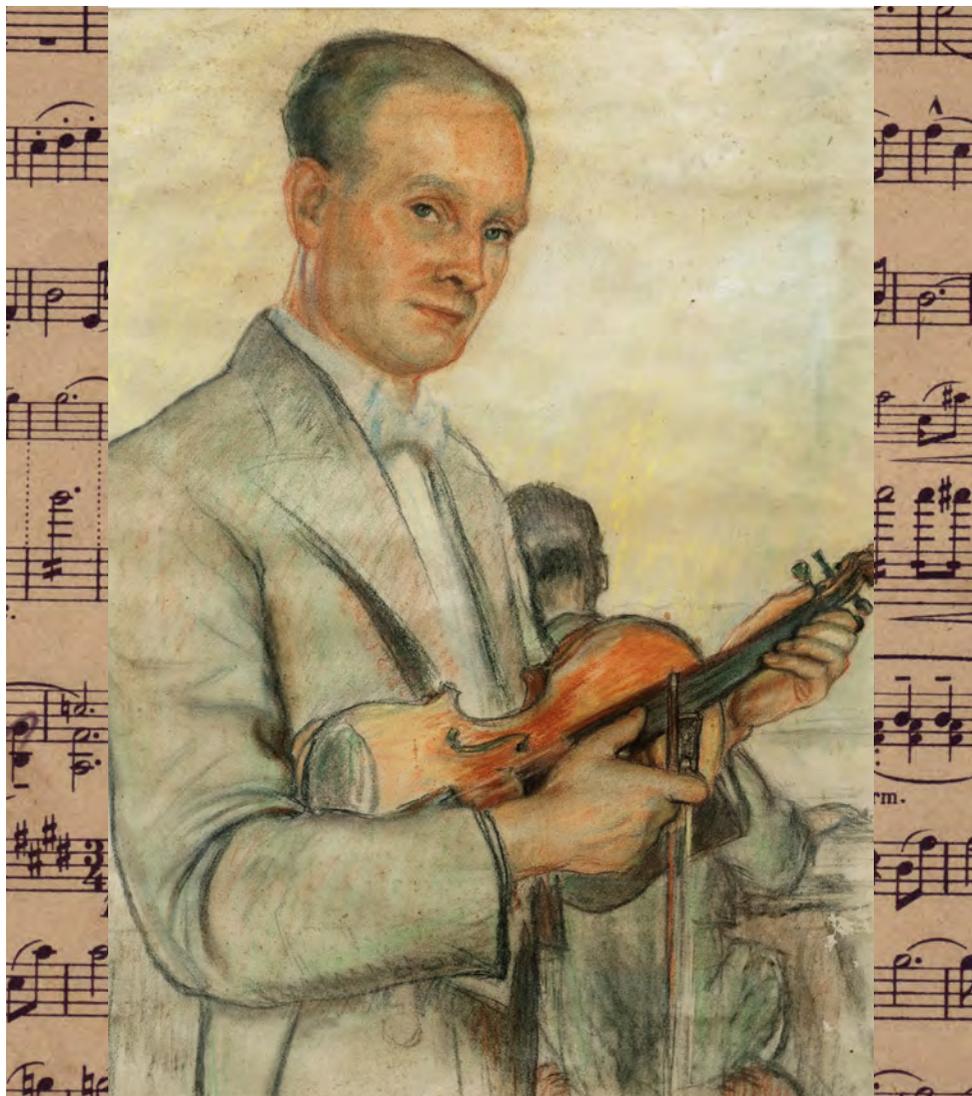


# Dunera News



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.

No. 90 April 2014



**Foundation Editor:**

The late Henry Lippmann OAM

**Editorial responsibility:**

The Committee of the Dunera Association

**Dunera Association on facebook**

– Friends of the Dunera Boys

Letters and articles for publication are welcome.

**Email:** secretary@enqyr.com.au



Cover image:  
Drawing of Ivan Pietruschka  
“my vision at your performance  
Tatura 1942”  
By Robert Hofmann

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*Many thanks to all the contributors.*



Rebecca Silk  
President  
Dunera Association

**From the President**

Welcome to Dunera News number 90. During the summer I was privileged to meet with Professor Jay Winter who is helping historian Ken Inglis to complete his work on Dunera Boys in Melbourne. Professor Winter asked some interesting questions that caused me to reflect on the so called “memory boom” – the revival of stories about wartime experiences and memories.

