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Dunera News

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A NEWSLETTER TO A FREE ASSOCIATION OF ON-TIME ESCAPEES FROM NAZI EUROPE WHO WERE INTERIRED OVERSEAS DURING WORLD WAR TWO SHIPPED TO AUSTRALIA KEPT INCARCIMED AND LATER RELEASED THERE TO ALL WHO SERVED WITH THE OIN AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYMENT COMPANY * PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS ONLY BY HENRY LITMANN 139 DOVER ROAD DOVER HEIGHTS 2030 SYDNEY



May 1787: DEPARTURE



AUSTRALIA
of the FIRST FLEET

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THANKS FOR ASSISTANCE, LETTERS AND ARTICLES CONTRIBUTED BY

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| AUST. BROADCAST COMM. | PETER HUPPERT | PADDY PEARL |
| MARIE CLARE ADAMS | PAUL HUSSERL | RAINER RADOK |
| BERT ANDJEL | FRED HOCHBERG | UWE RADOK |
| JOSEPH ASHER, RABBI | HENRY JAMES | JUDITH REICHWALD |
| EMIL AUER | CASSIA JAY | FRED ROSE |
| AUST. JEWISH TIMES | ALBERT KAROLY | WALTER SEYMOUR (SALAMON) |
| DR. BROOKS (LIEUT.) | GEORGE KAUFMANN | HENRY TALBOT |
| DR. BERNARD CINADER | WALTER KAUFMANN | CLAUDIA TARANTO |
| LEO DIAMOND | PAUL KENT (KAUFTEIL) | PETER TIKOTIN |
| ZOE DE SOUZA (KRONBERGER) | KLAUS LOEWALD | HALTER TRAVERS |
| PAUL EISENKLAM | HERBERT MALINOV | OSWALD WOLKENSTEIN |
| WERNER FRANK | HANS MARCUS | KLAUS WILCZYNSKI |
| ROBERT FARNBOROUGH | ALBERT MEYER | ALEXANDER ZVIELLI |
| MEL GALUN | RUDI METH | SYDNEY MORNING HERALD |
| ERNEST E. GREEN | FRANCIS CAKES (EICHNER) | H. G. LENNARD |

RECENT VISITORS TO SYDNEY WERE

- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------|
| BERN BRENT | (CANB.) | JERRY GUTMANN | (CANB.) |
| MIKE BRENT | (CANB.) | PETER HERBST | (CANB.) |
| DR. ALEXANDER BROOKS | (MONMOUTH/WALES) | KEN SUTTON | (BATHURST) |
| PAUL EISENKLAM | (LONDON) | ERIC AND REMA STIMAR | (MELB.) |

DIED

OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED

- FRITZ REISS (FRED REES) 30 MAY 1986, LONDON, survived by his sister Liesel Lieser, Wembley, Middx. Friend of Geo. Kaufmann Peter Tikotene and others who mentioned Fritz Reiss in their correspondence.
- MARTIN REICHWALD 17 FEBRUARY 1987, 66, MELBOURNE, Survived by his father (96, London), his wife Judith, two sons, a daughter and two grandchildren.
- CYRIL PEARL 3 MARCH 1987, SYDNEY, 82, at hospital after long illness. Survived by his wife Paddy.
- FRANK HEILBORN 21 APRIL 1987, BOWRAL NSW, Frank was the son of the late Berlin/Leeds ORT Engineering School Headmaster F. Heilborn. - Frank is survived by his mother (88, Leeds, Yorksh.), by his wife Pat, by a teen-age son and daughter.
- HARRY JAY 22 APRIL 1987, MELBOURNE, 82, survived by his wife Cassia.
- PETER HUPPERT 31 MAY 1987, SYDNEY, 73, survived by his wife Nora, two married daughters, two grandchildren and a brother in USA.

FRONT PAGE : THIS IS NOT THE DUNERA DEPARTURE

Can you recognise anybody pictured in line for embarkation ? asks George Kaufmann, Melbourne, drawing attention to this special stamp issue. George also advised the manager of stamp promotions to commemorate the Dunera voyage - in 2040.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

MONDAY, JUNE 8 , 1987

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (AC)
COMPANIONS IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF
THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (AO) :

HARRY SEIDLER , OBE , KILLARA NSW , FOR
ADVANCEMENT OF ARCHITECTURE : A COMPANION .

