate our villa within hours; the Wehrmacht were going to instal a heavy gun in the garden and occupy the building.

We arranged by telephone to go to Pastor Sztchlo's house. We woke the younger children and filled up our pockets with sugar cubes. The nurses packed some first aid equipment in case of casualties. About thirty children and ten adults, we walked silently through deep snow in single file. In front and at the back German soldiers, guns at the ready, escorted us, helping to carry sleeping Jewish toddlers.

At the door Pastor Sztchlo and his young wife were awaiting us. In their flat we sat where we could. After a short time Mrs. Ilona Sztchlo served us steaming hot caraway-seed soup, and we ate up all her family's reserve food that morning. The Sztchlo's had two young children. Their flat already sheltered the fat doorman and his wife, as well as a Communist writer on the wanted list of the Arrow Cross. Days passed and the firing got closer, but the proximity of the Sztchlos gave me a secure feeling that I could only perish by accident of war like any other person.

Now I realised what heroic work Sztchlo was doing. With the help of the Inter-

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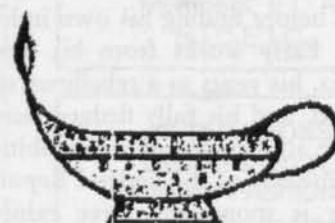
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national Red Cross and the goodwill of its delegate, the Swiss Friedrich von Born, Sztchlo organised many homes for mainly Jewish children. I visited some of them during December as a messenger. Usually there was a sign on the door saying *This Children's Home is under the protection of the IRC*. Sometimes, at Sztchlo's request, I took food to adults, who were hiding in cellars and in ruined houses.

Opposite Sztchlo's house was the Japanese Ambassador's deserted residence. Its cellar was the H.Q. of the local German command. The officers regularly visited our shelter. They talked to the Sztchlos, and sometimes I could hear them talk. On one occasion an older officer, a doctor from Hamburg, indicated that he guessed who the children Sztchlo was sheltering were and expressed his admiration for him. The same officer assured Sztchlo, that no Hungarian Fascist was allowed to set foot in his sector of the front. He gave us practical help in the form of an army truck and driver to collect food from the Swiss Red Cross stores in Buda Castle.

During this time the Fascist gangs were murdering Jews by the thousands. We got the sad news about the massacre of the inhabitants of the Maros Street Jewish Old People's Home. Dr. Roth and his wife were among the victims. Their two teenage children were with us. Sztchlo and his wife comforted them with great love and

understanding.

In the last days of January, after heavy fighting in our garden, the Russians liberated us. Our shelter's door was 'opened' by a hand grenade . . . we pushed the frightened Communist writer towards the door, and he shouted in Russian 'Towarish! Towarish! here are only civilians and children.' Pastor Sztchlo stood there in his cassock, oil lamp in his hands lifted up high. The smoke had not cleared completely, when the writer 'introduced' Sztchlo to one of the Russian officers. They shook hands. 'Nyemetzky soldat?' he asked, as they looked for German soldiers.

Close call

All the men were ordered to come up to a ground floor room, one by one. As my turn came, the officer pointed at me: 'Nyemetzky'! . . . I nearly fainted . . . he thought I was a German soldier in civilian dress. It took a long time for Sztchlo to explain that I was one of his charges and Hungarian-Jewish.

Liberated, I looked forward to a better future. In the following month I continued my studies at the Jewish Teachers' Training College. At the same time I worked with Pastor Sztchlo to organize a home, named PAX, for the countless homeless and orphan children of the war.

My mother and sister returned home in

May from Auschwitz. I stayed with Sztchlo until the summer of 1948.

He never wanted to convert any of us. In fact it was he who made me go to the synagogue on Yom Kippur 1945.

After the war it came to light that Sztchlo had saved over 900 children and more than 500 adults.

Pastor Gabor Sztchlo was the first Hungarian awarded Yad Vashem's Medal of the Righteous, in 1972. As he was living in Switzerland at the time, the medal was given to him in Berne. I had the great privilege and honour to speak at the ceremony, in the name of the rescued 'Sztchlo children'. He died in 1974 at Interlaken.

In 1984 his son Gabriel planted a tree in his memory at the Yad Vashem Garden of Remembrance.

Dear reader, when you visit Budapest, go up to the Castle District in Buda. Please walk, less than 5 minutes from the Hilton Hotel, towards Becsi Kapu Ter Evangelical Church. On its wall is a plaque inscribed 'To the memory of Pastor Gabor Sztchlo, the saviour of the persecuted'.

