

Dunera News

NO. 78

JANUARY 2010

A PUBLICATION FOR FORMER REFUGEES FROM NAZI AND FASCIST PERSECUTION
(MISTAKENLY SHIPPED TO AND INTERNED IN AUSTRALIA AT HAY AND TATURA, MANY LATER
SERVING WITH THE ALLIED FORCES), THEIR RELATIVES AND THEIR FRIENDS.



70 Years in Australia

Who would have thought so in 1940?

Back row, left to right: Werner Philipp, Steve Arnott, Max Arnott, Mike Sondheim, Erwin Lamm, Martin Sanders, Martin Moore, Bernie Meyer, Ernst Wolf, Henry Hirsch.

Front row, left to right: Harry Unger, Bernhard Rothschild, Herbert Barber, Herbert Treidel, Jimmy King, Herbert Baer, Albert Meyer, Walter Benedikt.

Missing from photo, though he was at the function, Bruno Haase, making up a total of 19 Dunera Boys at reunion lunch.

Foundation Editor:

The late Henry Lippmann OAM

Editorial responsibility:

The Committee of the Dunera Association

All correspondence to:

The Secretary – Dunera Association
PO Box 19194, Southbank, Victoria 3006, Australia
Email: rebeccasilk@server101.com

WRITE TO US!

Next material closing date: 15 May, 2010

*Letters and articles for publication are welcome.
We would love to hear from you. Please send your
contributions to us at the above c/o The Secretary.*

Contents:**Page**

President and Committee	3
Eulogy – Jimmy King	4
Dunera Reunion Lunch – Melbourne	5
Hay – A Very Special Place	7
– Travel Arrangements	9
– Registration of Interest	10
Hay War Memorial High School Essay	11
Eulogy – Gordon Wyant	13
Eulogy – Richard Sonnenfeldt	14
Dunera Committee 2009–10	15

OBITUARIES:

Peter Lasky – Sydney, 20 September 2009

Richard Sonnenfeldt – Port Washington, NY,
USA, 9 October 2009

Gordon Wyant (Günter Weiss) –
Victoria, BC, Canada, 22 October 2009

Frank Berg – London, 29 November 2009

Jimmy King – Melbourne, 6 December 2009

Walter Foster – London, 27 December 2009

Hans Buchdahl – Adelaide, 7 January 2010

***Our very sincerest sympathies to their
families and friends.***

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Dear Editor

I am working on a book about the Dunera 'boys', from their early lives, through their internment and transportation, their wartime lives in camp and after release, to their postwar experiences. I will of course include the group from Singapore, and Templers and other neighbours in the Tatura area. I hope to track the later lives of some people who returned to Europe or migrated elsewhere, and I intend to look at the ways in which the whole story has entered history. The Dunera News is therefore significant as a subject as well as a source.

At the suggestion of Susan Faine, Curator/Collections at the Jewish Museum of Australia, and with the encouragement of Mike Sondheim, I am writing to ask whether any of your readers who have documents, images or memorabilia that may be useful for the project will consider lending them to her for me to peruse. I would also be grateful to hear from anybody willing to share memories that may not yet have been recorded. I can be reached at either:

c/- Susan Faine
Jewish Museum of Australia
PO Box 117, St Kilda VIC 3182
or
ksinglis@arise.com.au

Ken Inglis

Emeritus Professor of History
Australian National University
Honorary Professor
National Centre for Australian Studies
Monash University

Happy New Year to everyone.

The front cover says it all **WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SO IN 1940?**. That is our theme for 2010. The committee, together with our friends in Hay, is heavily involved in finalising the plans and itinerary for our 70th anniversary.

It brings back thoughts of our 50th anniversary, a most memorable event, celebrated in September 1990 in Hay, and which started a great friendship with Hay and some of its residents in particular.

At this stage we need to resolve these two basic matters: how many people will attend the weekend of 3–5 September 2010? And who will require coach travel from Melbourne to Hay and return? Help us by studying the explanatory notes in this issue and fill out the pre-registration form. This basic information is vital for our planning. We want to make this event a big success for everybody's enjoyment.

From overseas:

WALTER KAUFMANN

Walter used to be an old friend and schoolmate of Eric Eckstein in Düsseldorf. He is the only remaining Dunera Boy of about ten who, after the war, chose to return to East Berlin (DDR).

Walter became a successful writer travelling a great deal around the world to countries including the US and Australia. He returned to Hay in September 1990 and celebrated the 50th anniversary with us. His novel *Death in Fremantle* – the story of an Aborigine in prison whom he got to know, is being written into a screenplay by a Perth identity, John Beaton. If successful, Walter may come to Australia and join the Hay 70th festivities.