The point was made that memories and stories of, for example, the internment experience, will be different when told by the children and grandchildren than those told by the first hand witnesses, but are nevertheless important narratives. Perhaps a kind of reconstructed narrative.

I was also reminded about the importance that descendants now place on visits to wartime sites and commemorations of events such as the ones that our group holds. Our first event this year is the visit to Tatura on 27 April, where we will spend time at the Tatura Wartime Camps museum and then tour the internment camp sites. I encourage you to join us there, both for the memory aspect and to enjoy the country hospitality from our friends in Tatura.

Memory is never as powerful as it is when associated with music. In this edition we profile some Dunera Boys who became renowned for their musical careers. Space permits only a few but there were many others including composers Hans Werner Katz, Simon Hochberger, Werner Baer and Felix Werder. We again include a piece about the Singapore group experience as a reminder that these were memories as told by children.

My thanks for the efforts of all our volunteer researchers and writers. I hope you enjoy this 90th edition.

# This (Interned) Life

## Eva de Jong-Duldig

Published in *The Weekend Australian*, 18-19 January 2014

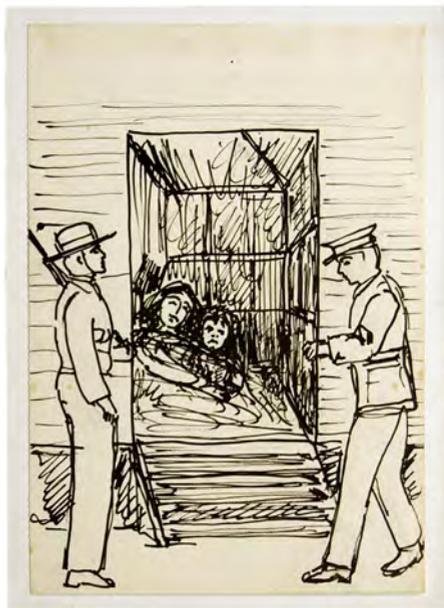
After visiting the site of Internment Camp 3D in 1990 for the first time since leaving it in 1942 I wrote the following:

The sharp grass seeds became embedded in my socks and occasionally punctured my skin. Rough stones lay over the ground and a group of Friesians looked at us curiously. Overhead, green rosellas chattered as they took flight from the nearest grey box eucalypt. A prevailing wind blew across the fields and seemed to chase white clouds across the otherwise bright blue sky. We were a few kilometres from Tatura, a small township in the heart of Victoria's Goulburn Valley, on the site of what was once Internment Camp 3.

On September 28, 1940, with my parents and about 270 other Austrian and German refugees, I had been brought here as an enemy alien. Only two days earlier, we had set eyes on beautiful Sydney Harbour for the first time, from the deck of the great Queen Mary, then the largest ship afloat. It had taken seven days to sail from Singapore, our island refuge following the rise of Nazism.

Recently, as I walked among the cattle, I visualised the spartan corrugated huts arranged in neat rows that had once covered this farmer's field. I found myself looking around for the barbed wire fences that figured in most of my father's drawings. It was hard to imagine that we lived here for nearly two years. Yet this was the cradle of my memories, where my toddler mates and I had sung rhymes, played games and squabbled over a few meagre toys. This was where I had helped my father tend the flower beds.

These and other memories flooded back as I sat on stone remains, watching horses grazing in yellowing fields that seemed to stretch endlessly to the horizon. I picked up the jagged fragment of a chunky beer glass, probably once used by our



Karl Duldig, *Under guard* (3) c. 1940 Pen and ink on paper, 300 x 210mm. © The Duldig Studio

guards. There was one guard for every five inmates. Somewhat intimidated by the rifles slung over their shoulders, I nevertheless presented them with camp-grown flowers, but when they came to inspect the hut for clandestine radios or cameras I huddled in bed closer to my mother.

That night there was no moon, but the stars lit up the night sky. I saw again the floodlit internment camps over the rise – the seven camps round Tatura, Rushworth and Murchison were the only pinpoints of light in a valley blacked out for the war. But enemy bombers would not attack this target and we were safe in what would become our new homeland. No wonder my father wrote in 1941, *Tatura ist ein paradies* (Tatura is a paradise).