We, the 'Sztchlo Children' erected this memorial to the memory of the man, who for us was a saint, in the Biblical sense of the word.

I make my pilgrimage there every year. There we meet, the grey haired 'children' coming from all over the world with their children, to remember.

□ Pal Foti-Friedlander

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Cooking with Gretel Beer



Lore's Gateau

The recipe for this very rich chocolate gateau was given to me originally by Lore Minich, late wife of Vienna's favourite tenor, Peter Minich, and in my family it has always been known as 'Lore's Gateau'. Many years later an old friend of ours presented me with 'our special chocolate gateau recipe - it's been in the family for generations'. I accepted gratefully, but when I came to take a closer look, there it was: Lore's Gateau! Who's to say which came first and far be it from me to enquire, though I'd love to know how it came to be passed on.

Ingredients

6 eggs
180 g (6½ oz) plain or bitter chocolate
180 g (6½ oz) butter
180 g (6½ oz) icing sugar
dash of rum
butter and flour for the cake tin
chocolate shavings or grated chocolate for decoration

Butter and flour a 25 cm (10 inch) spring-clip cake tin.

Preheat the oven to Gas Mark 1, 275°F, 140°C.

Separate eggs. Break the chocolate into small pieces and set to melt in a warm place. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, then beat in the egg yolks gradually, beating well after each addition. Beat in the melted, but not hot, chocolate and the rum.

Whisk eggwhites until stiff and fold into the mixture.

Put a third of the mixture into the prepared cake tin and bake for 35 minutes - the cake will still be a little moist inside. Carefully remove the spring-clip from the tin, but leave the cake to sit on the base. Set to cool and then pile remaining mixture on top and spread a little over sides of cake as well. Sprinkle with chocolate shavings or grated chocolate. Do not attempt to remove the cake from the base - just set it on a larger plate or dish and serve it from there. □

Birthday

Owen Franklyn - 80

Birthday greetings to Owen Franklyn who will be 80 on 28 April. Born in Hamburg, a fact which has left a special imprint on him, he looks back over a life which brought much happiness, but also a full measure of sadness. He had the good fortune to find both satisfaction and success in his long professional career. The death of his wife Helga was a great shock from which he recovered, fortified by the love of his family and that of his very many friends.

Following his father's sudden death he decided to leave Germany when the Nazis came to power and reached England in 1933, having spent some months reading law in Grenoble and Geneva. His studies were completed in London and were

followed by many years in the legal profession from which he retired only a few years ago as partner in a prominent firm of London solicitors.

Music, and in particular chamber music, have always been his great joy. Although no longer an active musician, his knowledge and experience ensure that his advice and guidance are listened to with respect. He joined the executive of the AJR in 1972 and as trustee of its Charitable Trust he served until his retirement in 1989. He continues to represent the wider interests of the community as a member of the Council of Jew from Germany. From 1985 until 1989 he served on the council and management committee of the Otto Schiff Housing Association. His advice and devotion to the cause were always most helpful.

We extend to him our heartfelt wishes for many years of good health and happiness.

□ L.S.

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Obituaries

Rudolf Schwarz

The Vienna-born conductor, Rudolf Schwarz, has died aged 88. As a young man he was inspired by the legendary Artur Nikisch to take up conducting. He studied in Vienna under Hans Gal and then worked as coach in the Düsseldorf Opera and later as assistant conductor at the Karlsruhe Opera, until ousted by the Nazis. Liberated from Belsen by the Allies in 1945 he came to England via Sweden as musical director to the then Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra from 1947 to 1951 and of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra from 1951 to 1957. In 1957 he became principal conductor to the BBC Symphony Orchestra as successor to Malcolm Sargent, being more inclined to tackle modern music than his predecessor. He was also a champion of British composers. All this brought very mixed reactions from critics and the public, and he never became very popular and

failed to fill concert halls. He resigned in 1962 and was appointed conductor of the Northern Sinfonia at Newcastle upon Tyne in 1964 and artistic director 3 years later. He much enlarged the Northern Sinfonia and greatly enhanced its reputation.

But by 1970 he was past his peak and retired in 1973, having been appointed CBE.