GORDON WYANT Family

From Canada, sons and families of the recently deceased Gordon Wyant (Günter Weiss) have advised their forthcoming tour of Australia to visit family in Sydney and Perth and to attend

our 70th in Hay in September as well as the Sydney function at Jones Bay Wharf. They also would like to visit the Tatura area. They will be in Australia for about a month. This is not their first trip to Australia.

ADALBERT STERN Family

From the UK and US news from the Stern family also covers their forthcoming Australian visit to take in the Hay and Sydney September events. There are four direct offspring of the late Adalbert Stern.

In order of age they are Richard, Nicholas, Brian and Naomi. Two families are definitely coming, possibly three or even all of them. Nicholas (Sir Nicholas Stern) is an eminent climate scientist. In 2007, as senior adviser to the British Treasury, he came to Australia to present at the Lowy Institute and met with the then Prime Minister John Howard, and Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd as well as business leaders, academics and the press. His visit was much publicised. Unfortunately time did not permit him to take up some Dunera contacts but he did reply to Eric Eckstein's letter at the time.

This represents the sizeable nucleus of forthcoming visitors. We sincerely hope that it will encourage others to follow suit, we will endeavour to assist and encourage everyone to attend.



Mike Sondheim

Eulogy



Jimmy was one of the very youngest, barely 16 when he boarded the Dunera. He was born in Vienna as Leopold Kohn, and was called Poldi for the first years in Hay and Tatura until he anglicised his name for the army.

I remember Jimmy in the 8th Australian Employment Company orderly room with Sergeant Fisher in the early days under Captain Broughton in Broadmeadows, and then in Tocumwal when I was the company driver.

After the army he practised his profession as a pastry cook. In the early 1950s Jimmy started his own import business and introduced the Texta coloured pencils to Australia, a great novelty at the time.

The business grew and became part of Heine Brothers. Textas are still popular in schools and kindergartens. Jimmy travelled regularly to Japan and other far eastern countries, widening the scope with Heine's support.

Walter Heine, himself a Dunera Boy, surrounded himself with a number of other

Dunera Boys in various managerial positions, Charles Ehrlich, Fred Levy, Bernie Meyer, Rudi Meth, Walter Weyl, myself, and the last one, Jimmy.

At Heine Brothers, Vivienne was his secretary, and the office romance grew into their lifelong marriage and growing family with four grandchildren.

In 1968, Jimmy, with the late Henry Felder and Willy Kaufmann, arranged our very first reunion at the Townhouse in Swanston Street. It was a huge success attended by about 200 people — Dunera veterans and families, also some of our 8th AEC Australian NCO's. Sadly Captain Broughton had passed away by then.

This event became the forerunner of the reunions which have taken place at various venues over the years. A couple to remember are the Embers in South Yarra, and the Crest in St Kilda. The second Tuesday in November, one week after Melbourne Cup Day has been the traditional reunion date.

The Dunera Club became the reunion organising committee, part of the aim of this club was the establishment of a benevolent fund, created from donations, to support needy Dunera members, hospital cases, etc., and institutions such as the Montefiore Homes now part of Jewish Care.

At our recent luncheon, Jimmy was honoured with a special award presented by Tony Levy, from Jewish Care in the form of an Award Certificate for his ongoing support. This was widely acclaimed by the large gathering. The award was a very fitting recognition for Jimmy's 40 years of service and support. Everybody was happy to see Jimmy at this function which, sadly, was just a month before his passing.

His memory is part of the Dunera history.

Vale Jimmy.

— *Mike Sondheim*

Dunera Reunion November 2009 – Melbourne

Our newly chosen venue, The Kimberley Function Centre, turned out to be a great success for the well over 100 attendees with a good proportion of descendants, and a number of guests including our Hay and Tatura friends and 19 Dunera Boys. The two-course meal was also well received.

Our guest speaker, Michael Danby, MHR for Melbourne Ports, explained some politicians' viewpoints on immigration and the Dunera Boys' significant contribution in particular to Australian postwar developments. This is a somewhat delicate subject when it leads to comparison of our origin with the recent refugee issues, often reported incorrectly.

Another guest, Mr John Levi, came as a representative of Jewish Care on a special mission to honour Jimmy King by presenting him with their Award Certificate for the



longstanding financial support by the Dunera Club which Jimmy had administered for many years. Little did we expect that Jimmy succumbed to his progressive illness only a month later, so it became a fitting occasion for Jimmy to receive this honour publicly and to be applauded by many of his Dunera friends.

The traditional group photo of the Dunera Boys used to be taken by Henry Talbot late into



Mike Sondheim, Ilse Lamm, Arthur Knee, Lurline Knee



Marie Haase, Bruno Haase



Gary and Lynn Schmidt



Back row, left to right: Laura Danby, Peppy Sherr, Gary Danby
Front row, left to right: Cristy Danby, Cipa Danby, Angela Currie

Dunera Reunion November 2009 – Melbourne

the 1990s. This practice was reinstated by Justin Cooper, a professional photographer arranged by Peter Felder and Michelle Frenkel. The grand result is on the cover. During the photo set up, a number of other cameras flashed simultaneously, making it look like a most important media occasion.

