

AJR Information

Volume L No. 6

June 1995

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

Rudolf Jones p.2

Radical chic – or
cheek p.3

A merchant of
Hamburg p.7

The Oklahoma bomb

The fact that initial suspicion of Arab terrorist involvement in the outrage turned out to have been unfounded, may have disappointed some readers – but need not have. A politically sick USA ultimately poses a greater danger to Israel and to world peace than Islamic Jihad. The Oklahoma outrage administered a salutary shock to the American political system which had been drifting dangerously rightwards since the mid-term elections. From the realisation of where anti-Washington phobia can lead, a better balance between government and people should emerge □

A numbers game with incalculable consequences

Towards the Millennium

In Britain the approach of the year 2000 has promoted the creation of the Millennium Fund disbursing money to charity, sport and the arts. Among minds less pragmatic than those of the prosaic Brits the word millennium connotes something vastly different, i.e. an expectation of the end of the world. The age-old notion of the 'end of days' (originally a Judaic concept) is not to be understood simply as the final destruction of the earth – but rather as a chaotic interregnum ending the corrupt world we know and ushering in the perfect world to come.

The early Christians took over Jewish Messianism, an idea that bubbled up every so often during the

Middle Ages. As the jubilee year 1500 AD approached, the monk Savonarola advocated the purging of sinful mankind by fire; his fellow Florentine Botticelli was sufficiently impressed by such preaching to consign his own canvases to the flames of the bonfire of the vanities.

Over the next 150 years millenarianism flared up further north, in the Germany of the Peasants' Revolt and the England of the Civil War. Then, in the early nineteenth century Messianic expectancy changed direction and centred on the United States spawning cult religions like the Seventh Day Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses.

Back in Europe in the twentieth century, the fires of an – irreligious – belief in a better world to come flared up in Soviet Russia. Communism claimed to be the harbinger of an earthly paradise, free of poverty and injustice. Hot on its heels came the ultimate perversion of the idea of the millennium: Hitler's symbolically named Thousand Year Reich. Nazi wartime poetry chillingly conjured up visions of the end of the world:

*Brach Etzel's Haus in Glut zusammen
als er die Niebelungen zwang
Dann soll der Erdball steh'n in Flammen
bei der Germanen Untergang.*

(If Attila's palace collapsed in ash, when he subdued the Nibelungs, Then let the globe burst into flames, when the Teutons meet their doom).

During the last half century the madness engendered by millenarianism has hardly effected Europe. It has, however, ravaged the Far East, *pace* China's Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution and Cambodia's Pol Pot régime.

In contrast to China and Cambodia, Japan has throughout this time been governed pragmatically – yet the tensions modernity imposed on a hidebound society were such that millenarianism flourishes in the country. And this brings us bang up-to-date. The millenarian sect *Aun Shimsri Kyo*, suspected of nerve gas attacks on the Tokyo underground may, alas, only be one of several crackpot groups whom the proximity of the year 2000 will entice into committing apocalyptic outrages so as to hasten the coming of the millennium □

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will be held at

15 Cleve Road,
West Hampstead, NW6 3RL

on Thursday 8 June 1995
at 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA

Annual Report 1994

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Discussion

Election of Committee of Management

This will be followed by a talk to be given by

Prof. Edward Timms

entitled:

The 'Wandering Jew' and the 'Ewige Jude'

a comparative analysis of two stereotypes.

Enquiries: AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate,

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Tel: 0171-431 6161

For list of candidates to Committee of Management
and biographical notes, see page 12.

Otto Schiff Housing Association

Mr. R.W. Mattes stepped down from his position as Chairman of OSHA, and membership of its Council and Management Committee, at the end of May, a position he has held for the past eight years. During his time in office the Association has had to come to terms with the new legislative environment and adapt to the 'Care in the Community' concept. As a consequence, OSHA has been called on to cope with the increased frailty of residents entering its homes.

A former Deputy Chairman of the Meat and Livestock Commission and Chairman of Mattesons Meats, a Unilever subsidiary, he was born in Neuwied, Germany, 71 years ago.

Following Mr. Mattes's resignation, the Council has appointed Mr. M.M. Kochmann as Acting Chairman of the Council and Management Committee of the Otto Schiff Housing Association, pending the appointment of a permanent chairman in due course. Mr. Kochmann has been a member of the Council for ten years. He is Chairman of the Association of Jewish Refugees, Chairman of the Leo Baeck Housing Association, Hon. Treasurer of Belsize Square Synagogue, and associated with many other charitable causes □



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Profile

Rudolf Jones

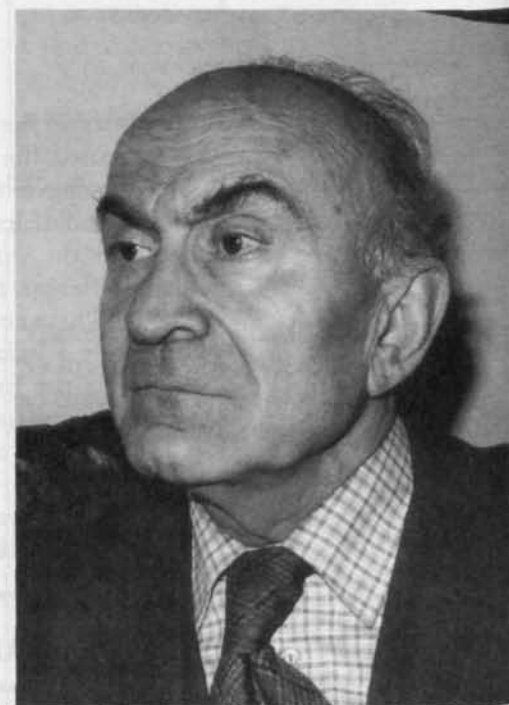
The fact that Nazism overwhelmed Austria five years after Germany brought us few enough advantages. One of them, though, was that we could read authors banned, and burned, by Goebbels. I first realised the true nature of Nazism by reading Lion Feuchtwanger's *The Brothers Oppermann* as a young teenager. A little later I devoured Yolanda Földes' *Die Strasse der fischenden Katze*, a depiction of the life eked out by hapless refugees in crumbling Paris tenements. Safe in the UK, I continued to rely on Feuchtwanger for catching the flavour of refugee life across the Channel, first in *Paris Gazette* and then in the grim 1940 memoir *The Devil in France*.

To encounter this month's profilee is to meet a flesh-and-blood revenant risen from the pages of Feuchtwanger and Földes. Born just before the Great War, Rudolf Jonas was the son of a Berlin manufacturer and inventor. The father, allowed to keep his factory in the early Nazi years, could finance Rudolf's continued education in France after the latter's expulsion from German universities. An economics graduate by 1935 Rudolf was allowed to stay in France but forbidden to take up employment. He eked out a living as a ghostwriter for Georg Bernhard (ex-editor of the *Vossische Zeitung*, now publisher of the *Pariser Tageblatt*) and by working for a South African news agency as well as the World Jewish Congress. But there were also intervals of normality in this precarious existence as when he met and married Eva, a fellow refugee who performed anti-Nazi cabaret songs in a café owned by Isadora Duncan's brother.

The outbreak of war brought a rapid deterioration in their situation. There were police round-ups, internment, conscription into the Foreign Legion and, above all, chaos. After the collapse of France the young couple escaped into the Unoccupied Zone. There Eva found refuge in a convent, but pressure to convert made her come out again. Warned off crossing into Switzerland - 'the Swiss hand escapers over to the Nazis' - they finalised *walked over a 9,000 ft. Pyrenean mountain into neutral Franco Spain*.

There they were arrested and Rudolf

spent time in a jail where the guards were nightly executing Republican prisoners. Eventually helped by the British ambassador, Sir Samuel Hoare, the couple eventually made it to England where Rudolf joined the Royal Army Service Corps. He admittedly showed little mechanical aptitude but did useful work at Denazification trials in immediate post-war Berlin.



Dr. Rudolf Jones

Demobbed he took a job with the Petroleum Press Bureau and advanced via various trade journals to the editorship of *Solid Fuel*, the coal trade paper. He acquitted himself so well that on retiring in 1980 he received glowing testimonials from Coal Board luminaries Lord Robens and Derek Ezra. As a pensioner he returned to the academic life he had been missing for over four decades. He enrolled at the LSE, gained an MA and wrote a doctoral dissertation on Allied wartime policy towards Spain.

But Dr. Jones - as he is now called - is not the only writer in the family. Eva, a singer in Paris became a novelist in London. (Her titles include *Thirteen*, *Double Decker* and *Taboo*.) Some years ago she, however, suffered a stroke which obliged Rudolf to abandon the scholarly career he had so enthusiastically embarked on in his 'Third Age'. Despite this setback he can look back on a life crowded with as much achievement as incident.