His players admired him for his musical understanding, teaching ability, loyalty, generosity and total lack of ego and ruthlessness. These characteristics may have prevented his reaching the top of his profession. He married, in 1950, Greta Ohlson who died in 1984. They had one son. □

Jarmila Novotna

Jarmila Novotna, the Czech-born soprano, has died in the U.S.A. aged 86. After her début as Violetta in Prague in 1926, she joined the Berlin Staatsoper in 1928. She left Berlin for Vienna in 1933 – pointedly moving in the opposite direction to such pro-Nazi opportunists as Josef Manow-

arda, Franz Völker and Clemens Krauss. Eventually choosing New York as her domicile, she sang at the Met from 1939 to 1954. She loved the Czech repertory but also excelled as Pamina, Manon, Elvira and, in particular, as Octavian in *Rosenkavalier*. Her one and only excursion into the field of operetta was in Lehár's *Giuditta*. □

Dr Joseph Adler

Dr J. Adler has died aged 83. Born in Vienna and a graduate of the University of Vienna he fled to this country in 1938. His fiancé Pepi, also a doctor, arrived shortly afterwards and the couple were later married in London.

After studying at Edinburgh University Dr Adler was appointed sole pathologist at Pinderfields Hospital in 1948. He concentrated on building up the department which today has three pathologists.

Following his retirement in 1975, Dr Adler actively maintained his interest in pathology. □

Concert of Europe

Descriptions of the indescribable continue to pour off the presses. Giuliana Tedeschi's Birkenau memoir *There is a place on earth* – a female companion piece, so to speak, to Primo Levi's *If This is a Man* – has achieved critical acclaim. In *The Independent* Jasper Rees pointed to an irony inherent in the author's name: to be a Jew called Tedeschi in Birkenau is like being a Kurd called Saddam.

In Italian Tedeschi, plural of *tedesco*, means Germans. It was a far from infrequent Jewish surname. North of the Alps its equivalent – Deutsch – was even more widespread. Prague produced the actor Ernst Deutsch who appeared in the *Third Man*, Vienna the Social Democrat Defence Minister Julius Deutsch, New York the poetess and translator Babette Deutsch, and London the cinema tycoon Oscar Deutsch, head of Gaumont British. A variant of that name was Cracow-born Isaac Deutscher, Marxist critic and biographer of Trotsky.

The Russians call German *njemez*, after the Lithuanian river Niemen which roughly separates the two language areas. In consequence there were Jews all over Central Europe called Nemeth, such as the Hungarian critic and Kafka expert Andor Nemeth.

In German a Frenchman is *ein Franzose* – and lo and behold we have the Polish-born German language writer Karl Emil Franzos. An Austrian is *ein Österreicher*, hence the

German-born, New Zealand-based Pacifist cleric Canon Osterreicher. A Spaniard is *ein Spanier*; Ginette Spanier is a name to conjure with in the world of *haute couture*. An Englishman is *ein Engländer*; if few people know the Vienna-born poet Richard Engländer it is because he changed his name to Peter Altenberg. (Hence Alban Berg's *Altenberg Lieder*.)

The most widespread Jewish surname linked to a national identity is probably Pollak, of the Hollywood film director Sidney Pollack. (Little-known fact: the term Polack for an inhabitant of Poland already occurs in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.)

National identity brings such loaded words as native (*Inländer*) and foreigner (*Ausländer*) in its train as a matter of course. Curiously enough there was a Jewish painter by the name of Henry Inlander, not to mention the Bukowina-based writer called Rosa Ausländer. *Ausländer* is an epithet much bandied about in xenophobia-prone United Germany. In pre-unified Italy the acronym V.E.R.D.I. (for *Vittorio Emmanuele Re D'Italia*) did as much for the composer as it did for the national cause; it is doubtful if the convergence of her name with the popular epithet will do as much for Rosa Ausländer's poetry. □ R.G.

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A Republic without Republicans

Throughout Europe there has been an increase in the extreme right. In Germany this increase is often thought to be of special significance and a direct connection is assumed between the rise of the Nazi Party in the thirties and that of the Neo-Nazis today. A study of the voting pattern during the Weimar Republic makes it possible to refute this link.

When the armistice was signed in 1918, army and home front were on the point of disintegrating. Workers' and Soldiers' Councils on the Soviet model caused widespread fear of red revolution among the officer corps as well as the middle class. However, the Social Democrats (SPD) distanced themselves from the radical Independent Socialists because they believed that a socialist revolution must be based on the consent of the people: society could not be transformed unless a general election gave this legitimacy. For this purpose the SPD proposed an elected National Assembly to meet in Weimar. Berlin was considered too insecure because of the Soldiers' and Workers' Councils.