Though it was a happy occasion, the 19 Dunera Boys at the luncheon, is a sign of the times compared with the pre-2000 gatherings.



Michael Gordon, Gabriella Gordon



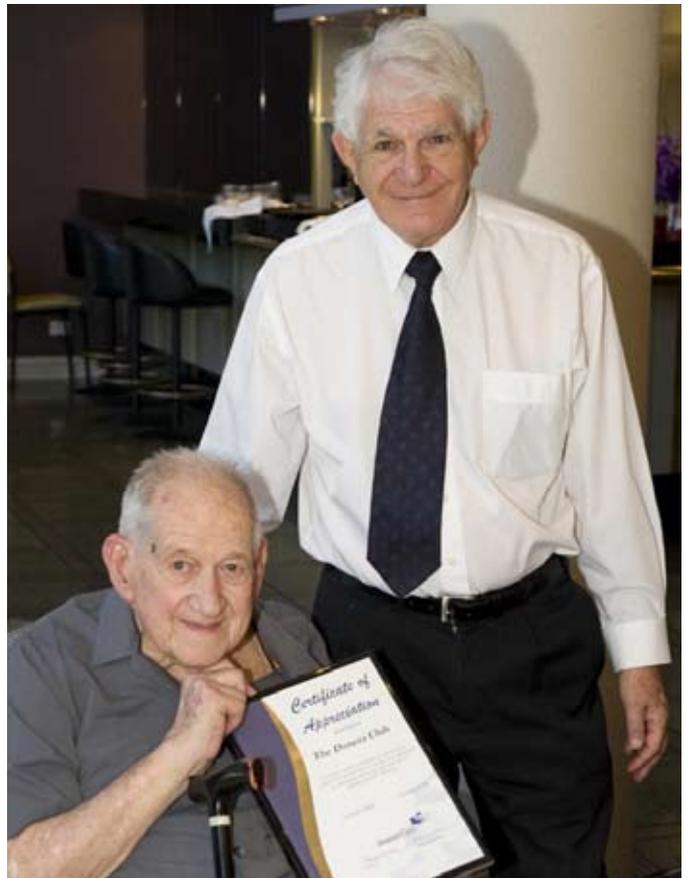
Les Arnott, Ruth Arnott, Steve Arnott



Peter Felder, Coleen Houston, David Houston, Rebecca Silk



Back row, left to right: Jeanette Eforgan, Denise Same
Front row, left to right: Sharon Herbert, Hella Fletcher, Jill Brady



Jimmy King presented with his award by Tony Levy from Jewish Care

HAY – A VERY SPECIAL PLACE

Why are we making such an effort of promoting Hay, especially in conjunction with our forthcoming 70th anniversary?

WHAT DOES HAY MEAN TO US DUNERA BOYS?

After eight weeks at sea on the *Dunera*, Hay was our first home for most of our first year in this country. Despite the very trying experiences of sandstorms in 40 degree heat followed by downpours making the camp awash, millions of flies, the barbed wire and watchtowers, and the uncertainty of our future and the fate of our dear ones left behind in Europe, we regained our spirit. We formed a close community of self-government with all camp fatigue details carried out by volunteers earning a small wage. We developed a multitude of diversions stimulating our restricted lifestyle, such as lectures and schooling, concerts and stage entertainment, games and artistic activities, and a variety of sports.

We did not realise a certain emotional bond was developing between us until much later when we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our arrival in Hay, a never to be forgotten event, highlighted by the local population's overwhelming reception. This relationship between the Dunera Boys has become even closer during many follow-up events since then.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION, OUR DESCENDANTS?

Our descendants have enjoyed the fortune of being born into an easy lifestyle of advanced education and an expanding economy with endless opportunities. We endeavoured to acquaint them with our family background in Europe and our experiences leading to becoming citizens of this country. Only recently have they started to think deeper, wanting to know the what and whys of their fathers' lives, particularly concerning the ongoing Dunera "Club" activities.

Visits by some to Hay and Tatura have shown the wonderful array of memorabilia in the local museums, as well as displays in major museums in Melbourne, Sydney and

Canberra. The ongoing publications of individual achievements by Dunera Boys in the daily press and other publications indicate the tremendous impact of the Dunera saga.

Hay represents the initial and very real Dunera heritage in various forms. The centrally situated Tourist centre with a Dunera display, the Dunera Way to the campsite with our memorial plaque, and the railway station — no longer used for public transport — is now a valuable heritage building with the old railway carriages refurbished and dedicated as the Dunera Museum.