Back home in Melbourne, I picked the last grass seeds out of my socks and placed the beer glass fragment on the front porch and pondered how Internment Camp 3 near Tatura had assumed a new reality in my mind.

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### Art Behind the Wire

This exhibition of artworks by Karl Duldig, at The Duldig Studio, focuses on drawings and sculpture completed in Tatura and while in the army, as well as later. Exhibition opens 24 April 2014. Guided tours \$25 per person (\$20 pp concession).

#### Enquiries and bookings:

Museum manager – T: 03 9885 3358 M: 0407 002 834 E: donna@duldig.org.au

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### TATURA DAY

Sunday, 27 April 2014

Tatura Wartime Camps Museum  
49 Hogan Street, Tatura

A great opportunity to see locations and remains of the camps, understand the mixture of internees who were there, connect with Dunera and Singapore group families and friends, and enjoy Tatura's country hospitality.

### PROGRAM

1.00-2.30pm

Viewing of museum exhibits  
Welcome. Introduction to the camps  
Afternoon refreshments  
2.45pm Driving tour of the camps  
4.30pm Finish

### RSVP

14 April for catering purposes –  
dunera@enqyr.com.au

### PLEASE NOTE

Tatura is an easy 2-hour drive from Melbourne. It is near Shepparton. If you require transport to Tatura or if you are willing to assist by car pooling please send an email with details by 31 March to dunera@enqyr.com.au

# Ivan (Majer) Pietruschka



Ivan Pietruschka was born in 1901 in the formerly Russian town of Opatow near Minsk. He was the son of Jewish parents Alter, a fur dealer and Rachel Pietruschka. Ivan's father was a passionate follower of the tsar. It is believed that Ivan's father took his own life after learning of the death of the tsar in the Russian Revolution. Ivan and his eight siblings were sent abroad. Ivan eventually went to Lodz where he played violin in the symphony orchestra there. After 1919 he continued his musical training in Berlin, becoming a violinist and then a conductor of an orchestra for silent films.

From 1935 Jews were no longer allowed to play in national orchestras and in 1939 he fled to England where he was allowed to stay "in transit" at the Kitchener Camp. He performed there with the camp orchestra which was very popular and seen as an ambassador playing at the surrounding towns around Kent.

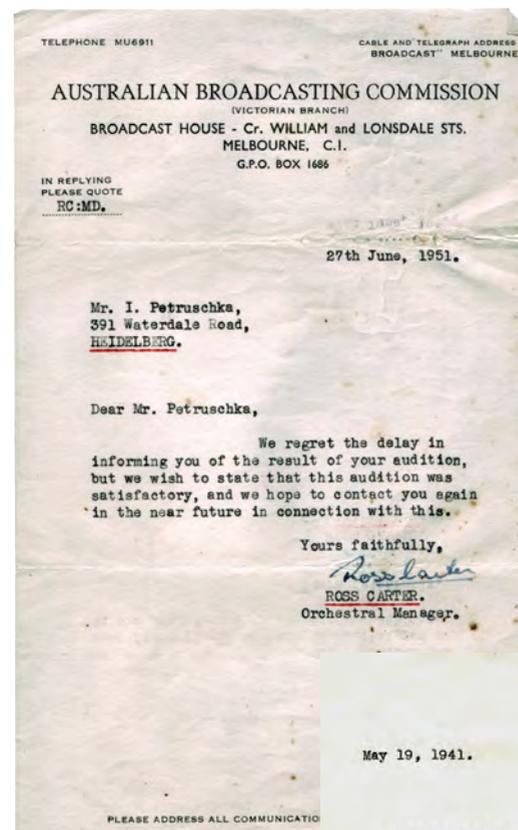
Along with many others from Kitchener, Ivan was sent on the Dunera in May 1940. He was interned in Hay Camp 7 for eight months and then for a year in Tatura Camp 2. In Hay Ivan taught violin and performed along with Peter Stadlen, Werner Baerwald and Hans Werner Katz. These concerts were presumably played from memory or improvised as there was no sheet music for them.