GRANDCHILDREN BORN - CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FAMILIES OF

EDWARD DAHL 8 MAY 1987 , REHOVOT/ISRAEL , A GRANDSON : RONEN

OSWALD WOLKENSTEIN 9 MAY 1987 , SYDNEY , A GRANDSON : MATHEW VINCENT

DATES OF THE SYDNEY STAMMTISCH MEETINGS

<u>JUNE 1987</u>	<u>JULY 1987</u>	<u>AUGUST 1987</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
TUESDAY 9	TUESDAY 7	TUESDAY 11	TUESDAY 8
MONDAY 22	MONDAY 20	MONDAY 24	MONDAY 21

Visitors and friends, please come and join us at dinner time at the Hakoah Club, Hall Street, Bondi. Casual .

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY , 6 SEPTEMBER 1987

DATE OF SYDNEY ARRIVAL OF THE DUNERA

PICNIC MEETING AT DARLING HARBOUR

Meet at the wharf where we landed between 11am and 2 pm. Reservations not necessary. Bring all your friends, children and grandchildren, your own food, drinks, mess gear, picnic tables and chairs . Dress casual, sporty or work-imitation-like. Contact Dunera News before.

TUESDAY , 10 NOVEMBER 1987

ANNUAL MELBOURNE REUNION

The date is as usual on the second Tuesday in November - one week after the Melbourne Cup. Dinner will be at a St. Kilda Hotel . Contact Jimmy King for reservations.

RECENT EVENTS

The Sydney Annual Meeting took place as usual on Anzac Day, April 25. 60 people attended . (Photo Centrefold)

On the 21 May was a dinner in New York . 19 Dunera boys plus their wives or guests had accepted an invitation. A report will follow.

The first Dunera reunion in England took place on 30th May. There was a good attendance and the meeting was a great success. A report will follow. From Sydney a message was sent to this London meeting . Copy on the next page.

4.

A MESSAGE TO THE LONDON MEETING 30 MAY 1987

Many friends from various far away countries who can not be present at your special meeting want to send their greetings and good wishes.

We are pleased that this meeting is taking place in London, because it is in England where our story - the Dunera Story - began.

Except for those of us who settled in Australia, it is England to which the largest number of Dunera people have returned.

After many years you reunite in a carefree and happy spirit. Today you have no axe to grind nor have you any common cause to fight any more. You can relax and reflect thoughtfully on an eventful period that certainly had an effect on our lives.

Fate threw us together. We were an odd group of versatile Central Europeans. We still are. Eighteen months behind barbed wire was perhaps not entirely wasted. This period left a certain bond between us.

It needs to be said that, these days, hardly any of our men would hold a grudge against Britain for the mistake it then made by interning and deporting us. The British Government has admitted this mistake. It has expressed its regret while the war was still raging.

If this episode was "Churchill's biggest error", the world and we can count ourselves lucky.

More than anything else we look to Britain with genuine gratitude as the country that offered us refuge when we escaped from tyranny. Britain saved us from the fate that later befell our families that were left behind in Nazi Europe.

We must constantly remind ourselves that we have survived while millions of our people were exterminated. The worst part of our internment was that we were sent so far away, locked up, helpless, unable to take up the fight to stop the worst crimes the world has ever seen.

When given the chance, the majority of our men enlisted for active service in the British army, the Australian army, the Jewish Brigade, the American army etc. Some were killed in action. Some of us never reached England, having drowned when their ship was torpedoed on the return voyage. Some refugee-soldiers were taken by the enemy. They twice experienced imprisonment: first by the British, then by the Nazis!

Today's Dunera veterans lay no claim to particular importance. But in the history of refugees and migrants from Central Europe they make a distinct and colourful chapter.

Some years ago, in places where, perhaps, we were not totally accepted, many of us were so selfconscious that we were almost ashamed to meet one another. Now recognized as we deserve to be, we can meet, self-assured, with pride and with purpose.

There is good reason for pride. As you look around at your old buddies from way back you will find that you can hardly recognize some. But they are still the same decent fellows. Each in his own way found his place in life, his job, his wife, his home, his family, his community, plus quite a lot of remarkable achievements. We trust that you will find out more about all this at your party. Have lots of fun, a jolly good time and many happy returns.

The Dunera story on radio

RADIO ON

Ian Horner

THOSE intrigued by *The Dunera Boys* will thrill to it all again in Radio National's *The Dunera Diaries*, about the German and Austrian refugees who arrived at Circular Quay aboard the Dunera and were thought to be dangerous POWs.

Sunday afternoon's episode, *Hay Days* (1.40 pm), sees the "prisoners" interned in camps outside Hay and documents their remarkable efforts to stay sane: establishing a camp parliament, university, newspaper, orchestra, currency and satirical theatre. And it happened right here, folks.

'THE DUNERA DIARIES'

On three successive Sundays, April 12, 19 and 26, the ABC featured a three part series of half hour programs on the National Network 2 FC.

In this broadcast Dunera veterans reflect on their war time experience.