The old gaol in Hay, which was converted into the camp hospital, is now the Hay Gaol Museum. Back towards town is the War Memorial High School with which we have developed a close affinity. We have an annual award for the Dunera essay competition and we co-sponsored school visits to Melbourne's Jewish Museum and to Sydney to attend the Dunera reunion at the Maritime and Jewish Museums.

Also, a remarkable historical fact is Hay's early Jewish population dating back to the second half of the 19th century. The Hay cemetery's Jewish Section contains seven old graves. These early Jewish citizens, originally from Europe, became highly respected people who contributed greatly towards Hay's development, one Alfred Tartakover became a prominent municipal councillor.

As well as the old Jewish graves, there is one grave of Dunera Boy Menashe Bodner. The army funeral for Menashe was attended by two Dunera Boys, Kurt Lewinski and Bert Andjel. The grave was left unmarked until 1990 when the Dunera Association arranged for a plaque to be mounted.

Other places of interest would be the Bishop's Lodge, a house built in 1888 which is now used for social functions, meetings, and a spring market each October. On the occasion of the Dunera Museum opening, we enjoyed a special dinner at Bishop's Lodge.

Then there is the Shearers Hall of Fame in the Shear Outback Museum, a contemporary building exhibiting the long-established trade

HAY – A VERY SPECIAL PLACE

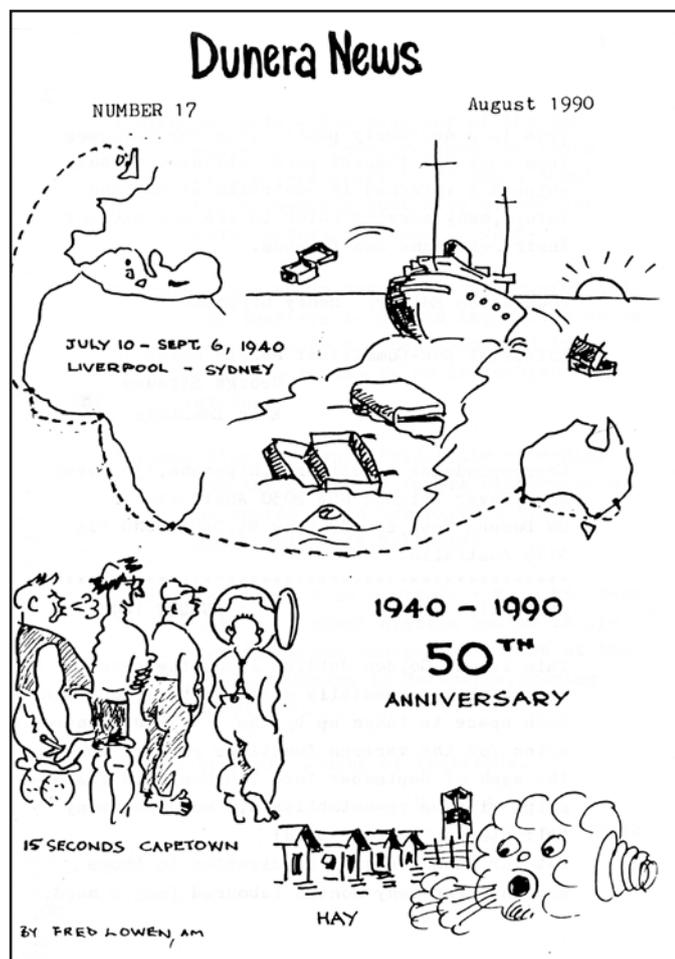


A mob of sheep coming through the rural NSW town of Hay practices and showing Hay as one of Australia's major sheep centres. Some of the huge farms incorporate spots along the beautiful Murrumbidgee river. In September 1990, for the 50th anniversary, we enjoyed a barbecue at Mungadal which was owned by the late Rudi Meth's business partner Dieter Kahlbetzer.

Hay is not just a spot on the map; it is the halfway mark on the main artery between Sydney and Adelaide and a welcome stopover.

Since the 1990 reunion, many of us have

The Dunera News – No.17, August 1990



enjoyed the Hay hospitality on a number of occasions, and so have overseas visitors interested in the wartime past of some of their families or friends.