Ivan joined the 8th Employment Company on 1 May 1942 but was discharged on 29 August 1942 as medically unfit due to diabetes. He spent a few years working in a dry cleaners before becoming a naturalised Australian in 1946 after which he was able to return to his musical career playing in the 3DB orchestra and then in 1952 he joined the Victorian Symphony Orchestra where he played second violin until he retired in 1967.

Ivan was married to noted Australian concert pianist Phyllis Batchelor and they had two children, Tanya and Maxwell Alexander. Ivan never spoke of his experiences on the Dunera or while interned. Of his eight siblings, only one survived the Holocaust. Ivan had a serendipitous reunion with his sister Mary in New York in 1966 while on tour with the Victorian Symphony Orchestra. He kept in touch with her until his death in Melbourne in 1979.

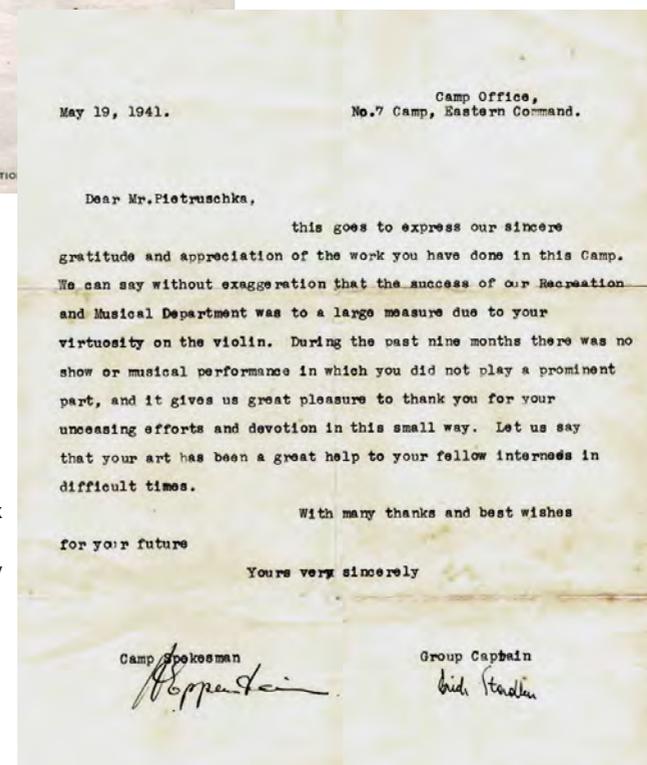
Ivan remained a cultured European, with a love of chamber music, playing chess and moving seamlessly between conversations in at least four different languages. He was among those unsung Dunera Boys who made an enormous contribution to the fabric of cultural life in Melbourne for three decades.

— By Rebecca Silk Source: Biographical information supplied by Ivan's son Max Pietruschka



Ivan is at the far right, last in the row.

The professional musicians in Camp 7 at Hay were the composer Hans Werner Katz, pianist Peter Stadlen, violinist Ivan (Majer) Pietruschka and the music student Werner Baerwald. In Camp 8 were the conductor Kurt Behrens, composers Ray Martin, Eddy Kassner and Max Meyer, as well as the music students Johannes Chlumecky and Otmar Silberstein (violin), and Rudi Laqueur (piano).



## Peter Stadlen

(1910 to 1996)

Born in Vienna in 1910, Peter Stadlen trained as a conductor, composer, and philosopher, before completing his piano studies with Leonid Kreuzer in Berlin. At the Venice Biennale in 1937, he conducted a performance of a Schoenberg work – a remarkable feat, as the piano part itself is crammed with complexities.

Following the Nazi takeover in Austria, he sought refuge in Britain – one of that generation of brilliant Viennese immigrants, including Hans Keller and three members of the future Amadeus String Quartet, who were to enrich the musical life of post-war Britain.

Peter Stadlen was shipped on the Dunera (with his brother Erik) and interned firstly in Camp 7 at Hay, then later at Orange and Tatura. In Hay it was reported that among the concerts given, a most memorable performance of Handel's *Israel in Egypt* was directed by Peter Stadlen who arranged the work for the men's chorus, piano, harmonium, two violins and a cello. Peter returned to England in October 1941.

He took British citizenship in 1946, and immediately resumed his international career. He introduced such important works as Schoenberg's Piano Concerto and Hindemith's *Four Temperaments* to European audiences, and ran master-classes in modern piano music at the Darmstadt Summer School from 1947 to 1951, and in 1952 received the Austrian government's Schoenberg Medal.