□ R.G.

Radical chic – or cheek

It's quite an eye-opener visiting Vienna and Prague these days. For the first time in many decades it's chic to be Jewish. This comes as something of a surprise.

Spending some weeks in Vienna in 1986, I was startled to find how antisemitism was still woven into the fabric of everyday social life. This was the bitter time when Kurt Waldheim was running for President and feeling was running high in certain quarters against those, especially in the "American-Jewish conspiracy", who insisted on pointing out that the would-be President, if not a Nazi, certainly had an unsavoury war record, was a proven liar, and was undeserving of high office. To be fair to the Austrians, there was genuine resentment at what was seen as outside interference in a domestic election, and the crusading World Jewish Congress often seemed in the grip of hysteria, which hardly aided its cause.

On the football terraces and *Lokals* of Vienna I could follow just enough of the thickly accented vernacular to pick up the occasional slighting references to Jews, quite outside any political context. It didn't amount to much, but it was there all the same.

Perhaps Jews are still the butt of scornful and joky references on the football terraces (just as they are, shamefully, in this country), but in smarter corners of Vienna it's a different story. There are books, there are posters, there are television programmes, all celebrating Jewish culture, Jewish history. When I gave a reading in an English language bookshop in Vienna in 1990, I was treated with a respect I never encountered in Britain. I can't prove it, but I suspect I was feted not so much for any literary abilities as for my status as a visiting Jew who happened to have written about Vienna.

In Prague, where I spent a week in March 1995, the contrast is even more striking between then and now. The Communist regime, to its everlasting shame, took a dim view of Jews. Many of those involved in show trials of the 1950s were Jewish, and it was evident that the tiny Jewish community in Prague found it prudent, even in the 1980s, to remain discreet about its activities. It was possible to spend hours at Terezin, as I did, without encountering a single reference to the fact that the garrison town had been used as a staging post on the dark road to the death

camp. Only at the grim crematorium, on the edge of the town, was there a memorial to the thousands of Jews who perished here. Meanwhile at the museum in the Small Fortress, Israel was lumped with some of the most loathsome regimes in the world as a prime example of modern Fascism.

Now there is a proper museum about the ghetto, as there should be, but it's in Prague that the volte-face is most remarkable. I went off to visit the Altneu Synagogue again, but found the street blocked by limousines and security men. I later learnt that a new Torah, or a restored old one, had been presented to the ancient synagogue, and this event was being marked by the attendance of, among other dignitaries, President Havel and the American Ambassador. Hard to imagine such honour being heaped on an equivalent occasion in this country. In 1987 the Altneu could barely muster a *minyan* on Friday nights. Today there are three active congregations in the city, no doubt bolstered by Jews from America and other parts of Europe who are now working in Prague.

The streets of the old Jewish quarter are thronged with tour groups, quietly and diligently visiting the synagogues and museum and cemetery. The cemetery has always been popular with visitors, for it is one of the most picturesque and absorbing spots in central Europe, but now the whole quarter is as packed with tourists as the castle or the Old Town Square. There are bookshops selling nothing but books on Prague, many of them on Jewish themes. In restaurants throughout the city you can see posters with Hebrew script on the walls – just decoration. The Star of David has become a fashion accessory, available in countless jewellery shops and souvenir stalls. Want a mezuzah? There are dozens to choose from. There's a pop group called Shalom, and its admirers proudly wear the Star on their necklaces, even though they are not Jewish. I walked into a basement shop selling knickknacks near the National Theatre, far from the Jewish quarter. There was Shalom again, this time a sign in Hebrew above the door, a hieroglyphic that has become legible to thousands of non-Jews.

Well, let's enjoy our popularity while it lasts. It's a pleasing novelty to be the flavour of the month, even though there is a certain irony in the fact that such fervent celebrations of Jewishness are to be encountered in two cities where even today the Jewish population is sparse. But even

the most sceptical observer must conclude that Jewish chic is a vast improvement on what preceded it for the previous six decades.

□ Stephen Brook

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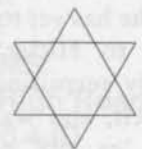
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Reviews

Poisoning the wells of truth

Deborah Lipstadt, *DENYING THE HOLOCAUST*, Penguin, £8.99

Professor Lipstadt's book confronts the work of reputable academics and journalists some of whose efforts have reached a wide audience, have influenced serious university students and given ammunition to neo-Nazi movements.

Their aim, she holds, is so to muddy the waters that future generations will no longer understand the real menace of Fascism and thus make it respectable again. The six million dead are Hitler's worst testimony; deny their fate and all his other deeds may well look more acceptable. So the apologists labour hard to establish Hitler's non-involvement in this particular crime, his ignorance of the efforts of Himmler and his SS whose tentacles reached into every corner of German life from the early nineteen-thirties to the mid nineteen-forties.

One of the main apologists is Britain's own David Irving, a controversial, but widely read, historian, skilled in the discovery and exploitation of documents. He has in the past accepted the Holocaust as a fact, but makes his stand on the absence of an AH (Adolf Hitler) signature on any order in connection with the subject. Latterly Irving has joined the disparagers of the Holocaust as such, though I doubt that he has yet totally denied it.

As to Hitler's "detachment", it is hardly surprising that the man who saw himself, and wanted to go down in history, as the greatest panjandrum of everything, did not want to be remembered as the most productive mass murderer of all times.

So the deniers beaver away, often aducing hypotheses which would have been applauded by Socrates himself for their sophism, and mixing them at times with the crudest and most transparent antisemitism, not even fighting shy of the Elders of Zion forgeries. In the main the arguments, whether lofty or crude, can be summed up thus: the Holocaust never happened, and the Jews deserved it, anyhow.

Surprisingly among the most ardent de-

niers are Americans, such as Harry Elmer Barnes or Arthur Butz who wisecracked that the missing Jewish millions are alive and well in New York; the French contribution, led by Robert Faurisson and Paul Rassinier, is essentially a function of that nation's bad conscience. As for the Germans they indulged in a veritable battle of historians on the topic. Ernst Nolte squandered his reputation by giving aid and comfort to the less discriminating deniers (though attention needs to be drawn to the fact that the German State has actively combated denial ideology, and has banned Irving from its territory).

Then there are the "technical experts": Fred Leuchter, an engineer of sorts, who was discredited when, as a witness in a trial in Canada, he tried to deny the existence of gas chambers and the cremation facilities. His claim to expertise collapsed in open court and he had to retract, but his writings are still propagated by neo-Nazis and even quoted by those who see themselves as more "scientific" disputants.

Of great interest in Professor Lipstadt's book is the Appendix story of the fate that befell the Anne Frank diaries. One must deplore the problems that arose between Otto Frank (Anne's father), Meyer Levin, the self-appointed promoter of the heart-rending, but sometimes childishly awkward, original document, and Hollywood. The unpleasant quarrels and legal repercussions gave ammunition to the sneerers and the outright deniers of Anne's authorship.

□John Rossall

A remarkable institution

Katharine Whitaker and Michael Johnson, Ill. by Chris Townson, *STOATLEY ROUGH SCHOOL 1934-1960, Stootley Rough School History Steering Committee, 1994, £12.*

This history of the former refugee school in Haslemere had its beginnings in an article that appeared in these pages in 1990. Margaret K. Faulkner, who as Miss Dove had taught English in Stootley Rough, had written an affectionate tribute entitled *WHERE SCHOOL WAS HOME*. First one old pupil responded, then another,

and suddenly the world seemed full of Old Roughians. Soon a committee was formed with the express purpose of writing a school history.

This short, factual history (attractively illustrated by Chris Townson) is the result of five years of dedicated research. In the first section Katharine Whitaker deals with the early days of the school and provides the political background in Germany, and the British response to the refugee problem. Old Roughians will find the tentative beginnings of the school and the Quaker involvement particularly intriguing.

The second part, both humorous and thoughtful, by Michael Johnson, describes the post-war years of the school and what he calls 'creeping anglicisation'. The foreign element continued however and indeed Dr. Lion proudly called her school 'international'; (more remarkable then, perhaps, than now!)

Surprisingly, Johnson considers the educational approach to have been traditional 'with rather less interest in creativity and personal expression'. My own memories are quite the reverse. While admittedly our form had no art lessons, there were regular history-of-art talks, much emphasis on literature in German and English, and a great deal of musical activity at all times. But then as the author quite correctly observes, Stootley Rough was a school 'with many faces'.

A longer history is now being planned. I cannot help feeling that the material is already to hand in the many personal reminiscences that have been circulating. Well-edited, they should admirably complement the present history.