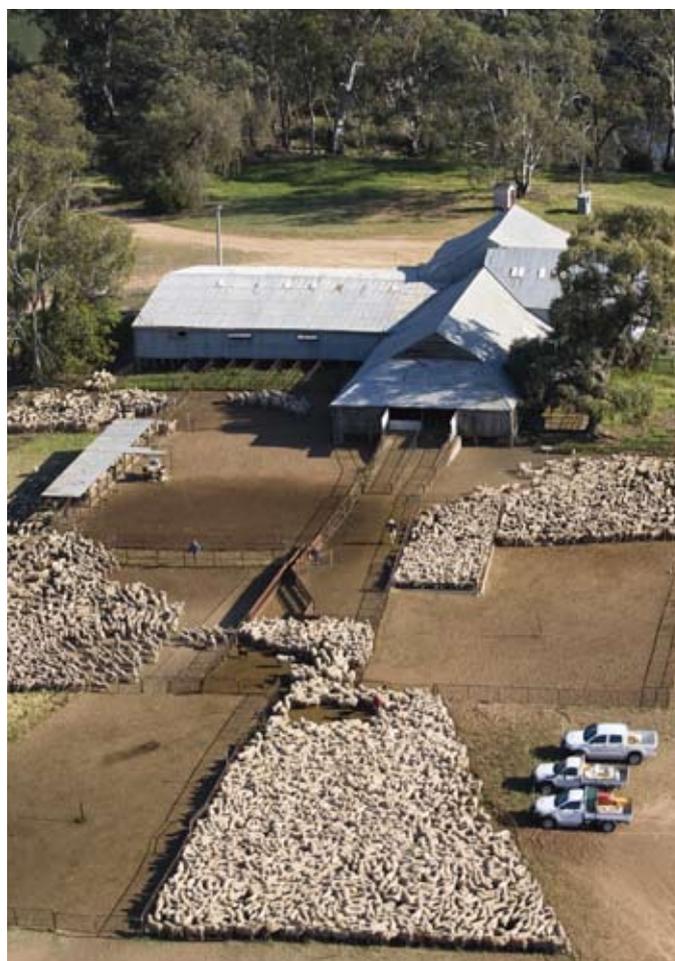
As rough and tough as it was to us at the time, these unfortunate and unpleasant experiences of 70 years ago have long faded into the background. It is high time the Dunera descendants and friends acquainted themselves with the Dunera Boys' first impressions of Australia.

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES IN SEPTEMBER.

– Mike Sondheim

Helpful link for information about Hay:
<http://www.hay.nsw.gov.au>

Sheep in the yards at Mungadal shearing shed, Hay



All photos of Hay, courtesy of Andrew Chapman Photography ©

HAY – TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

This year's 70th Anniversary celebrations on the first weekend in September is an event not to be missed. We would obviously like many to attend to make it a wonderful success. To assist people in getting to Hay for the weekend, we have looked into organising transport departing from Melbourne.

The preliminary registration form is purely to serve the one all-important aspect of how many people we can expect to travel to Hay, and who would like to avail themselves of the coach transport we are trying to organise.

We have looked at McKenzie's Services for a 48-seat air-conditioned interstate coach, with toilet facility on board, covering the return trip as well as organised trips around Hay, at a cost of \$80 per seat subject to reconfirmation three months prior to the date.

McKenzie's was the touring company which we contracted in 1990 for our memorable 50th anniversary celebrations. The service

provided was to our fullest satisfaction.

The trip from Melbourne to Hay is a five-hour journey departing from Melbourne on Friday 3 September about 9.00am with a lunch stop about half way at Echuca. The return journey is planned for Sunday afternoon.

To make the coach hire viable, we need to fill every seat, therefore first come, first served. At this early date, your registration will not constitute a firm booking but is important for us to note your intention. Definite bookings with full payment will be required by June. We would like you to fill out the following registration form which is essential for us to estimate the number of participants. Please ensure to mark your travel preference details.

Interstate and overseas participants would be most welcome to join the Melbourne coach. We will investigate the feasibility of a pick-up at Tullamarine airport about 9.45am on Friday, 3 September.

View of the town of Hay, set on the Murrumbidgee river



HAY – TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Direct travel from Sydney (some 700km by road) is possible by various means:

(1) Fly or rail to Griffith and on to Hay (app. 100 km) by car (hire) or bus.

(2) Direct coach Sydney / Hay and return.

You can make enquiries with local tourist offices or visit this Hay website for more information: <http://www.hay.nsw.gov.au/VisitHay/FindingUs/tabid/90/Default.aspx>

Note that rail and bus services are limited, some are scheduled to run only once or twice per day.

Accommodation bookings in Hay will be your individual responsibility, 3 and 4 star motel tariffs range from \$90 to \$120 per room per night – full details will be advised in June together with other incidental function items and costs.

Please register your definite interest (without commitment at this stage) in the forthcoming

event in Hay during the weekend 3–5 September 2010, particularly if you wish to join the coach travel from Melbourne to Hay as explained in the foregoing details and to be finalised by June.

Please complete the questionnaire at your earliest opportunity.

Consider this matter very seriously as the coach becomes viable only if fully booked. The questionnaire is to indicate your preferences. If there is insufficient response but you still wish to participate, other arrangements might be organised.

– Peter Felder, Convenor

– Mike Sondheim, President



Registration of interest to participate in the 70th anniversary at Hay

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Number and names in your party: _____

Coach seat required: YES / NO

Number of seats required: _____

Airport pick up required: YES / NO

Number of seats required: _____

Car – self-drive: YES (in any event)

YES (if coach not available)

Other means of transport: _____

Overseas visitors – Please complete this questionnaire, even if you already have contact with someone in Australia, this is to enable us to include your names in the overall planning.