He participated in academic debates about contemporary music. But a hand injury forced him to give up performing in 1956. He then put his efforts to journalism and musicology. Peter was a music critic for *The Daily Telegraph* in 1959 and stayed for 26 years, the last 10 years as chief music critic. He also held a lectureship at Reading University from 1965 to 1969 and a visiting fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford, in 1967-68. He made a substantial contribution through an intensive study of Beethoven's work, and also published on Mozart and Schoenberg.

Peter married Hedi Simon in 1946, she was a refugee and political activist also from Vienna. Peter had first met Hedi in 1924 when he was 14 and she was eight. Ten years later they met again in Vienna. At the time of their marriage, Peter was building his career. They were to become a formidable team with Hedi supporting Peter in his career as a concert pianist, and then as a music critic and musicologist.

In those days all reviews had to be written immediately after the concert for the following day. For over 20 years, several evenings a week, Peter and Hedi followed the same routine, with her transcribing his reviews in the back of the car. He would then call the Telegraph from a nearby red telephone box and read the reviews to the sub editor. They became experts on telephone boxes on the South Bank of London.

The Stadlens were a familiar and popular sight on the London and international



music scene – at Bayreuth, Salzburg and Aldeburgh. Peter never attended a concert without Hedi who became highly expert in music, helping to organise and contribute to his research. Peter died in 1996, Hedi in January 2004. They had two sons.

Peter Stadlen has been described as a fearless musician who devoted his life, no matter what the cost in controversy and doubt, to discovering and sustaining of musical truth.

– By Rebecca Silk

Sources

The Independent, 23 January 1996 obituary by Bayan Northcott of Peter Stadlen

The Independent, 31 January 2004 obituary of Hedi Stadlen

Carol Bunyan Researcher Canberra

## Ray Martin (Kurt Kohn)

(1918 to 1988)

Ray Martin was a composer, arranger and conductor for BBC-TV, Columbia Records, RCA, and motion pictures. Born

Kurt Wolfgang Kohn to Jewish parents in Vienna he studied violin and music theory at the Vienna Academy for Music and Dramatic Arts. He came to Britain in 1938 touring with the Jack Hylton band in the comedy radio show *Band Waggon*.

Ray was transported on the Dunera and interned at Hay, Tatura and Loveday camps. He returned to England in October 1941 and served in the British army in Germany where he conducted a radio dance band on the British Forces Network.

John McMillan of BBC radio hired Ray Martin in 1946 and from 1948-1955 he was the resident conductor-arranger for BBC Radio then BBC TV. He also worked for Columbia Records as Artists and Repertoire Director from 1950-1958. While at Columbia he produced over 2000 records including 30 albums and singles of his own work. More than a dozen of his own recordings made the Top Ten Best-Seller Lists. He sometimes wrote under the pseudonyms Tony Simmonds and Lester Powell. He was Assistant Head of the Music Department for the Associate British Picture Corporation in Elstree, England from 1956-1958.

Ray Martin immigrated to the United States in 1957 first settling in New York then moving to Los Angeles in 1968. In Los Angeles he composed and arranged music for the RCA and other labels. His *Living Brass* albums for RCA whose scores are in the collection are well regarded. In 1972 he returned to the UK, then moved to South Africa in 1980. He is remembered as a highly gifted musician and familiar voice on the BBC.

– By Rebecca Silk

Sources:

Extract from History Notes – <http://library.csun.edu/Collections/SCA/SC/FG/fdgd7b.pdf>

Carol Bunyan Researcher Canberra



# Refugee Musicians

In an article in 2011, *Uncovering Traces: German speaking refugee musicians in Australia*, writer Dr Albrecht Dümling makes special reference to the ships that brought refugee musicians to Australia during WWII.

Of the Dunera, Dümling says the Dunera refugee group “comprised more than several musicians, among them the eminent pianist Peter Stadlen from Vienna, the Jewish cantor and composer Boas Bischofswerder and his son (Felix Werder) from Berlin. They and others contributed to the cultural life that the refugees organised in the desert camp of Hay in NSW where they were interned”.