In the meantime, this book is to be welcomed. It will be of value to historians and also to former pupils who want to know more about the earliest and the later years of their school.

□Gerda Mayer

Simon P. Rhodes M.Ch.S.

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Hamlet with half a prince

Dorothy Parker and the Vicious Circle, Director Alan Rudolph, Minimax Films, on general release.

There is much to applaud in this film, not least the fact that, boasting a cast of literati – *New Yorker* editor Harold Ross, Charles McArthur (author of *Front Page*) Robert Sherwood (of *Idiot's Delight*) and George S. Kaufman (of *You Can't Take It With You*) – and others, it is addressed at a literate audience.

The aforementioned group (aka the 'vicious circle') form a foil to Dorothy Parker of bittersweet humour fame, whose quip 'Men don't make passes at girls who wear glasses,' has passed into the language. Not that the somewhat myopic, but attractive Dorothy had much to complain about in that particular regard. Men were forever making passes at her – and more often than not she reciprocated. The trouble was that her lovers, including her two husbands, were the wrong men. Mr. Right would have been the already married Robert Benchley who respected her too much to engage in a hole-and-corner affair.

A lifetime of all-to-close association with unloved – and unlovable – men made Dorothy the prolific author of devastating putdowns ('My husband broke his arm sharpening a pencil') and of brittle world weary poems. It also made her so miserable that she went through a succession of marital rows, drunken reconciliations, doomed affairs, abortion and suicide bids.

On screen we see her, halfway through this litany of sorrow, seeking help from a psychoanalyst who establishes the root cause of her misery: loss of her mother at the age of five. It is left at that, with the director obviously thinking that movie goers are able to work out the consequences of this traumatic event: the father's remarriage, fraught relations with the stepmother, growing estrangement etc.

What the film passes over totally is its self-destructive heroine's Jewishness – a factor which must have contributed to her sense of alienation. Around 1920 our co-religionists were just beginning to enter American society. The process is vividly brought to life on screen when George

Kaufman is introduced to the assembled literati as 'a Jew!' He therefore quickwittedly replies, 'If there are any more slurs on my race I shall walk out – and I shall expect Mrs. Parker to come at least halfway with me.'

The latter remark cannot but pass over most cinema-goers' heads since Dorothy Parker's (half) Jewishness is never mentioned. Born Dorothy Rothschild, she actually said, only half in jest, that she married Alan Parker to acquire a different surname. In other words, she had a complex about being Jewish and I hazard the guess that her intense dislike for her father stemmed, at least partly, from his saddling her with what she considered a burdensome inheritance.

All in all *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle* is an absorbing, beautifully crafted film, though it helps to do some preparatory reading before setting out for the cinema.

□ Richard Grunberger

Richard Grunberger is the author of Old Adam, New Eves (Vision Press, London 1992) which includes a chapter on Dorothy Parker.

Identity cards rediscovered

Historically significant identity cards, which were issued to more than 9,000 children forced to flee Nazi Germany without their parents, have been rediscovered by archivists working for the Central British Fund for World Jewish Relief.

Originally the Central British Fund for German Jewry, the CBF worked with other organisations after Kristallnacht to persuade the British Government to allow unaccompanied children from Germany and Austria to enter Britain without national passports or British visas. These were the Kindertransporte.

Identity cards were issued to each child and it is these which have been rediscovered. After completing their cataloguing, CBF would like to return the cards to their original owners. They, or their heirs, should write directly to the CBF Archivist, Drayton House, 30 Gordon Street, London WC1 0AN □

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Letters to the Editor

AGINCOURT AFTERMATH

Sir – Can you help me to understand how a French executive's opinions can put an English Wall Street banker out of a job? Do you really have to prove how British you are, even in the present atmosphere of EU co-operation? Does the A in AJR stand for Agincourt?

Puteaux
France

Dr. F. Dessau

Sir – Let us not forget the 90,000 French soldiers killed in action during the 1940 campaign, while the British suffered below 4,000.

The Channel Islands were deeply loyal to the Crown. Beginning July, German forces landed. The authorities, supported by Whitehall, accepted the situation and under German supervision worked 'loyally', never giving serious grounds for complaint.

Nazi laws, amongst them the racist laws, were applied by the Island authorities. The few Jews were arrested by the British police and handed over to the Germans, deported and never heard of again. The Island courts tried infringements of the German laws and severely punished those guilty. British residents were deported to a camp in Southern Germany, quite well treated, and returned after the war.

Like in Occupied France, morale broke down. Profiteering, black market, denunciations, all this made life extremely harsh. A great part of the population worked for the Germans in building fortifications at good wages which helped to feed their families. Here and there was some resistance, but no resistance movement as on the Continent. Nor did London encourage opposition.

When liberation finally came, the Islanders were jubilant and asked for justice to be done. But alongside Italy, the Channel Islands were the only country in Western Europe where no *épuration* was undertaken. Collaborators were not prosecuted. Great Britain did not wish to publicise what had happened on one of its territories. Bailiffs Victor Carey and Alexander Coutanche, who had worked so

smoothly with the German Occupation authorities, were knighted, and other senior members of the occupation government were also awarded honours.

Nor were the frightful conditions in the Alderney labour camps, where thousands of slave workers died building fortifications, even mentioned in Whitehall.

A little less smugness would be in place!
Eton College Road Herbert Braunsberg
London NW3

One can only speculate if Nazi-occupied Britain would have been any less collaborationist than France. The facts are these: In 1939/40 the French authorities at war with Germany treated their own 'enemy aliens' quite inhumanely (see Lion Feuchtwanger's 'The Devil in France') while the British Parliament debated the hardships arising out of mass internment at the height of the invasion scare.

In 1995 Le Pen gained five million votes and the BNP lost its only council seat. Ed.

PARENTS' QUANDARY

Sir – I am saddened that Mr. Teich-Birken has taken it upon himself to sit in judgement of all parents whose children married 'out'. Most of us found it impossible to sit over them with a whip, nor were we prepared to sit *shiva* for them. A parent's love never ceases.

It would have been better if Mr. Teich-Birken had a little love and sympathy and understanding for his fellow men.

Swakeleys Drive
Uxbridge, Middx.

Gisela Feldman

OUTRAGEOUS ACCUSATION

Sir – I have been deeply upset and am utterly appalled by Martin Teich-Birken's accusation in the April issue that I have "violated the memory of my dear ones and given Hitler a posthumous victory" by not giving my parents – both now dead – Jewish grandchildren.

I lost an uncle in the Holocaust. Fortunately my parents and I came to this

country where I chose to marry a Christian and to become a member of the Church of England myself. My husband has always been utterly supportive of all my Jewish family – when we married, he quoted to me the words from the book of Ruth: "Your people shall be my people..", and he has never gone back on that promise, so freely given. Indeed, both in his private life and in his work as a judge, he has been an unfailing opponent of antisemitism in all its horrible manifestations. Our two children are aware and proud of their Jewish roots.

My parents, who loved their son-in-law dearly, would have been outraged by the suggestion that Hitler was given any kind of victory as the result of our marriage.

Leinster Avenue
London SW14

Ursula Price

LAUGHABLE CHARGE

Sir – Erich Fried, who died some time ago, made no secret of his sympathy for the cause of the Palestinians. The charge that his attitude to Nazism was "highly ambiguous" is, of course, laughable.

Mr. Rosner ought to be ashamed of himself.

Gainsborough Road
London N12

F. G. Cohn

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Sir – I wonder whether the promoters of a museum in London have considered all the implications: if the displays were to be historically accurate, they would have to show that the Holocaust was made possible by the actions – or failure to act – of many countries, including Britain: in helping to build up the Nazi regime, refusing shelter to threatened people, preventing them from saving their lives – going as far as using the Royal Navy to enforce the policy – and by enabling the death trains to roll unhindered by any bombing. Not least, it would have to show the role of the teaching, practice and attitudes to the Jews of the Christian churches over the last 1800 years, particularly in the past 200, which are increasingly being seen by scholars as the *principal* cause of the Holocaust.

It is not that London is without any monument or display in public places: the modest one in Hyde Park serves as a permanent reminder and the Imperial War Museum has a permanent display.

In any event, monuments and museums are tied to one place. By contrast, books

can be disseminated widely.

Any money being collected for a Holocaust Museum in London would be far better spent on subsidising publication of selected texts. The US Holocaust Memorial Council has large funds available, but sees its functions in assisting only the publication of books dealing directly with the Holocaust, not with its causes. This narrow view prevents it from contributing to the study of the origins of the Holocaust. But if future Holocausts are to be prevented, this appears to me our most important task.