Claudia Taranto, a young Sydney journalist/producer interviewed a number of 'Dunera Boys' in Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney. She taped dozens of hours of conversation which she condensed into the 1½ hours that were actually broadcast.

Fittingly blended into this program is the music that was composed during the internment by Ray Martin (now England) and Werner Baer (now Sydney). Werner Baer made the musical arrangements, played the piano and supervised the recording at the ABC studio (Chatswood) in September 1986. Young voices from the Sydney Massada School Choir sing the songs that were then performed by the 'Swing Choir' (Hay Days, O'Neill, etc.)

The effect of a program such as this depends mainly on the editing. Claudia Taranto has done a good job with it, even if she allowed a number of inaccuracies and contradictions to pass. It is clear: These men speak off the cuff. They say what is on their mind. Their individual views vary. Not any one's opinion represents 100% that of all his mates. Being a most unusual crowd of individuals unanimous consensus can never be expected.

The listener - the public - for whom this program was made, perceived much fresh and interesting information from this program. They got a good general impression how things were with these refugee-internees. Listeners felt pleased that through the medium of this broadcast they have met and come closer to some of those audible, likeable characters.

A man - NOT a Dunera Boy - phoned me after the last episode. He said how much he enjoyed the whole thing. Only one thing he regretted: That the program was finished now and that there was no more of it. - There can be no better compliment than this to the producers. Claudia Taranto, who put a lot of time, effort and heart into it, is to be congratulated. Many thanks go to the ABC and all who took part in this production.

Australian Jewish Times,

It recounts the tragic and absurd episode of the war years which saw Jewish and other refugees from Nazi tyranny imprisoned in Australian displaced persons camps as "enemy aliens".

The Dunera Diaries was produced by Claudio Taranto, who was moved to investigate the story after attending an internees' Anzac Day reunion in 1985.

It features songs composed during the years of the Jewish refugees' in-

ternment in the northern NSW town of Hay, sung by the Masada College choir.

Operatic compositions of eminent musician Werner Baer, written during his internment in the Victorian camp of Tatura, are also included.



Cyril Pearl's Who's Who entry said it all

FRANCIS JAMES remembers author and journalist Cyril Pearl, who died last week.

ONE clue to the character of Cyril Pearl is his entry in *Who's Who*: "Recreations — exploring social myths, discovering Aust. wines."

It is a statement at once truthful and misleading; simple and complex; illuminating, yet a camouflage. Like the man himself: compassionate and merciless; calm, fiery; earthy and subtle; a compound of paradox, beneath which the man himself was unassuming, reticent and — wait for it — never afraid.

That's it. What distinguished Cyril Alison Pearl was his complete intellectual fearlessness throughout a lifetime as a journalist and author in our country which, when he started in the 1930s, had barely started to emerge from Victorian hypocrisy in its worst derivative forms in politics and art, literature and public morality.

Starting with his admission to the University of Melbourne in the 1920s, Cyril did not merely reflect the intellectual stirrings of society; he actively shaped their direction.

His was the elenctic method which, in the 30s, he took with him as a reporter on the short-lived Melbourne *Star*. The fresh, young, truth-seeking *Star* team included names like Richard Hughes, Blunden, Massey Stanley, Pearl.

Their aim was to produce a better journal in competition with the stodgy monopoly of the Melbourne *Herald*. They failed to dent the *Herald's* circulation enough; but they made it a much better newspaper.

In 1939 Cyril came to Sydney as editor of the newly founded *The Sunday Telegraph*. Many former *Star* journalists followed. It was then Sydney's only "quality" newspaper and it prospered. The following 10 years made Cyril a national celebrity on two

counts: his unerring news sense and his passionate loathing of censorship.

In December 1941 Sir Keith Murdoch commissioned the Prime Minister, Mr Curtin, to write for the Melbourne *Herald* an article containing a 1942 New Year message. In this article was the famous — to some, at the time, almost treasonable — statement: "Without inhibitions of any kind, I make it quite clear that Australia looks to America, free of any pangs as to our traditional links or kinship with the United Kingdom..."

The statement made barely a ripple when published in Melbourne. Cyril immediately saw its significance: it pointed to a novel turn in Australian military and foreign policy. The following day he spread Curtin's words across the front page of *The Sunday Telegraph*. Murdoch was furious.

Cyril was neither intellectually young nor gauche. Newspaper censorship was not merely silly: it was dangerous, he thought. He brought matters to a head when the general manager of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Mr R. A. G. Henderson, made a public statement criticising press censorship in his capacity as president of the Australian Newspaper Proprietors' Association.

The Censor promptly banned publication of Henderson's statement. An "Order to Submit" was served on Pearl on Sunday, 16th April, 1944. He reacted by devising a front page with two blank columns, headed with pictures of Henderson and Arthur Calwell (the Minister responsible) and a simple paragraph in bold type from Thomas Jefferson:

"WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE AND EVERY MAN ABLE TO READ ALL IS SAFE."