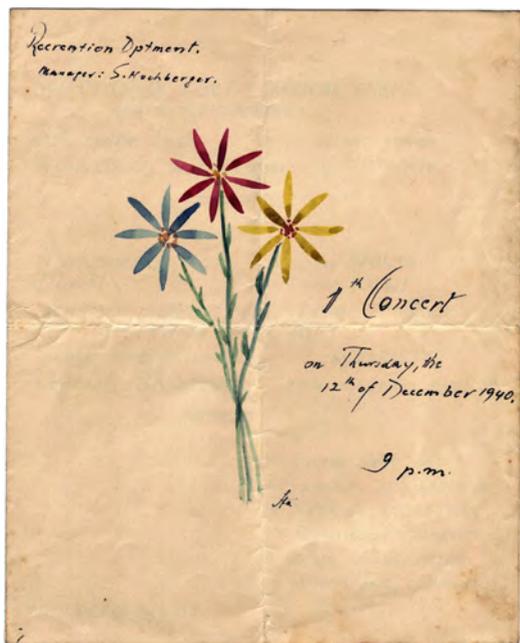
Dümling also notes the arrival of the Queen Mary with refugees from Singapore who were interned in Tatura and among them “some valuable additions to Australia’s musical life” including pianist and organist Werner Baer.

Dümling makes the interesting point that many of the so called enemy alien internees quickly adapted to the new surroundings, learned to speak English and satirically referred to themselves in the words of a song penned by Ray Martin (Kurt Kohn) as “His Majesty’s most loyal internees”.

Dümling ends by saying “the contribution of those refugee musicians to the musical life of Australia has not yet been fully discovered. This is partly due to the musicians themselves who did not want to talk about their fate”.

– By Rebecca Silk

Source:  
*Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*  
 (November 2008 Vol XIX Part 2)



Concert program cover. Hay

From: albrecht@duemling.de  
 To: secretary@enqyr.com.au  
 Subject: Dunera News

Dear Rebecca,

Thank you for No. 89 of the Dunera News, which I again read with great interest.

It might interest you and your readers that the Berlin-based society **musica reanimata** (<http://www.musica-reanimata.de/index.en.html>) will dedicate the next lecture-recital to Dunera Boy Felix Werder and to Walter Würzburger, arriving from Singapore.

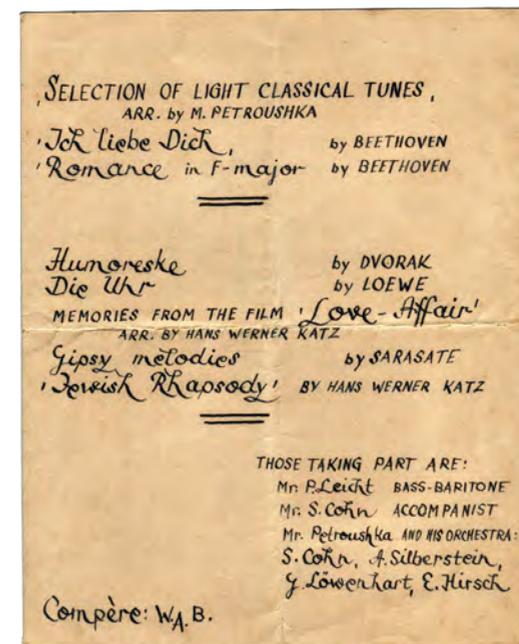
The title of the evening on April 24, 2014, at the Konzerthaus Berlin is *Als Enemy Aliens nach Australien deportiert: Walter Würzburger und Felix Werder* (As enemy aliens deported to Australia: Walter Würzburger and Felix Werder).

Works by both composers will be played. Host Albrecht Dümling will talk to close relatives of the composers and to Erica Fischer, author of the novel *Königskinder* (Rowohlt Berlin 2012), telling the story of her father, Dunera Boy Erich Fischer.

See also <http://www.konzerthaus.de/programm/musica-reanimata-gespraechskonzert/1634>

Best wishes,  
 Albrecht

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Concert program. Hay

# The Man behind the Four-Minute Mile: Franz Stampfl

By Elisabeth Lebensaft and Christoph Mentschl

Translation Antonia Lehn

The last years of his life, as a wheelchair-bound quadriplegic, must have been martyrdom for a man whose life was totally dedicated to sport and physical movement. Yet he never gave up, neither on his activities nor on himself. We are referring to the “Man behind the Four-Minute Mile”, Franz Stampfl, the legendary coach of internationally renowned Australian and British elite athletes.