Moor Road South
Newcastle upon Tyne

Dr. Herbert Loebel

ANTICLIMACTIC

Sir - Having followed Walter Freud's series with great interest, I am disheartened by one of your correspondent's criticism of the style of this narrative.

To be parachuted into enemy territory and to walk unaided into one of their air force headquarters displays such incredible courage that the immensity of his achievement can in no way be diminished by the style of its telling.

Having served as a fellow officer in H.M. Forces I am grateful to you for having published this remarkable account.

Paradise Road
Richmond, Surrey

Walter H. Marmorek
(Major R.E.)

Sir - One has to suppose that your correspondent, Ralph Freeman, is a man with a grudge. It is difficult to think of any other explanation for his rather nasty little letter concerning A.W. Freud's "Germanically phrased" article. However, people in glasshouses... Perhaps it is my dictionary, but I just cannot find the word "Germanical" in it. Well, luckily for Mr. Freeman, he will also not be required to produce reports for the War Office, so it doesn't really matter.

Wendell Road
London W12

Eric Sanders

LISE MEITNER

Sir - May I thank, through the columns of your journal, all those of your readers who so kindly and helpfully responded to my request for the location of Lise Meitner's burial place.

I even received valuable correspondence from Dr. Ruth Lewin Sime, of the Chemistry Department, Sacramento College, California. Dr. Sime has written a new biography of Lise Meitner, shortly to be

published in the USA, hopefully later also being available here.

Meanwhile, my wife and I have visited the great scientist's and humanist's grave in the charming village of Bramley, Hampshire. To our delight, someone had recently placed fresh flowers at the base of her simple headstone.

We also received the pleasing news that a street in Laatzen-Rethen, in Germany, has been named Lise Meitner Strasse, with the recommendation to other German towns to follow this example.

Cedar Way
Slough

Walter and Heidi Steinhardt

RECOMMENDATION

Sir - May I draw your attention to the book *Sacred Games* by Gerald Jacobs published in January by Hamish Hamilton, £16.95. It deals with the fate of a young Hungarian Jew, Miklos Hammer, and his final miraculous survival. The book is compelling, moving and spellbinding, and whilst much has been written about the period of the Holocaust, this work is, no less than *Schindler's List*, a landmark in history, not just as a documentary, but makes exiting reading full of adventure and revealing surprises.

Bickenhall Mansions
Baker Street, London W1

Leonard H. Schuler

BE LESS SMUG!

Sir - I remember only too well the Prague of 1940, full of trapped refugees from Germany, Austria and the Sudeten, penniless in a country of which Mr. Chamberlain had said eighteen months earlier he knew nothing.

By 1943 Prague was empty of Jews. Czech Jews may have a memorial somewhere, but my refugee friends just passed through Prague into oblivion. But while we were still around a *Judenstaat* was an only too obvious necessity. Somewhere to go, not to be dependent on the reluctant and chancy goodwill of others, to be able to fight back when attacked. Therefore to me the hostile or take-it-or-leave-it attitude to Zionism among contributors is equivalent to "I am alright, Yankele" because they are the few who, by good fortune, escaped the final solution. Hundreds of thousands did not. Please put yourselves into their shoes and be less smug!

Warren Lane
Ipswich, Suffolk

Frank Bright

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre OPEN DAY

Sunday 23rd July 1995
at 2:30 pm

Family and friends
are all welcome to join us for
an enjoyable afternoon out, at
15 Cleve Road, London NW6

Entrance £2.50
including refreshments

OPEN DAYS IN THE OSHA HOMES

Leo Baeck House
11th June at 2:30pm
Entrance £3.00 (children £1.00)

Osmond House
2nd July at 2.30pm
Entrance £3.00

Clara Nehab House
23rd July at 2:30pm
Entrance £3.00 (Children £1.50)

Heinrich Stahl House
20th August at 3.00pm
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on 30th July

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CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE

The AJR at Work

Communal Seder

If the AJR ever had to provide easily comprehensible justification for its existence, a photograph of Cleve Road dining hall at 17.45 would do the trick. At that time (fully three quarters of an hour before the advertised start) over sixty of the anticipated eighty Seder guests – some of them very old, some partly handicapped, some very solitary – were already assembled. Their over-punctuality demonstrated how eagerly they looked forward to the Communal Seder.

They were not disappointed in the course of an evening that catered for body and soul in equal measure. The food tasted even more mouthwatering than I remembered from two years earlier. Spiritual sustenance was provided by Cantor Marshal Stone, who combines vocal prowess with a gift for exposition of the minutiae of Pesach ritual. I for one had known neither that *afikomen* was a Greek noun of mysterious significance, nor that *Chad Gadya* was an Aramaic text sung to the tune of a fifteenth-century German folksong. In addition the cantor is a great populariser; he managed to link the Book of Exodus to a Cecil B. de Mille blockbuster and to update one of the Ten Plagues from cattle murrain to BSE (or Mad Cow Disease). Truly, this night was different from other nights!

□ R.G.

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

Most people agree that the Day Centre is one of the best facilities offered by the AJR to its members. More than this, as a Day Centre, the quality of services and catering provided make it one of the best in our community.

Naturally, the operation of such a home from home costs money and revenue comes from entrance charges to members, charges for meals-on-wheels, and to a very large extent as a subsidy from the AJR Charitable Trust.

The Charitable Trust was set up to provide funds to assist our community in various ways and one of the services provided is the operation of the Paul Balint

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

DAY CENTRE CHARGES

Please note the following changes which will take effect on Monday 3 July 1995.

Day Session including lunch, morning and afternoon refreshments	£4.00
Morning session only, including refreshments	£1.50
Afternoon Session Tuesday & Thursday, including refreshments	£1.50
Supper Tuesday & Thursday	£1.50
Sunday afternoon, including refreshment	£2.00
Sunday afternoon, including tea and supper	£3.50
Take-away meals	£4.00
Meals-on-Wheels	£4.00
Delivery charge	£0.50
Delivery charge, 2 or more meals	£1.00

AJR Day Centre. However, there are other calls on the Trust's funds, such as support for the residential homes in The Bishops Avenue, sheltered accommodation provided by the AJR and the Otto Schiff Housing Association, Social Services, provision of financial support for the needy, etc.

As a result, the Trustees, having looked at the balance of expenditure between the various categories, have decided that to maintain the quality of our meals and services, we shall have to increase our charges from 3rd July 1995 from £3.50 to £4.00 for the whole day attendance at the Day centre. Other charges will be increased in line.

The Day Centre charges cover all the activities, entertainment, a three-course-lunch and morning and afternoon refreshments with biscuits or cake. In cases of need we shall continue to provide assistance with transport.

Similarly, the charges for the high quality meals-on-wheels and take-away meals will increase to £4.00 per meal. Delivery charges will be £1.00 for two or more meals.

We trust that the small increase in charges will be acceptable and will not cause any hardship. If it should do so, we would treat such cases with sympathy and understanding □

South London AJR

The 43 people who attended our meeting on 27th April included four new members. Agi Alexander, who heads AJR's Social Services, largely succeeded in breaking down the 'Thames Barrier' (ours, not the one in Woolwich): she assured us that AJR staff and volunteers were perfectly capable of crossing it from the north, and encouraged us to venture north if and when appropriate.

Since we met on Holocaust Day ('Yom Hashoah'), we were also fortunate to welcome two associates of the Wiener Library, which specialises in Holocaust research and literature. Martin Goldenberg, a member of their Executive Council, gave a fascinating historical sketch of the origin and development of the Library; his colleague Gerry Sigler provided an insight into the continuing selection and collection of press information. The lively discussion which followed left us pondering whether it was more important to educate the younger generation in Holocaust studies, than to establish a Holocaust Museum.

I was delighted to announce that members had volunteered their help with programme planning and venues, catering, handling our funds, membership records and offering lifts to our meetings.

South London AJR's next meeting is to be held on Wednesday (not Thursday as heretofore) 19th July, from 2 to 4pm, again at the South London Liberal Synagogue in Prentis Road, Streatham, details to be announced.

□ Ken Ambrose

AJR 'Drop in' Advice Centre

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

15 Cleve Road, London NW6

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

Wednesday 7th June

Thursday 15th June

Monday 19th June

Tuesday 27th June

Wednesday 5th July

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.

Message from Ernest David

Many years ago, on a BBC programme called Any Questions, the members of the panel were asked, if they received a £1,000 legacy, how would they spend the money. I can recall only one answer, that of Marghanita Laski, who said she would invest in memories.

We have commemorated the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe with all its horrendous events and celebrated once again the liberation of the death and torture camps established by a nation which until then had been considered among the most cultivated in Europe.