Cyril's empathy with victims, with rebels and radicals, persisted. So did his

THE DIMERA SCANDAL

CYRIL PEARL

AR

contempt for vanity and bigotry. His book *Wild Men of Sydney*, published in 1959, so scandalised the NSW Government under Mr Cahill as Premier that they took the astonishing step of framing the law of defamation to cover people long dead.

Of the 19 books Cyril wrote, the most substantial is probably his splendid *Morrison of Peking*, published in 1967.

If *Morrison* was the most substantial, Cyril's most chilling book detailed what Churchill called "a deplorable mistake" — *The Dunera Scandal: Deported by Mistake*.

Cyril Pearl was in a special sense a "writer's writer". As a raconteur, he was without equal among us scribblers. To lunch or dine with him was a more stimulating affair than any Oxford tutorial or seminar — and much better fun.

Thoroughly Australian, with our now-traditional reservations about "them" in authority, he was better informed to the end about Europe in general and England in particular than most who live there. Above all, he was exquisitely precise and compact in literary expression.

Tribute to Pearl

SIR: The recent death of Cyril Pearl has caused much sadness among many of those men who arrived in Australia in 1940 on the ill-fated internment ship *Dunera*.

Cyril, with the help of his wife, Paddy, researched and documented the history of these internees in the book *The Dunera Scandal*. Over the years we all have regarded Cyril as a special friend and are grateful for the book which has done so much for our recognition, status and self-esteem.

Cyril had realised that many of these *Dunera* men, who happily settled in Australia, have greatly benefited this nation. We wish to pay a tribute and express our gratitude to Cyril Pearl, a great Australian author.

Oswald von Wolkenstein,
Ivey Street,
Lindfield.

March 11

When on the 3rd March Cyril Pearl died, we, the *Dunera* people, lost a great friend. A man whom we owe a debt of particular gratitude. Cyril Pearl, the writer, the author, the journalist has perhaps taken more interest in our history than many of our own *Dunera* fellows have.

At the Sydney Journalist Club, at a special get together since Cyril's death, some of the finest Australian Journalists, men and women, remembered Cyril. One after the other speaker gave most eloquent descriptions of the many jolly events that had occurred in C.P.'s colourful life.

Probably only few *Dunera* fellows ever knew this personality of C.P. Some years ago Cyril had a place amongst the leaders of the press. But the *Dunera* people associate C.P. mainly with the person who wrote the book: *The Dunera Scandal*.

In the climate of earlier years, when we, like most foreigners, were regarded with a lot of suspicion, an authors interest in our story was simply - unexpected. Yet C.P. took the trouble to investigate and research the 'scandal' that is now past history. Pearl's book is the most comprehensive account of the *Dunera* history. It has served other writers, correspondents, film makers and other publications as their main source of information.

The publication of C.P.'s book has elevated our public image and has helped to regain our self esteem. Cyril Pearl - so to speak - 'has put us on the map'. Cyril and his wife and cooperator Paddy have given much assistance to our group. We were privileged by their attendance at our meetings. At Cyril's death we expressed to Paddy our share in her grief. Paddy remains one of the most liked and esteemed participants in our group, as well as the most enthusiastic and stimulating one.

8. HUPPERT, Peter Tom. — May 31, 1987, beloved husband of Nora, loved father and father-in-law of Rebecca and Ed, Mandy and Lionel, grandfather of Ben and Sarah.

The death of Peter Huppert deprived the Sydney Dunera group of one of its most influential friends. A large number of mourners attended his funeral including many representatives of the Dunera mates. Peter Huppert has contributed a number of well written articles to this magazine. Some of these have now become part of a legacy that are yet to be featured in future issues of this paper. Today - instead - we reprint an eulogy that was given at Peter Huppert's funeral service by his close friend, Mr. Russell Routh.

I feel very privileged to have been asked to speak about Peter. First I will say a little about his history and then about him as a person.

His History

Born in Vienna in 1914 the eldest of three children

He was brought up believing he was a Gentile and then, in his teens, told he was of Jewish origin - imagine what sort of an identity crisis that must have produced - believe you are one thing then told you are another. I gather that in Austria even before Hitler's time it was hard to advance yourself academically if you were Jewish so families often did not acknowledge it.

He attended Medical School in Vienna but did not complete at that stage.

In 1938 he was spirited to England under clandestine conditions, along with eleven other young Jewish males, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to save them from persecution by the Nazis and with the possibility of their training in the Church of England Ministry - yes, you **wouldn't** read about it!