Send the completed form to:

Hay 70th Convenor – Peter Felder

10 Fairview Avenue, Wheelers Hill, VIC, Australia 3150

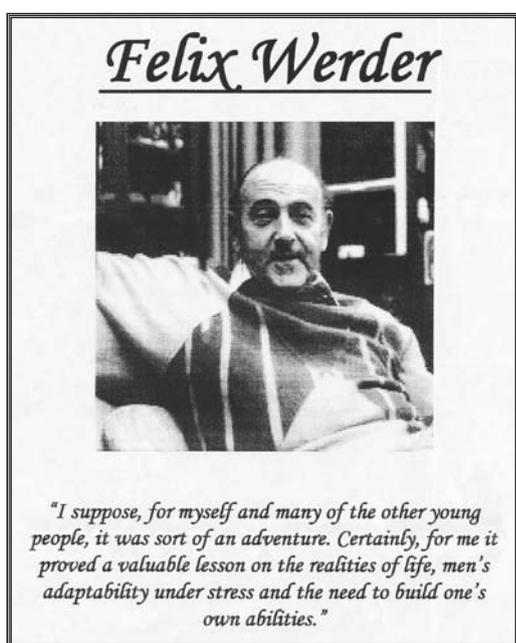
Email: peter@felder.com.au Enquiries: 61 3 9561 2834

HAY War Memorial High School – Essay Competition Winner

The War Memorial High School Essay Competition, first established after the 1990 anniversary, was re-instated this year. This involved the year ten History class who were asked to write about a notable achievement connected in some way with Dunera and Hay. Three essays were submitted for our final decision. Our award, \$120, went to Ashlee Jarrett whose essay covered Dunera Boy Felix Werder. The content of the essay was researched thoroughly from public records. Felix's development from a very early age, under the guidance of his father Bojas Bischofswerder, also a Dunera Boy, into a composer and music critique was a unique subject. Our compliments to Ashlee – well done, with our best wishes for her further studies.

Thanks to Mary-Lou Gardam for her efforts in getting this competition going again.

– Mike Sondheim



After the outbreak of World War II, Australia interned a group of enemy aliens from England. More than 2000 men, mostly German or Austrian, arrived in Australia in August, 1940, on the British ship *Dunera*. In 1943, the Australian government realised that this had been a mistake and released the men. Many chose to stay in Australia, using their skills in areas such as the arts, medicine or architecture, while others chose to go back home.

Felix Werder was born in Berlin on 24 February, 1922, to Helene and Bojas Bischofswerder. His father was a cantor and liturgical composer for a leading synagogue (liberal Judaism) and a member of Schoenberg's Circle.

From the age of eight, Felix worked as a

copyist for his father, earning considerable experience in the basic structure and tradition of musical composition.

In 1934 his family emigrated to England to escape the difficult political situation in Germany. Once there, Felix studied music, fine arts and architecture at various universities in London.

In 1940 Felix and Bojas were declared enemy aliens and placed on the HMT *Dunera* — aboard which they wrote an original piece, *Phantasia Judaica* — and shipped to Australia. Apart from the issue of overcrowding on the ship, the voyage was unpleasant for internees due to the fear of torpedo attack, the uncertainty of their destination, unhygienic living conditions and tensions between genuine refugees and other German citizens.

Once in Australia, Felix and his father were transported from Sydney to country New South Wales, where they were interned in Camp Seven at the Prisoner of War Camps at Hay, along with more than 2000 other men. Soon after, he was relocated to Tatura, in Victoria.

During his four-year internment at both Hay and Tatura, Felix continued to compose musical pieces. He recalls writing fragments of scores by notable musicians such as Handel and Mozart by memory on toilet paper, as initially there was no music manuscript or even instruments.

Later, when instruments became available in the internment camps, Felix participated in local musical groups and produced a large number of his early compositions, eventually

producing his first symphony in 1943.

While in the camps Felix often worked as a lecturer, finding himself in high demand as he was one of the few who could speak English. When he was not composing or lecturing he often found himself playing chess at the Camp Chess Club, where players would knead bread into chess pieces.

In May, 1943, upon his release from internment in Tatura, Felix moved to Sydney and worked as a jazz bassist before moving to Melbourne to begin his musical career.

In 1948, Felix's composition *Actomos* was performed by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Eugene Goosens. This piece was originally composed for voice and violin, however Felix chose to rewrite the score for stringed instruments.

In 1949, after nine years in Australia, four of which were spent interned, Bojas Bischofswerder died, aged 54.

In 1955 the Sydney Symphony Orchestra performed another of Felix's pieces, *Balletomania*, again conducted by Eugene Goosens. This performance came at a time when Felix was considering changing career paths, as many organisations considered his work too avant-garde to be accepted by the general public.