It is appropriate to remember, but luckily the human mind has a built-in mechanism for forgetting unpleasant memories and concentrating on pleasant ones. This is the body's way of keeping a healthy mind. While we should not forget the past, in order to pass on living history to future generations, we should also re-

member that we are living in the present, and should seek to enjoy the present.

But enjoying the present also invokes the past. Sights, sounds, smells, tastes, often remind us of pleasant episodes of earlier years which then increase the contentment of the moment.

Reminiscence can be bitter sweet. It is up to us to tilt the balance, now, to sweetness. This way we will reap a rich dividend from our investment in memories □

Golders Green alert

While shopping recently, an AJR member was robbed of her purse near the Golders Green Post Office. Through *AJR Information* she wishes to advise all AJR members to remain vigilant while out and about, especially in the Golders Green area at the moment.

Having withdrawn cash from a bank's

dispenser terminal and then browsed around the shops for a while, she remained completely unaware that, in all probability, someone was watching her closely. On leaving Golders Green she was distressed to discover that, although she still had her shoulder bag, it had been opened, the purse containing her money stolen, and the bag refastened.

When recounting this experience to a friend, it transpired that she too had suffered a similar theft. So please be alert and, ladies, take special care of your handbags, especially after withdrawing a sum of money from the bank or a pension from the post office □

CAMPS INTERMENT - P.O.W. - FORCED LABOUR - KZ

I wish to buy cards, envelopes and folded postmarked letters from all camps of both world wars. Please send, registered mail, stating price, to:

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

Afternoon entertainment -

JUNE

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Thursday 1 | A SUMMER MEDLEY - Charlotte Matthews (Soprano) accompanied by Vivian Powells (Piano) |
| Sunday 4 | CLOSED - Shavuoth |
| Monday 5 | CLOSED - Shavuoth |
| Tuesday 6 | THE SUNSHINE SINGERS |
| Wednesday 7 | SINGING FOR FUN - The Longford Singers accompanied by Margaret Eaves (Piano) |
| Thursday 8 | PLAY IT AGAIN JULES Jules Rubin (Piano) and guest |
| Sunday 11 | THE PACKET OF FOUR - Jazz Band |

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Monday 12 | A PARTY AFTERNOON WITH DOROTHY SAYERS - (Piano & Accordion) |
| Tuesday 13 | OPERA YOU LOVE - Sara Meadows accompanied by John Field |
| Wednesday 14 | LOVE MERRY-GO-ROUND - Mona Kirianova (Mezzo) accompanied by Philip Mountford (Piano) |
| Thursday 15 | DEMONSTRATION BY MEMBERS OF IRMA MAYER'S KEEP-FIT CLASS FROM SOBEL HOUSE |
| Sunday 18 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday 19 | A JUNE CONCERT WITH VIOLIN & PIANO - Gordon Mackay and Geoffrey Whitworth |
| Tuesday 20 | HOW TO MAKE A MILLION - NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY - Chat & Piano by Ronnie Cass |
| Wednesday 21 | THESE LABOURS PAST - Sean Sweeney (Tenor) - Yvette Cummings (Mezzo) - Lianne-Marie Skrinari (Soprano) accompanied by Piano |
| Thursday 22 | FANFARE TO JUNE - Joanna McDonald (Soprano) accompanied by Sarah Down (Piano) |

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Sunday 25 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday 27 | THEATRICAL COSTUMES - Chat & Presentation by Jack Cassin-Scott |
| Tuesday 27 | THE MANY FACES OF LOVE FROM COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD - Katinka Seiner (Soprano) accompanied by Malcolm Cottle (Piano) with guest Artist Laszlo Easton (Violin) |
| Wednesday 28 | GREAT MUSICIANS OF THE PAST - Presented by Yacov Paul |
| Thursday 29 | CAMERATA TRIO |
| JULY | |
| Sunday 2 | THE KENTERTAINERS |
| Monday 3 | A HANDFUL OF SONGS - Helen Smith (Soprano) accompanied by Philip Mountford (Piano) |
| Tuesday 4 | TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE - Ruti Halvani (Soprano) accompanied by Nigel Foster (Piano) |
| Wednesday 5 | OPERA POPS - Accompanied by Margaret Gibbs (Piano) |
| Thursday 6 | DUO CABARET - Helena Guest (Soprano) accompanied by Barry Wynford-Dawes (Piano) |
| Sunday 9 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT |

FAMILY

Deaths

Bass. Franz Bass passed away 18th April 1995. Will be sadly missed by his wife Vera and family.

Levine. Helga Levine, nee Krebs, died on 25th April after a long illness. Always lovingly remembered by her friends Steffi Feher and Lilo Beer. May she rest in peace.

Rehfeldt. Elizabeth (Lisl) Rehfeldt, formerly Hamburger, died peacefully after a short illness on 24th March 1995, aged 87. Sadly missed by her many friends.

Births (Grandchildren)

Mazaltov to Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Kershaw on the birth of a granddaughter in Israel.

**CLASSIFIED
Miscellaneous**

Chess Player wanted, of medium strength. Please write to AJR Information Box No. 1278.

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The AJR extends its heartiest congratulations and best wishes to our members

Greta Salinger
and
Rose Horovitz

who have celebrated their
100th Birthdays

The AJR extends best wishes to our Art Correspondent
Alice Schwab
who has celebrated her
80th Birthday

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Alice Schwab

Art Notes

The travelling exhibition of works from the Ben Uri Art Society's permanent collection was recently shown at the *Royal West of England Academy in Bristol*. It was very well received and the Society was congratulated both on its collection and on continuing to add to its collection.

Sir Ernst Gombrich, the celebrated art historian, was invited to present an exhibition at the *National Gallery* and for his subject chose 'Illustrations of the Cast Shadow in Western Art'. The exhibition *Gombrich on Shadows* is in the *Sunly Room of the National Gallery* (until 18 June) and consists of pictures drawn mainly from the gallery's own collection, supplemented by works from other collections, including works by Holbein, Corot, Pissarro and Picasso.

In association with Esso UK plc the *National Gallery* is showing in the *Salisbury Wing* (until 1 October) 'Making and Meaning: Turner and the Fighting Temeraire'. This painting, one of the best known pictures in England, was part of Turner's bequest to the Nation. The *Temeraire* was at the Battle of Trafalgar, but was later taken out of service and sold by auction to be broken up for the sake of its timbers. Turner probably did not see the tug towing the hulk away, but the picture evokes the deep emotions aroused in him.

A new *Art Centre Sculpture Park* has been opened at Roche Court, East Winterslow, Salisbury, and is showing *Sculpture for the 1950's*, including works by Armitage, Butler, Frink, Meadows, and sculpture from the Barbara Hepworth estate.

The *Avedon* photographs can still be seen at the *National Portrait Gallery* (until 11 June), works by György Gordon (until 23 June), and 'The Road from 1945: Makers of Post-War Britain' (until 18 June).

The small remaining band of refugee artists has been depleted by the recent death of Dame Lucie Rie, the potter, at the age of 93. She was born Lucie Gompertz, the daughter of a Viennese doctor and had already established an international reputation as a potter before



Sir Winston Churchill, by Graham Sutherland, *National Portrait Gallery*

leaving for England in 1938. She continued working for more than fifty years, continually increasing the public acclaim and recognition of her work, as evinced by the outstanding prices realised at auctions for single pieces of her work.

Pictures by Sir Matthew Smith (1879-1959), from the Corporation of London's Collection, are being shown in the *Barbican Concourse Gallery* (until 23 July). In the *Barbican Art Gallery* itself there is an exhibition (until 27 August) of works by George Rodgers, Britain's greatest living photojournalist.

Forthcoming exhibitions at the *British Museum* include *Textiles from Masada*, sponsored by Marks & Spencer (until 29 October), and *Chinese Jade from the Neolithic to the Qing*, collected by Sir Joseph Hotung (until 17 September).

Gustave Caillebotte (1848-1894) is described as the least well-known of the Impressionists. An exhibition of his work is in the *Sackler Galleries of the Royal Academy*, sponsored by Société Générale, London (until 23 June). This exhibition will be followed by *From Manet to Gauguin*, masterpieces from Swiss private collections (30 June to 8 October). The *Royal Academy Annual Summer Exhibition* is in their Main Galleries (4 June to 13 August).