Sent to Australia not long after the outbreak of war as an internee on the ill-famed "DUNERA", then followed 15 months at Hay. He would talk about humorous incidents during those years - but never spontaneously about the horrors.

He returned to England to work in the British Army from 1941-46. 1947-48 sees him as an interpreter in Germany.

1949-50 Taught in English Schools. 1950-51 Completed his Medical Degree.

1951 Married Nora - very important year!

1951-55 Worked in hospitals as a Medical Registrar. 1955-61 Worked as a psychiatrist and qualified for his Diploma in Psychological Medicine during this period.

1962 The couple became dissatisfied with conditions in Europe so came to Australia with their two young children Rebecca and Mandy.

Peter's first work in Australia was in Mental Hospitals in Tasmania but he wasn't very happy there - it was rather, that the Australians he worked with said "You're British so you go and associate with them" - but the British said "but you are not English!" So in 1965 he left Tasmania to work with Repatriation Department in Sydney.

From 1969 onwards he was in Private Practice. Sydney was a much happier experience for him. It was during these earlier years in Sydney that he was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Marriage Guidance Council of N.S.W.

Peter was a Mainline psychiatrist and a very good one. He had little time for fringe areas and alternative methods.

The Person

Peter was one of the most intelligent people I have ever known personally - I think that is the first thing about him which I would pick out. He had a penetrating intellect that could always see the wood for the trees - dive straight on to the main issues and and leave the side issues aside.

It has been said that he didn't suffer fools gladly - and I'm not at all convinced that that is a bad thing - but perhaps what is more to the point is that he unerringly sniffed out humbug and hypocrisy and did his best to debunk it. Whenever he saw injustice or stupidity he tried to correct it. He was a very persistent person, sometimes impatient, resolute, high principled and uncompromising - yet caring - yes caring in trying to defeat what he felt needed to be dealt with and achieve what needed to be achieved.

He was loyal as to a friend, reliable, an idealist – and Heavens above, don't we need idealists amidst all the pragmatists and opportunists that seem to surround us.

He was creative, well read, cultivated and steeped in culture. He was well versed in such varied areas as Astronomy, Politics, Greek, Roman and Russian History as well of course as his Medicine. He used often to attend Adult Education Courses and I believe could well have given many of the lectures rather than receiving them.

Peter did things that most people may not even think about doing – let alone actually do! He wrote letters to the "Herald" and the "Australian Medical Journal" on issues that needed illuminating – and they were published. He was one of the people who started the Medical Association for the Prevention of War – and was, for instance, a delegate to the International Conference at Amsterdam in 1982. He ran discussion groups on all sorts of current affairs topics. He was the person who introduced me to the World Association of World Federalists. We believe, *inter alia*, that it is nationalism – separate Nation States – that makes war possible and that every State should be federated with every other State. If there are any survivors after a third world war I'm sure this will come about then, but Peter saw that we need it now, so that such a war can be prevented.

He was instrumental in bringing about the cessation of the so-called "sleep treatment" at Chelmsford Private Hospital. He tried to have a mentally ill railway signalman transferred to other less crucial work – but lost a battle with bureaucracy over that one. He made a close critical professional study of Reagan to form the conclusion that his intelligence level was nowhere near his charisma level and not enough for a U.S. President. And so on – these are just examples. He embraced fully the point Edmund Burke made when he said "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little" – and Peter usually did much more than "only a little". Peter made a great contribution to life on an individual level as well as on a wider and world level.

Many a patient has good reason to be grateful to him along with all his family and friends. One day he showed me two letters he had received, one by a friend and another from a relative: They were grateful letters pointing out and thanking him for what he had done for them – helping them to enjoy the simple things of life, the birds, trees, flowers, bush walks and beauty on the one hand, and on the other hand, abstruse learning, esoteric areas of history and the current world scene.

His children used words such as wonderful, proud of their achievements, loving, generous, good sense of humour, critical yet always supportive and caring (there's that word again) in describing him – he was involved with them in the formative years and would like to have been even more so.

With Nora he had a very special relationship and used often to talk of her as his angel – who, he felt, was all sweetness and light and I know she appreciated him no end too.

In the last few years Peter was developing some medical difficulties which sapped some of his customary initiative and energy, but as always he was trying to rise above them. He was a person I saw as having a great deal of guts and when you bear in mind his life history, a unique and most praiseworthy individual. A strong and important person who made a lasting impact on all who knew him and on many who didn't know him. We will always remember him fondly – nay – affectionately.

Thank you.