Over the next two decades, however, Werder was considered to be at the forefront of

Australian musical avant-garde, exploring the concepts of electronic music.

Felix has made many contributions to Australian and global society since his life in internment. Since 1956 he has been a lecturer at the Council of Adult Education in Melbourne; was a music critic for *The Age* in Melbourne between 1960 and 1977; toured Europe with his performance ensemble *Australia Felix* in the 1960s and 1970s; became a radio presenter in the mid-70s for the ABC; wrote for a wide variety of musical media, including chamber music and orchestral theatre; was made a Member for the Order of Australia in January, 1976 for services to music; and has received numerous commissions and awards including the Stamitz Prize in 1994 and 1998, the Australian Council Fellowship in 1986, and the Arts Guild of Germany Composition Prize in 1988.

In 2002, a series of concerts were performed in his honor for his eightieth birthday, along with a special presentation of his Doctor of Music from the University of Melbourne.

Although Felix experienced many hardships as a young adult, it has been his accomplishments that have made him not only one of the most influential musicians of his time, but one of the most inspirational men to come out of the Dunera event.

– Ashlee Jarrett

Q & A

From time to time, people have contacted us to ask about the Dunera story or to find more specific information about a Dunera Boy.

We invite you to send in your questions to – dunera@ozemail.com.au – and we will see if we can help you in any way.

Or perhaps you have a little story or a memento you would like to share with us. We would love to see or hear what Dunera memories you have, perhaps it would be something we could use to publish or illustrate in future newsletters.

We look forward to hearing from you!

We are also trying to collect contact information from those interested in the Dunera Association. Please contact Rebecca Silk — rebeccasilk@server101.com — if you would like to provide your name and contact details to the Association for future communications.



A Life Story

Gordon Michael Wyant died at the age of 95 on 22 October at Victoria, British Columbia. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 43 years, Annie,

in 1986. He is survived by his younger brother Edgar, and by his large family of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was born Günter Maximilian Weiss on 28 March 1914 into a non-observant Jewish family in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, educated at grade school followed by the Goethe Gymnasium. After some pre-medical studies at Würzburg, Germany, he received his medical degree from the University of Bologna in 1938. During his last visit to his parents in Germany, he was arrested by the Gestapo. Strings were pulled and he was finally released after almost three days but was told he was being deported, his German citizenship having been revoked as a result of the racial Nuremberg Laws of 1935. He never lived in Germany again. He had been raised as a Lutheran, the religion of his nanny, and so travelled to the Britain in 1939, having been sponsored by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

Although he knew very little English, he enrolled at Queens College, a theological school near Birmingham, in preparation for overseas medical mission work. Six months later, war broke out, and in June 1940, following Churchill's notorious order "Collar the lot", he was interned with thousands of other Germans and Italians in a camp near Liverpool (Huyton). He was shipped out on HMT *Dunera*. The story of their trip, with all its trials, hardships, even brutalities by the British guards, we know too well.

Finally, in late 1941, Günter signed on as medical officer on a vessel taking some of the internees back to the UK in exchange for their agreeing to enlist in His Majesty's armed forces. While en route, America entered the

war. The ship called in at Halifax for several days to join a convoy across the Atlantic. His first taste of Canada was in mid-winter and in light Australian clothing. Back in the UK, he enlisted in the Royal Army Reserve and began practising medicine at Ashton under Lyne, near Manchester. Here he met Annie, an operating room sister. They were married on 4 March 1944 at Greenford, north London.

In the meantime Günter's parents had managed to get out of Germany on a sealed train through Vichy France, sailing from Lisboa in August 1941 and arriving in America in early September without any possessions except the luggage they carried. That was only weeks before America entered the war. Their immigration quota numbers had come up only one day before the US consulate in Stuttgart closed. His younger brother Edgar had been sent to the US in 1933 and by 1943 he served with the US Forces in Italy. Edgar had changed his surname to Wyant, and Günter changed his name to Gordon Michael Wyant.

Gordon served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in Scotland and Dover, then as commanding officer of a medical hospital in Accra, Gold Coast (now Ghana) until he was demobbed in 1947 with the rank of A/Lt Colonel. He returned to his family in England and emigrated to Chicago where his parents then lived. He practised anaesthesia in various Chicago hospitals, rising to assistant professor at the University of Illinois and head of anaesthesia at Loyola University.

In 1954 the family moved to Saskatchewan where he became Professor at the University of Saskatchewan and the first Chief of Anaesthesia at the University Hospital a position he held until 1974. He was involved in the doctors' withdrawal of services in 1962 which led to the establishment of universal medical care in Saskatchewan and eventually in the whole country.