The *Genius of Wedgwood* (until 17 September) at the *Victoria and Albert Museum* celebrates the work of Josiah Wedgwood (1730-1795), Britain's first modern industrial potter. The exhibition includes 250 items from the famous *Frog Service* commissioned by Catherine the Great in 1733, and also the well-known *Portland Vase* □

SB's Column

Sweden. Stockholm's operatic tradition dates back to the 18th century and the present Royal Opera House is nearly 100 years old. Famous conductors include Leo Blech who, forced to leave Berlin, worked there from 1941 to 1947. Jussi Björling, Ragnar Ulfung and Ingvar Wixell are other Swedish names that come to mind. A new era began when the Schlosstheater Drottningholme (a 20 minutes' drive from Stockholm) re-opened under the direction of Elisabeth Söderström who, after 45 years as an international soprano returned to the land of her birth; in an historic setting the 1995 season (May to September) presents a production of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* among other operatic treasures.

Israel. Every type of music is performed in this art-loving country, and the high standard of the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Zubin Mehta draws universal praise. International opera receives its due share and German operatic works performed range from Beethoven to Richard Strauss. However, there is still no Wagner in the repertoire, and in a recent poll among opera-goers a marked majority favoured continuing the boycott of his works.

Vienna. A very readable book has appeared on the market. *Erich Kunz, a Life for the Opera* by Herbert Prikopa (a singer-actor who came to London to conduct *One Night in Venice* at the Coliseum in 1980) and music historian Cornelia Szabo-Knotik, is about one of the most beloved baritones of this century. The book presents Kunz as an opera singer (Leporello, Papageno, Beckmesser) and as an almost unique interpreter of Viennese songs. His *Fiakerlied* (prohibited during Nazi days because of the composer's non-Aryan origin) has been heard all over Europe. Many anecdotes add to the enjoyment of the book which is published by the Vienna Löcker Verlag.

Birthday. Actress and diseuse Elfriede Ott, prototype of Viennese folk humour since the fifties, is 70. Former Austrians who filled London's Queen Elizabeth Hall some years ago will smilingly remember her recitals there and in the Austrian Institute where she was ably supported by her partner, the late Hans Weigel, who wrote many of her texts □

Election of Committee of Management 1995/96

AGM 8 JUNE 1995

The following members of the Committee are retiring by rotation and are being proposed for re-election:

Mr. M.M.Kochmann JP	Chairman
Mr. A.C.Kaufman	Vice-Chairman
Mr. W.D.Rothenberg	Treasurer
Mrs. M.Brook	Trustee
Mr. J.H.Dunston	Trustee

The following remain members of the Committee without need for re-election in 1995:

Mrs. E.S.Angel	Secretary
Mr. M.Durst	Trustee
Mr. C.W.Dunston,	Mrs. J.Field,
Mrs. H.Goldsmith,	Mr. H.E.Levy

The following have been proposed for election to the Committee:

Mrs. S.Landau

Biographical Notes on Candidates

ELEANOR ANGEL

The daughter of the previous Chairman, Theo Marx, she has long followed in her father's footsteps with an active interest in Jewish and Refugee social welfare. Hon. Secretary of the AJR since 1994.

She has worked at our Day Centre and served on the Executive Committee since 1989. She is married with 3 teenage children, but still finds time to be Treasurer of the Lewis W Hammerson Memorial Home, a charitable home for the elderly in the Bishops Avenue.

MADELEINE BROOK

Born in Vienna, she emigrated to Switzerland in 1938 where she continued school, after which she worked for refugee children in Zurich and Geneva. After 4 years in the USA she came to England in 1951, joined the AJR and helped with the sale of advertisements and tickets for the annual AJR/SELF AID concerts. Since 1987 she has been organising the provisioning and running of our little shop in the Day Centre, and is currently concert brochure chairman.

COLIN DUNSTON

Solicitor, aged 36. Parents both refugees from Austria 1938/39. Specialist on wills and probate matters on which he has ad-

vised the AJR. Involved with the alteration of the Rules of the AJR. Former Committee Member of the Association of Children of Jewish Refugees. One of the ACJR Members who have, in the past, visited Osmond House on a regular basis.

JOHN H. DUNSTON

Age 41. Headmaster of Sibford School. Parents both refugees from Austria 1938/39. Member of AJR for many years and of AJR Executive since late 1980's. Member of Working Group which established the Paul Balint Day Centre. Former member of AJR Information Editorial Committee. First Chairman of ACJR 1986-88. Past member of Heinrich Stahl House Committee.

MANFRED DURST

Born in Munich 1924. Kindertransport January 1939. Apprenticed jeweller 1940-45. Started in business 1946. President of British Jewellery & Giftware Federation 1980. Chairman of British Jewellery Association 1988-1990. Chairman of Leo Baeck House Committee since 1970. Member of Management Committee OSHA (formerly CBF) since 1970. Member of Committee of Management AJR since 1991. Freeman of City of London (Goldsmiths' Co.) since 1977.

JUDY FIELD

Came to this country as a young child from Berlin. Married, two sons, 7 grandchildren. Since the inception of Paul Balint AJR Day Centre she has been working two days a week as a voluntary helper. Member of Balint House Committee, Bishops Avenue, for the last two years. Voluntary work with visually impaired people for the last 20 years.

HANNA GOLDSMITH

Born in Fuerth, Germany. Came to England in 1939. After attending Commercial College, became Secretary to the Managing Director of a well-known Public Company, and later P.A. to its Chairman, with whom she worked for some 30 years. Married in 1957. Upon early retirement, started with reception work at the AJR Day Centre and, for the past seven years, has been responsible for the organisation of some 200 concerts per year at the Day Centre.

ANDREW KAUFMAN

Was born on April 21 1946 of refugee parents who are AJR members. Andrew qualified as a solicitor in 1971 and is a partner in the West End firm of Fladgate

Fielder. He is a trustee of the AJR Charitable Trust and is perhaps better known to AJR members as the husband of Susie Kaufman who is in charge of the catering at the Day Centre. Andrew is a fluent German speaker.

MAX KOCHMANN

Max M. Kochmann JP born in Berlin in 1921. Chairman of private industrial company. Chairman of the AJR since 1994, previously Vice-Chairman (from 1986) and Hon. Treasurer (from 1987). Trustee of the AJR Charitable Trust. Hon. Treasurer of Belsize Square Synagogue, Chairman of Leo Baeck Housing Association Ltd., past president B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck Lodge, Member of Council and Committee of Management Otto Schiff Housing Association.

SOFIE LANDAU

Sofie Landau was born in Stuttgart. Came to England 1937. Studied for Social Science Diploma. 1953-1980 with Silhouette finishing as Export Manager. Since retirement in 1990 volunteer at Day Centre, and visits AJR members. Member of U3A looking after their library part-time. Organiser of local neighbourhood watch.

EDWARD LEVY

Edward Levy was born in Cologne. Came to Britain in 1939 - one of the "railway children". After graduating he spent over 40 years in the electrical/electronics manufacturing industry, responsible for companies in Britain, U.S.A and the Far East. Is involved in the mental health field as Chairman of a Mental Health charity, and with Amnesty International. He has been a member of the AJR for many years, a member of the Executive Committee for 3 years and is a Trustee of the AJR Charitable Trust.

DAVID ROTHENBERG

Born 1940, son of Helmut and the late Annema Rothenberg. Educated at Oxford. Chartered Accountant and Senior Tax Partner at Blick Rothenberg. Hon. Treasurer of the AJR since 1994. Trustee of the AJR Charitable Trust. A long-standing member of the Board and Executive of Belsize Square Synagogue and a member of the AJR Executive since 1988. He is a member of the Friends of the Jerusalem College of Technology and has recently joined the Board of Deputies of British Jews as a representative of Belsize Square Synagogue □

No Capital Gains Tax on East German Property

As indicated in the October 1994 edition of AJR Information, the Inland Revenue have been considering the treatment for Capital Gains Tax of the recovery of former family property in what was East Germany or Berlin, or the receipt of compensation for the loss of such property.

A new Extra Statutory Concession was published by the Inland Revenue on 19th December 1994. This had the effect of exempting from Capital Gains Tax either the recovery of such property, or the receipt of compensation where the property could not be restored to the original owners or their heirs.

The effect of the concession is that where the property is recovered, it is treated for Capital Gains Tax purposes as having been acquired at the date, and at the value at that date, the property was factually restored to the former owners or their heirs.

It should be noted that the concession will not apply if the interest in the property has been acquired for value, nor will it exempt any subsequent capital gain which might arise, for example, because the pound sterling falls against the Deutschmark between the date of the property having been recovered and its subsequent sale.