## Small Apartment in Ottakring

The man with the very un-Anglo name was born in Vienna, just over a hundred years ago, on 18 November 1913, to be precise. His father, Josef Stampfl, was said to have lost his assets in a way that can no longer be reconstructed, and operated a small company manufacturing surgical instruments. His mother, née Josepow, apparently originated from the same Russian aristocratic family that produced Rasputin’s murderer. However, even extensive research was unable to shed light on this noble family connection.

Franz Stampfl lived together with his parents, grandmother and six siblings in extremely modest circumstances in a small apartment, comprising just a kitchen and two bedrooms, in the Viennese working class suburb of Ottakring. Following his father’s wishes, he completed a commercial apprenticeship and was destined to assume the reins of the family business. This was, however, contrary to his own future plans. These plans saw Franz attending courses, presumably as an external student, at the College of Applied Art, which was later to become the University for Applied Art, while increasingly looking toward a future in the field of sport. He learnt skiing on the hills of the Vienna Woods early in life and was enthusiastic about athletics, showing particular skill in javelin throwing, becoming Junior Champion in 1935. At the same time he had been junior coach with the track and field section of the WAF (Viennese Association Football Club) since 1933. In 1936 he participated in the Olympic Games in Berlin as assistant to the Chief Coach for the Austrian Athletics Olympics Team, Harold Anson Bruce. However, on return he was barred from the Athletics Association for two years, presumably on disciplinary grounds. This, as well as problems with his father and, not least, the economic and political situation, particularly the threat to Austria from the totalitarian Nazi regime, which he had experienced from close quarters in Berlin, resulted in his decision to turn his back on his home country and seek a future in Great Britain, the mother country of sport.

## Interned and deported

Stampfl initially continued to pursue both professional goals, following his arrival in England in early summer 1937. For a time he attended the Chelsea School of Arts but came to realise that he was no match for the greats, despite his artistic talents and intellectual prowess. Many of his own works bear testimony to the fact that painting never lost its hold over him. This was not the case with sport. Armed with references from the WAF and from the *Sport Tagblatt* (Sports Daily) for which he was to report on sporting events in Great Britain as a correspondent, he met Harold Abrahams, the 100 metre Olympic Champion of 1924 and by then one of the most significant sports officials of the United Kingdom. Abrahams obtained jobs for Stampfl as athletics coach with the Loughborough College Summer School in Oxford, as well as in Northern Ireland. However, the start of the war in 1939 put an end to this activity.

Stampfl wanted to volunteer for the Royal Air Force, but was instead detained and interrogated by the domestic security service MI5. He was subsequently interned as an “enemy alien” and was to have been deported to Canada on the *Arandora Star* which was hit by a German torpedo and sunk, soon after departing on 2 July 1940. However, his name had not been recorded, either on the list of passengers or on the list of survivors.

Stampfl was one of more than 2000 internees on the troop ship *HMT Dunera*, which sailed to Australia from Liverpool a few days later. The so-called *Dunera Boys* suffered under horrendous conditions on board and were mistreated and robbed by the guards.

Following arrival in September 1940, the passengers were interned anew. Stampfl was initially sent to the camp at Hay in the state of New South Wales, where he organised sporting activities. He was transferred to the Tatura camp in Victoria during the following May. He obtained his release in 1942 after enlisting in the Australian Army. He then served with the 8th Australian Employment Company, which was mainly involved with infrastructure tasks, obtained the rank of Corporal, was demobbed early 1946 and he returned to Great Britain shortly afterwards, probably due to better career prospects. There he married Patricia Cussen, an Australian whom he had met during military service, in 1947.

## The Path to Success – “The Perfect Mile”

Once again it was Harold Abrahams who assisted Stampfl with his career path. Abrahams obtained a position for him in Northern Ireland, where the returnee was to be head coach. In particular, this enabled him to advance the career of



## The Man behind the Four-Minute Mile: Franz Stampfl

Thelma Hopkins, the future high jump world record holder and Olympic medallist, whom he took under his wings in 1948. In the same year he initiated training in the hall, which ensured continuous training opportunities for throwing and jumping disciplines. When the Northern Ireland association encountered financial difficulties, Stampfl was forced to seek a new position.