Gordon established a world-recognised Department of Anaesthesia at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1970-71, he served as president of the Canadian Anaesthetists'

Gordon Wyant (Günter Weiss) – 22 October 2009

Society and as vice-president of the World Federation of the Societies of Anaesthesiology for four years in the 1980s. He was an editor of numerous national and international medical journals, and in 1983 the Department of Anaesthesia library at the University was named in his honour. He was the anaesthetist on the University's second renal transplant in Canada. He was awarded many distinctions in the US and Canada.

In 1976-77, he spent a one year sabbatical in China learning acupuncture therapy, and then around the US, resulting in the establishment of wide-ranging pain management clinics in Saskatchewan. He was named professor emeritus of anaesthesia in 1981 and left the University after 30 years of service. He continued consulting until final retirement in 1998 at age 84.

He served in a variety of capacities in the Canadian Army, and in University establishments, medical societies and organisations, and was also active in the Anglican Church. In 1990 he was invested as an Officer in the Order of Canada.

In 1987, after Annie's death, he was remarried to Mary Anne Gilchrist at Lewiston, Idaho. They moved to Vancouver Island but divorced some years later.

Being the son of Holocaust survivors, Germany invited him back after his retirement.

He was not always an easy man to know on a personal basis but his vision and courage was the inspiration to his family.

– *Extracted from the family obituary of Gordon M Wyant MD. CD. OC.*

Richard Sonnenfeldt – 9 October 2009

Vale



Richard Sonnenfeldt passed away at age 86, at home in Port Washington, New York. Born in Berlin on 23 July 1923, and grew up in Gardelegen in northeastern Germany, Richard fled Nazi Germany at the age of 15.

His parents had sent him and his younger brother Helmut to boarding school in England in 1938 in order to move the family to safety. However, in England, in the midst of the war, Richard was declared an "enemy alien" because of his nationality and was deported to Australia.

After his release from detention in Australia, Richard had a long and adventurous journey before finally arriving in the US in 1941 to be reunited with his family.

Richard served as the chief interpreter for the American prosecution at the Nuremberg War Trials in 1945, and personally interrogated top-ranking Nazi criminals including Hermann

Goering. He wrote about his experiences from the trials in his book *Witness to Nuremberg*.

He enrolled at Johns Hopkins University and studied electrical engineering which enabled him to join the team at Radio Corporation of America (RCA) where his talent helped him rise through the company. Richard also held executive posts at NBC and other companies. Later in his career, he became Dean of the Graduate School of Management at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute.

His first wife, Shirley, predeceased him in 1979. Richard is survived by his brother, Helmut, and his second wife, Barbara, and six children and 15 grandchildren.

– *Extracted from the family obituary of Richard Sonnenfeldt*

For a more detailed story, please go to Google for "Richard Sonnenfeldt", click on the link to *The New York Times*.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Decisions, decisions, decisions

Oh give me your pity
I'm on a committee
Which means that from morning to night,
We attend and amend
And contend and defend
Without a conclusion in sight.

We concur and confer
We defer and demur
And reiterate all of our thoughts,
We revise the agenda
With frequent addenda
And consider a load of reports.

We compose and propose
We suppose and oppose
And the points of procedure are fun,
But the various notions
Are brought up as motions –
There's terrible little gets done.

We resolve and absolve
But never dissolve
Since it's out of the question for us,
What a shattering pity
To end our committee –
Where else would we make such a fuss?

– From a charity magazine in Hertfordshire, 1995

The Other Half

Moe: 'My wife got me to believe in religion.'
Joe: 'Really?'
Moe: 'Yeah. Until I married her I didn't believe
in Hell.'

While shopping for vacation clothes, my
husband and I passed a display of bathing
suits. It had been at least ten years and
twenty pounds since I had even considered
buying a bathing suit, so sought my
husband's advice.

'What do you think?' I asked. 'Should I get

a bikini or an all-in-one?'
'Better get a bikini,' he replied.
'You'd never get it all in one.'
He's still in intensive care.

The graveside service just barely finished,
when there was a massive clap of thunder,
followed by a tremendous bolt of lightning,
accompanied by even more thunder rumbling
in the distance.

The little old man looked at the pastor and
calmly said, 'Well, she's there.'

Dunera Committee 2009–2010

Following the AGM on 10 November 2009, no new applications having been received, these incumbent members agreed to continue for the 2009/2010 period plus one new appointment:

President – Mike Sondheim	Dunera Boy	0418 377 520
Treasurer – Ron Reichwald	Son of the late Martin Reichwald	0401 048 558
Secretary – Rebecca Silk	Daughter of the late Peter Huppert	0408 808 930
Dunera News – Anna Wolf	Daughter-in-law of Ernst Wolf	0405 236 808
Hay 70th Convenor – Peter Felder	Son of the late Henry Felder	0418 382 062
Public Relations – Michelle Frenkel	Granddaughter of the late Erwin Frenkel	0419 394 375