An unsatisfactory feature is that the Capital Taxes Office, who deal with questions of Inheritance Tax, are not publishing any concession and have made clear that, at present, they have no intention of doing so. The value of recovered property, or of a claim which has not yet been recognised, will therefore form part of an individual's estate for the purposes of computation of inheritance tax □

Community care

The introduction of the community care system for elderly and disabled people has cut the numbers in care homes and long-stay hospitals for the first time. However, the fall in numbers in residential care has been achieved almost entirely at the expense of National Health Service beds and places in local authority homes. This fall

SEARCH NOTICES

Walter Loeb, from Berlin-Dahlem; born circa 1920; his father was a partner in the banking house Mendelssohn & Co. Said to have emigrated to London via Holland in the 1930s. Please write with any information to Walter Feuchtwanger, Liebigstr.43, 80538 Munich, Germany.

Anneliese Schaffer, daughter of Hermann and Gertrud Schaffer and niece of Elli (Blochert), is being sought by Erna Bohlmann who was bookkeeper to the firm of Adolph Blochert (gents & ladies fashions) of Greifenberg/Pommern, Königstrasse 47, in 1935/36. Family believed to have emigrated to Israel after the war. Annaliese, who would now be 70 to 72 years old, may be known by her married name. Please contact Erna Bohlmann, with any information, at Bismarckstr. 73, Flensburg (24943), Germany.

has ended more than 30 years of growth in the provision of long-stay care for the elderly □

Calling Ex-Berliners

The Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners, which has been active for a number of years, holds meetings four or five times per annum and publishes news letters and magazines with information and articles of particular interest to its members.

Anyone who may be interested in joining, or re-joining, please contact Manfred Alweiss, Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary on 0181-455-0115 □

50 YEARS AGO

Hampstead & Highgate Express
11th May 1945

Jewish Refugees Have No Bonds Left With Germany

The overwhelming majority of Jewish refugees from Germany, of whom there are several thousands in Hampstead alone, have no desire to go back to Germany.

"To the Jews from Germany," says a statement issued by the Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain, "their former country is a graveyard for their families. There are no bonds left between them and Germany."

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Cooking with Gretel Beer



Plum and almond pudding

The perfect pudding for a chilly evening or to 'substantiate' a light lunch. Victoria plums are best, but other varieties of plums can be used.

- 1lb (450g) plums
- 2-3 tablespoons soft brown sugar
- pinch each of powdered cinnamon and cloves
- 3 oz (85g) boudoir biscuits (abt. 16-18 biscuits)
- 3 1/2 oz (100g) ground unblanched almonds
- 3 eggs
- 2 1/2 oz (70g) icing or caster sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla sugar
- 1 tablespoon rum

Halve the plums and remove the stones. Put the plums into a fairly deep gratin dish and sprinkle them with the brown sugar and spices. Cover and leave to stand for as long as possible – the longer the better. Put the dish – still covered – into the oven at Gas Mark 3, 325F, 160C until plums are cooked, but still retain their shape.

Crush boudoir biscuits with a rolling pin (or use a coffee grinder or food processor) until they are the consistency of rather coarse breadcrumbs. Mix together crushed biscuits and the ground almonds. Separate egg yolks and whites. Whisk together egg yolks, sugar and vanilla sugar until thick and creamy. Add the rum. Whisk egg whites into stiff. Fold the whipped egg whites into the egg yolks, alternately with the biscuit crumbs and ground almond mixture. Pile on top of the plums and bake at Gas Mark 4, 350F, 170C until nicely browned on top – about 30 minutes.

Serve hot with thick iccold cream – and it is pretty good cold as well, even without the cream □

Food for thought

From Ridley Road to Radlett, a photographic exhibition at the Museum of London, illustrated the importance of the kosher butcher and the Jewish delicatessen in the London communities they continue to serve. As Jews migrated from London's East End, through the inner city developments to the leafy suburbs and, more recently, to the semi-rural towns beyond the green belt, there have been concomitant changes in the style, presentation and taste of the food they eat and wish to buy – though still essentially kosher and Jewish in character.

Ridley Road provided the site for the first significant step for a market outside of the East End, following Jewish settlement to the north of the City, and was home to many kosher butchers and poulterers. Still surviving, in Stamford Hill rather than in the East End itself, are the childhood remembered traditional butcher shops with blood bespattered aprons, well-worn chopping blocks, ferociously sharp knives and a sawdust-covered floor. Their adherence to the principles of hygiene was often in inverse proportion to their observance of *shechita* and *kashrut*. The proprietor's sales pitch tended to be blunt too, often to the point of insult, but the competition was kept a good bus ride away by the Board of Shechita – too far for a pre-car-driving mother with young children to schlep.

Today's leading suburban kosher emporia are gleaming with stainless steel, tiles and freezer cabinets, and much of the meat is prepacked and prepared with little for today's hard-pressed housewife to do but cook it. While the Ashkenazi's traditional chicken, lamb, minced meat and chopped liver have maintained their pre-eminence, the range of delicatessen has burgeoned – much of it, like felafel and hummus, Sephardi in origin and Israeli in manufacture.

Salt beef sandwiches, accompanied by pickled cucumbers and swilled down with lemon tea, remain a firm favourite with the busy businessman. Smoked salmon and beigels have undergone a renaissance with the younger set, beigel bakeries remaining open to the early hours in Golders Green, Hendon, Gants Hill, Stanmore and even Ridley Road.

An outpost of empire in Radlett, Hertfordshire, with its freshly baked *chalot*, is as distinguishably Jewish a delicatessen

as anywhere else, but open on a Saturday! Occupying a site opposite a popular Reform synagogue it may provide a clue to today's Jewish practicalities when faced with the continuing demand to satisfy traditional tastes.

□ Ronald Channing

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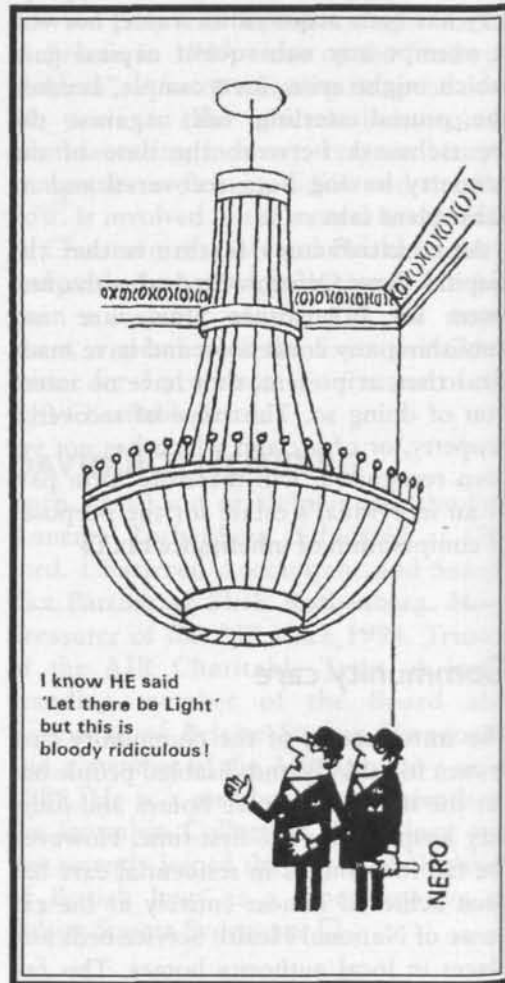
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and Miriam Cohn

3 Willow Way, N3 2PL

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I know HE said
'Let there be Light'
but this is
bloody ridiculous!

NERO

Obituaries

Frieda (Friedel) Kochmann

Frieda Kochmann, the much admired and loved mother of AJR Chairman Max Kochmann, has died in her 97th year. She was born in Breslau in 1898 and came to England with her family in August 1939, the month prior to the outbreak of war.

From the very first she became actively involved in the welfare of her fellow refugees, and throughout the war years offered refugee children – alone and insecure without their parents – accommodation, invitations to meals and all manner of help in settling down. In the years immediately after the war she helped concentration camp survivors, who had arrived in England, with temporary housing and other much-needed practical assistance.

It was in the 1940s that she first became involved in the work of the AJR and was elected a member of its Board. Almost from its inception she served on the House Committee of Otto Schiff House, helping to run the home, keeping regular contact with staff and residents and becoming a trusted and understanding adviser. Though officially retiring from the House Committee at the age of 94, she continued to visit Balint House to which many of the residents of Otto Schiff House were transferred, maintaining her friendships with residents and support staff alike.

Following the death of her husband Hans in 1951, she took an increasingly active part in the activities of Belsize Square Synagogue, where her slim and upright figure was to be seen at Shabbat morning services. She worked on the synagogue's welfare and liturgical committees and was a member of its Board from 1952 till 1968. It was on her initiative that the women's section of the synagogue's *Chevre Kadisha* was formed, and she remained its chairman until 1992.