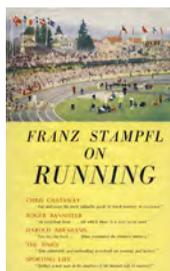
He went to London where he made a living as a sporting goods salesman, as well as a freelance track and field coach at the Duke of York's Barracks in Chelsea. Before long he was not only sought after, but was also in charge of the Pakistani track and field team during the 1952 Olympic Games. His English flock included the middle and long distance runner Chris Brasher, who introduced Stampfl to his training partners Roger Bannister and Chris Chataway in 1953.

The connection to these three athletes literally became a milestone in Stampfl's career. Under his leadership they devised a plan for Bannister to be the first to break the 4 minute mile barrier in May 1954, supported by Brasher and Chataway as pace setters. The latter two athletes were also to contribute to Stampfl's success as coach. While Chataway beat the world record over 5000 metres shortly thereafter, to everyone's surprise Brasher won the 3000 metres steeplechase at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. Stampfl who had the ability to accurately analyse movement processes, had in the meantime authored a book which was to set the future direction of athletics (*On Running*, London 1955) where he presented his training methods. This book was widely acclaimed in the world of sports and was re-printed several times and translated. He not only promoted interval training, which involves high intensity exercise, alternated with short recovery phases, but also emphasised the psychological components in training and competition.

### Success and Disaster

His success was also acknowledged in Australia. Stampfl subsequently was appointed as Director of Sports at the University of Melbourne and was the first to occupy such a tenured position. He went on to coach numerous elite athletes on the Melbourne University track, many of whom claimed fame on national and international events as well as achieving world records. They included the multiple world record holder Ron Clarke, who established numerous records in middle and long distance events in the 1960s, as well as middle distance runner Ralph Doubell. Thanks to Stampfl's physical and mental preparation, Doubell was able to win the gold medal in the 800 metre run at the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games, as an outsider, against the toughest competition.

Stampfl's illustrious career suffered an abrupt break in 1980. Following a serious



car accident, through no fault of his own, he was paralysed from the neck down. He continued his activities from the wheelchair and was able to coach many sportsmen and women to remarkable levels of achievement. One of these was Australian shotputter and 1984 Olympic bronze medallist Gael Martin. Almost until the end Stampfl was at the track of the University of Melbourne several hours every day, coaching his athletes. He died in Melbourne on 19 March 1995.

Even though Stampfl was a well-known figure on the international track and field scene and was awarded honours in the USA, Canada, and not least of all, Australia, and was awarded Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 1981, inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1989 and the Athletics Australia Hall of Fame in November 2013, his achievements went largely unnoticed in his former home country of Austria. Andreas Maier's recently launched book *Franz Stampfl. Trainergenie und Weltbürger. Biographie eines Visionärs* (Wien 2013) should rectify this.



*Franz Stampfl: A Life Unexpected – The Man Behind The Miracle Mile* is a cinematic feature documentary currently in production from Finish Line Films, written and directed by Sally McLean, produced by Sally McLean and Ben Steel and executive produced by Robert L Galinsky.

This is the inspirational true story of artist turned world-renowned athletics coach – Franz Stampfl. Through interview, re-enactment and archive material this documentary shines a light on a nearly forgotten hero of the sporting and motivational arenas, a man who inspired others to strive for excellence in their lives and careers with wisdom, laughter and by the example of his own life experience.

Daughter of one of Franz Stampfl's 1956 Australian Olympians, Writer/Director Sally McLean and the Creative Team are now ready to fully bring this extraordinary story to the screen.

View the teaser trailer, go to – [alifeunexpected.com](http://alifeunexpected.com)



## **SAVE THE DATES 2014**

Dunera anniversary in Hay  
Weekend of 6–7 September

Dunera Reunion in Sydney  
Wednesday 10 September

Dunera Reunion in Melbourne  
AGM Dunera Association  
Tuesday 11 November

News and information on events will  
be updated on our Dunera Association  
facebook page

– **Friends of the Dunera Boys**

## **IN MEMORY**

**Letty Wolf** 1 March 2014

(wife of Ernst Wolf)

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

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