Elections for the assembly took place in 1919. To everyone's surprise, Hindenburg issued a declaration of support for the SPD in order to prevent 'the spreading of terrorist bolshevism'. He had sponsored the *Dolchstoßlegende* that the undefeated German army had been stabbed in the back by a cowardly home front. This had made him the rallying point for reactionary forces, already preparing a war of revenge; now they rallied round Hindenburg to support the lesser evil. This is the only reason why the parties which supported Weimar received such overwhelming support (nearly 80 per cent). The extreme right-wing parties received 15.6 per cent and the extreme left-wing parties obtained 8 per cent. It was the only occasion when a majority of Germans voted in favour of the Weimar Republic.

There were only three parties which consistently supported the republic: the

SPD, Zentrum and the Deutsche Demokratische Volkspartei later called Deutsche Staatspartei.

Once the right-wing considered the red danger past, they formed a permanent opposition undermining all democratic institutions. In 1920 when the first Reichstag elections were held, the three democratic parties received only 43.6 per cent of the votes. In 1924 there were two elections and the three parties received 39.3 and 45.9 per cent respectively.

The presidential elections of 1925 were an important pointer to the future, because Hindenburg opposed Wilhelm Marx, the democratic candidate. Hindenburg was supported by all right-wing parties including the small Nazi Party. He received 48.3 per cent of the votes and the Communist Thälmann obtained 6.4 per cent. For the extreme right this was a great victory for their cause and they celebrated it with champagne parties all over Germany. Hindenburg, though a monarchist at heart, did swear an oath of allegiance to the republic. He agreed to serve the republic and had stood as candidate only to prevent even greater extremists like Ludendorff (the Nazi favourite) from being elected. Eyck in his monumental *Geschichte der Weimarer Republik* said 'the decisive importance of this election is the fact that republicans were a minority in the Germany republic'. The *Berliner Tageblatt* commented that Germany appeared to be a republic without republicans.

The three democratic parties failed to gain a majority in all subsequent elections. Their vote was reduced in 1930 to 40.1 per cent and in 1933, when the Nazis were already in power, to 30.4 per cent.

The rise of the Nazis was phenomenal. From 12 deputies in 1928 they rose to 107 in 1930, becoming the second biggest party. Two years later they were the biggest, and the following year they were able to form the government. But most of their votes were not taken from the democratic parties but from other right-wing extremists, particularly the *Deutschnationale*, as well as from previous non-voters who voted for the first time. The percentage of participation rose from 75.6 per cent of those eligible to vote in 1928 to 88.7 per cent in 1933. All right-wing parties were chauvinist and anti-semitic, and had all supported violence against their opponents. In 1920 the *Deutschnationale*, the biggest right-wing party at the time, included in their programme the exclusion of Jews from public life. Walter Rathenau was perhaps the most prominent of the democrats murdered by them before the Nazi Party existed. The

reason they lost to the Nazis is because their leaders lacked the charisma of Hitler and the propagandist genius of Goebbels.

The Communists campaigned against the Weimar Republic throughout this period. The Comintern had termed the SPD 'social fascists' and they believed that after a short period of Nazi rule, the disillusioned workers would rise to establish a red republic. So they did not worry that their anti-government campaign might help the Nazis. Rogalla, a prominent Communist, appeared at a Nazi party rally in 1932 and called the Weimar Republic *Sau- und Schweinestall* (a pig sty). The Berlin transport workers' strike in 1932 started by the Communists was soon supported by the Nazis. This Nazi-Communist collaboration was the final blow that brought the Weimar Republic down. The Communists paid a heavy price for their mistaken campaign as almost all their officials were exterminated in concentration camps.

A comparison of voting patterns of the Weimar Republic with that of the Federal Republic shows how erroneous it is to draw conclusions from one to the other. Neo-Nazis do not poll more than about 10 per cent at elections whilst the rest of the parties support the Federal Republic. Even the right-wing Bavarian CSU is welded to the Federal Constitution. Thus it is correct to say that a Neo-Nazi vote of 10–15 per cent in 1994 would still represent a 85–90 per cent vote in favour of democracy whilst in the election of 1924 the 6.6 per cent vote for the Nazis in their first electoral contest far from represented a 93.4 per cent vote in favour of the Weimar Republic. When we examine the voting pattern, it actually showed a 60.4 per cent vote against democracy.

The present anti-foreigner outbursts must be compared with similar events in France, Britain and the rest of Western Europe. It has nothing to do with the murder and arson campaigns of the Nazis in the 1920s and 30s.

In contrast to Weimar the Federal Republic is today more firmly embedded in democracy than at any time in Germany's history. □ Peter Prager

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