Russell Routh

Fred Rose, Dunera correspondent in Toronto, Canada, sent us a list A-Z, a Who's Who of THE INTERNEES TRANSFERRED FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO CANADA. A 10 page register of all Canadian former internees including their profession occupation and whereabouts. Copies of this list are available from Fred Rose. Fred Rose suggests that we compile a similar comprehensive list of all former Dunera fellows still around. Some suggestions for computerisation have already been made. Further suggestions are welcome. The Dunera News knows only of it's 300 subscribers. There must be atleast twice as many here and there. The Melbourne Dunera Club has a much bigger list, but it is not upto date. It is in the various other countries where a large number of missing persons would be located.



The Advertiser

1400. CLASSIFIEDS. 581 8511

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1987

page 3

Ex-Tivoli identity dies, 82

A FORMER Tivoli photographer, Mr Harry Jay, died on April 22 from a heart attack while returning from a trip to Surfers Paradise.

Mr Jay was 82 and lived in Black Rock with his wife, Cassia.

Born in Berlin, Mr Jay worked as a theatre and press photographer for the famous publishing house of Ullstein.

When Hitler came to power in 1933, he was smuggled over the border and into Vienna.

Mr Jay had to flee again when Hitler entered Austria in 1938. He finally got to London one day before war was declared between



MR Harry Jay and his wife Cassia with a photo of Graham Kennedy

England and Germany.

In all the confusion after Dunkirk, he was arrested in the street and taken to Liverpool and then Australia as an internee.

After the war he established himself as a theatrical and commercial photographer.

Later he became the official photographer to the Tivoli until it closed

its doors in 1966.

Mr Jay then joined his wife's import business until they both retired in 1980.

In 1984, the Performing Arts Museum recognised Mr Jay's work by arranging an exhibition. It was scheduled to run for six weeks but ended up running for three months.

Mr Jay is survived by his wife Cassia.

ZOE DE SOUZA, the daughter of the late DR. HANS KRONBERGER, wrote from 11, Old Park Road South, Enfield, Middx. EN2 7DD, that she was compiling the memoirs of her father. She asks for the help of anyone who remembers her father. In a 5 page letter Mrs. De Souza describes details about her father's life and career. (Copy available on request). Here, briefly, is a summary:

Hans Kronberger was born in Linz, Austria in 1920. Emigrated to Switzerland in 1938, to London 1939. Studied in Newcastle Engineering. Interned at Huyton, Isle of Man. Worked in ship's hospital on the Dunera. (Was mentioned in letter by Lieut. Brooks, together with: Boas, Cohn, Danziger, Durrheim, Eirich, Jacobsen, Marx, Schatzki, Schorr, Simon, Stern, Waldsax, Weisz, and Ruhstadt.) After Hay and Tatura camps returned on S.S. Themistocles to England. Studied Physics at Newcastle University. Joined Atomic Energy Team at Harwell in 1946. Received P.H.D. Birmingham University 1948. Married 1951. 1952 moves to Capenhurst in Cheshire for developments on Uranium Diffusion. 1956 moved to Risley/Warrington on U.K. Atomic Energy Authority. Travelled the world several times. Visited Australia twice. Received O.B.E. 1958. Received C.B.E. 1966. Fellowship of Royal Society 1965. In 1969 he became U.K.A.E.A.'s (delegate) member for reactors. - He took his own life in September 1970.

Lieutenant Brooks,
the medical officer
aboard the Dunera

from "THE DUNERA SCANDAL"

ARMY GUARD OFFICERS ON DUNERA BRIDGE 1940



If Lieutenant-Colonel Scott and Lieutenant O'Neill were the principal villains of this sombre odyssey, its hero was unquestionably Lieutenant A. Brooks, a Scottish doctor who in World War I had served with the Seaforth Highlanders, was captured in France and escaped while acting as Interpreter to Allied prisoners of war.

He qualified as a doctor in Aberdeen in 1925, and after a few years in the Colonial Service with the rank of Acting-Colonel, went into general practice in Monmouthshire, Wales. At the outbreak of World War II, he rejoined the Army and was attached to a field hospital at Ormskirk, near Southport. On 9 July 1940, at the invitation of his commanding officer, Brooks volunteered for secret service abroad, "destination undisclosed". He was issued with a tropical kit and 24 hours later found himself in Liverpool, about to board Dunera. He thought they might be bound for Egypt, but that night when he opened his "Q" instructions, he learned their destination was Australia.

"The first thing that struck me on the wharf at Liverpool," he says, "was a colonel — It was Scott — standing on the brig like Nelson, or some other admiral taking the salute, supervising a crowd of civilians with battered suitcases as they trooped on board. I wondered, what the hell is this!" Brooks's wonderment increased when he saw the way the troops were treating the internees.