A founder member of the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck (London) Women's Lodge, she held a number of offices. She took particular interest in working for children's charities and those for the elderly.

A woman of exceptional energy and resource, she used her flair for organisation and long experience to benefit the refugee community of which she was part. She

was a knowledgeable and deeply religious person and passed on a strong Jewish tradition and acceptance of communal responsibility to her son Max and daughter Meta (Wreschner), grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

□ RDC

Helga Aronsfeld

Helga Aronsfeld died on March 17th aged 86. She was born in Aachen, daughter of Erna and Max Kamm, a much respected couple in Aachen and its Jewish community; they tragically perished in the Holocaust.

Helga would have liked to have studied for the Rabbinate, instead of which she trained at a college for commercial studies and, from 1928 onwards, worked for the Zionist Organisation in Cologne. Her plans for emigrating to Palestine were thwarted, and she arrived at Croydon airport alone on September 1st 1939 on the last-but-one plane out of Germany. She and her devoted sister Elly both worked in domestic service, the only positions open to them at that time. However, Helga's employer, a prominent Methodist, saved her from internment in May 1940. He and his wife became Helga's and her husband Caesar's life-long friends.

In 1945 fate once more changed her direction. She was ready to join Elly in America when she met Caesar Aronsfeld at the - now defunct - Theodor Herzl Society; they married and settled in London. Caesar spent the whole of his professional life in the study of, and the fight against, antisemitism: 28 years in the Wiener Library and another 19 years with the Institute of Jewish Affairs editing *Patterns of Prejudice and Christian-Jewish Relations*. About to retire, and in spite of advancing years, he came to the aid of the AJR by taking over as Editor of *AJR Information* from 1986-1988, reviving the journal and transforming its image and contents. In all this he was ably and strongly supported by his beloved wife Helga; without her at his side he may never have achieved as much.

Helga was a very special person, loved and appreciated by everyone she met. She had the rare gift of sincere empathy with most people. Together with Caesar, she was one of the most respected members of her synagogue, taking part in many of its activities, both religious and social. Together they were the instigators of an

interfaith group which flourished for over 30 years. But above all, she was a devoted wife to Caesar, a loving mother and sister to Esther and Elly, and a loyal friend to many more.

□ Lore Stein

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

- June 5th** No lecture (Jewish Holiday)
- June 12th** No lecture (Synagogue AGM). However there will be an informal get-together at Maria's Coffee Lounge, 28 Englands Lane, NW3, just under half-way between Belsize Park and Chalk Farm underground stations, off Haverstock Hill. Time: 4 to 6pm (the Café closes at 7pm).
- June 19th** Dr. E.M. Batley (Head of German, Goldsmith College, London University and Hon. Director of the Institute of Germanic Studies, London University). *Lessing versus Antisemitism in 18th Century Germany.*
- June 26th** Mrs. Irene Lawford BA, FRSA: 'Fascinating Leipzig Adventures. Discovering my grandfather, Henri Hinrichsen, the renowned music publisher, philanthropist and victim. 50 Years On - Atonement.'
- July 3rd** Mr. David Maier LIB: *Is there a case for British War Crimes Trials?*

We wish our members, guests and speakers a happy and pleasant summer. We look forward to seeing you again on September 11th.

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A merchant of Hamburg

Pre-war the port of Hamburg was the largest in Europe, with some 40 to 50 ships entering or leaving daily. Among the essential imports was wheat from America. Persons familiar with nautical matters will have noted the plate-like objects along the ropes which tie ships to the harbour wall. These are obstacles intended to stop rats and mice from getting on board. In spite of this precaution, rodents inevitably find ways and means of boarding a ship, particularly one carrying grain. It has therefore become the practice, introduced in America in 1914, to fumigate grain-carrying vessels in order to kill off all vermin. The fumigant universally used is hydrocyanic acid, a very potent poison. Its other main use is in the extraction of gold from its ores, and one of the chief German producers was a firm called DEGUSSA (Deutsche Gold und Silber Scheideanstalt).

Pure HCN is unstable and can explode during transport. The pure acid is therefore absorbed on diatomaceous earth (the material for cats' loos) when it becomes granulated and relatively safe. This material was sold under the name of Zyklon-B. When its temperature is raised above 30 C (86 F), the acid boils off the absorbing material, and it becomes again available as a deadly poisonous gas.

The Hamburg firm which specialized in the fumigation of ships was called Tesch und Stabenow. It was successfully run by Dr. Tesch, an expert on the use of the gas, the deployment of labour and the purchase of Zyklon-B (bought from Degussa). With business flourishing, Tesch had become prosperous and belonged to the social set of Hamburg.

On the 20th January 1942, in the former Interpol building at Wannsee outside Berlin, a meeting took place under the chairmanship of SS General Reinhard Heydrich, head of the Gestapo. Its agenda was the Final Solution of the Jewish Question. At this meeting, Heydrich requested assistance from every Government department in his task of transporting all Jews, to the East for "special treatment". All participants agreed to co-operate fully.

The timing of this meeting was significant. The German army had just suffered its first serious defeat outside Moscow

and its losses were mounting. Since invading Russia half a year earlier, they had suffered one million casualties, including 200,000 dead. Also, six weeks before Wannsee, Hitler had declared war on mighty America. The certainty of final victory was evaporating and Hitler may have intended to take as many as possible of his chief enemies, i.e. the Jews, with him to his doom.

Shortly after the Wannsee conference, Dr. Tesch was invited to the Gestapo HQ in Berlin and asked to supply Zyklon-B and the application know-how to various concentration camps in the East. Tesch, being an early and ardent Nazi supporter, agreed to both behests.

Before Zyklon-B could be employed on a 'commercial' scale, a pilot scheme was operated. The concentration camp nearest to Hamburg was Neuengamme, some 15 miles to the south-east. Among the inmates of this camp were the Danish policemen who had revolted against German orders. This camp was chosen for the early experiments because of its convenient location.

At Neuengamme, the hut containing the camp prison was made airtight, fitted with electric heaters, a close fitting door, an observation window, and an aperture on the roof, complete with a short chimney and a lid.

Just as these modifications to the prison-hut were complete, around 100 Russian PoWs arrived at the camp; the Germans had literally millions of them. All the regular prisoners of Neuengamme were confined to their barracks, and the Russian 'guinea-pigs' were herded into the prepared building. The door was locked and sealed with tape, and the electric heaters were switched on. As soon as the inside of the building was warmed up, an SS medical orderly, a non-commissioned officer, protected by a respirator, was ordered to climb on to the roof with some tins of Zyklon-B. He commenced to pour their content through the aperture into the room below. An SS medical officer observed the effect through the observation window, watching the death agonies.

This experiment with the Russian PoWs determined the technical data for the killing process; including the amount of Zyklon-B required, the time taken, the optimum temperature, and ways of sealing the door.

After the war, Dr. Tesch and two of his senior assistants were arrested and

charged with complicity in murder. He was tried in Hamburg. He fully admitted having supplied Zyklon-B to various concentration camps; he could not do otherwise as all the invoices for delivery were extant. But he maintained that, to the best of his knowledge, the material was used not against humans, but for the disinfection of the clothing of Russian PoWs. "You know what these Russians are, crawling with lice and with every other kind of vermin".

This defence broke down when a former secretary of his came forward to testify that she had taken down the notes of the meeting with the Gestapo, when the real purpose for the Zyklon-B was made quite clear. Dr. Tesch knew that the 40,000 lbs of Zyklon-B delivered to Auschwitz were intended for the destruction of human beings and not lice. Other evidence corroborated her story.

Tesch and his second in command, a Herr Weinbacher, were condemned to death and hanged. The technical expert was acquitted because there was not enough evidence against him. I am convinced that he knew full well what was going on, and that he helped to train the Gestapo personnel in handling the poison.

The SS guards of Neuengamme were given a separate trial. One of the accused was the medical orderly who had introduced the poison. Once shorn of his black SS uniform, he looked just like the simple farm boy that he was.

When he signed his very detailed deposition, he said to me: "I have just signed my own death warrant". He was proved right, and condemned to death. I felt sorry for him, but then he had not been forced to volunteer for the SS.

The other guard was a real evil sadist, who enjoyed maltreating his prisoners. When he narrated to me the bestialities he had committed, his face lit up with happy memories. I had great difficulty restraining myself during his interrogation; I could have murdered him with my own hands. But retribution struck, and the hangman did the job for me.

The experiments in Neuengamme in 1942, successful from the Nazi point of view, led to the murder of millions of innocent human beings, including members of my family.

□ A.W Freud

Major Freud was a member of the British War Crimes Investigation Unit in 1945/1946.