On board Dunera, Brooks found himself with more than 2500 internees, one assistant — an RMC sergeant — and a hundred-bed hospital, inadequately supplied. He was able to recruit three internee doctors, including the distinguished heart specialist Dr P. Schatzki, and some medical students. It is a tribute to their skill and dedication that there was only one death from natural causes throughout the appalling voyage. A 53-year-old Austrian judge, Hans Pferrern, died from myocardial failure, following influenza, despite strenuous efforts to save him. "We didn't have M & B [an early antibiotic] which had just come in," says Brooks. "The internees comprised a cross-section of all types and ages, with complaints such as dysentery that one would expect among older people, so the 100 beds were always fully occupied, and there were the operating theatre and dispensary to look after." Captain Frederick Caffyn, a warm-hearted Cockney, accompanied Brooks on his daily hospital rounds. Brooks fought hard to give the internees fresh air. With the co-operation of the captain, and his first officer, he was able to have a chute rigged up to force fresh air down below.

DUNERA ARMY MEDICAL OFFICER
DR. ALEXANDER BROOKS, 93,
ON VISIT, SYDNEY, MAY 1987



A MEN-ONLY-PICTURE
OF THE 60 FRIENDS
WHO ATTENDED THE
ANNUAL SYDNEY RE-
UNION ON ANZAC DAY
1987.

THE MEN WHO RE-
FUSED TO BE IN THE
PICTURE HAD MEAN-
WHILE THE LADIES'
COMPANY ALL TO
THEMSELVES.

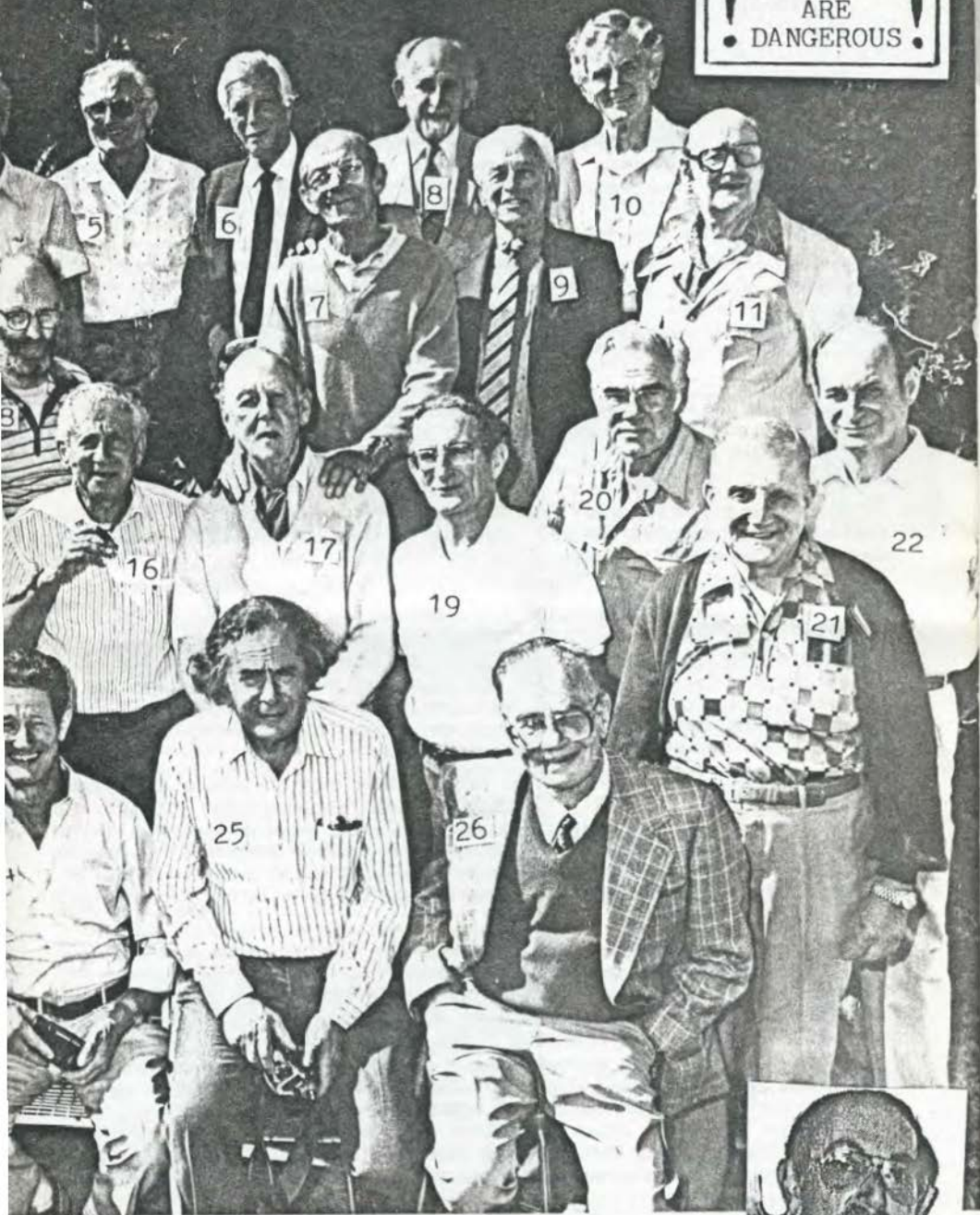
ONE LADY ASKED
WHY ANY GOVERN-
MENT EVER THOUGHT
'THESE MEN ARE
DANGEROUS'.

- 1 ROGER FREEMAN
- 2 WALTER TRAVERS
- 3 MAX NAUMBURGER
- 4 BERN BRENT
- 5 THEO BERGER
- 6 JIMMIE FREEMAN
- 7 CHARLY NERICHIO
- 8 HORST BARNETT
- 9 KEN SUTTON
- 10 OSWALD WOLKENSTEIN
- 11 HENRY DREYER
- 12 DR. KARL KOENIG
- 13 ALF ARNOTT
- 14 MAX METH
- 15 JONNNY SCHAFFER
- 16 RUDY METH
- 17 WERNER BAER
- 18 HANS MARCUS
- 19 JERRY GUTMAN
- 20 BOB VOGEL
- 21 PETER LASKY
- 22 GUNTER LINDEMANN
- 23 HENRY LIPPMANN
- 24 HENRY JAMES
- 25 PETER HERBST
- 26 HENRY VOLLMER



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! THESE MEN
ARE
! DANGEROUS !



PHOTOGRAPHER
HENRY TALBOT



THE U-BOAT COMMANDER AND THE "DUNERA"

The Great Dunera Myth has it that, after having unsuccessfully torpedoed the ship, the U-boat commander, through his telescope, saw suitcases being thrown overboard from the Dunera. Having sent his men out in a dinghy to retrieve some, and having found letters in them written to German internees, he decided to escort the Dunera out of the danger zone. He also was said to have warned other U-boats in the area by radio to lay off.

The incident appeared in a book, said to have been written by the U-boat commander after the war. His name was to have been CLERQUE. One S. CH. Clerque wrote a book, "SOS - Rettet unsere Seelen!", published by Erich Arndt Verlag, Hagen in Westfalen. I don't think it was ever translated into English. Recent enquiries have failed to locate either the author or the publisher in West Germany.

It seems none of the people who have heard of this book have ever seen it: On the dust-jacket the subtitle plainly states: Ein Roman (my emphasis) von S. CH. Clerque - 'Roman', of course, being German for 'novel', i.e. a work of fiction.

On page 6 it continues: "Die Tragödie der 'Arandora Star' ist anhand von Aufzeichnungen eines im letzten Weltkrieg in England internierten Deutschen nacherzählt worden." (The tragedy of the 'Arandora Star' has been recounted after the notes of a German interned in England during the last world war.)

The fact that this internee could not have been simultaneously on board the "Dunera" as well as the U-boat in question seems to have been covered by stating that the crew of the U-boat caught up with the internees in 1945 in a British internment camp in the U.K. We know that the U-boat was sunk by allied aerial action in the Baltic in 1945, that its commander at the time of the "Dunera" attack, either was not on it or was rescued and interned, so a possible meeting in an English camp could have existed.

Clerque does not pretend at any time to have been the U-boat commander and even gives his name as BAUMGARTEN (his real name was HARMS), the boat's name as U-81 (actually U-56), and the whole account is written in the third person, not the first. Admittedly, these could have been literary devices, perhaps in order to protect living persons. And it is possible that a former U-boat commander had developed sufficient literary ability to write a novel of not inconsiderable interest.

Prof. Dr Jürgen Rohwer, of the "Bibliothek für Zeitgeschichte", Stuttgart, has sent me the original entry in the U-boat's war diary. It corresponds with the translation as it appears on page 25 of the 1983 edition of Cyril Pearl's "The Dunera Scandal" (Angus & Robertson, U.K. and Australia). Rohwer has these comments to make on the following: "After hearing the sound of two explosions . . . Ships' propeller noise starboard abeam well audible, destroyer approaches at high speed, but turns away." Rohwer, in English: "From this description you can see, that the U-boat dived before the attacking and had to go deep, because of the destroyer during the attack. So I think there is no possibility for the U-boat to look at the suitcases which dropped over from the Dunera. I think the whole story is a fiction and has no real truth. I cannot find out the real source for this."

Perhaps some of our readers in the G.F.R. or the D.D.R. or Austria might try to find out via national newspapers or otherwise?

Hans Marcus

B. Cinader hosts huge congress

Toronto, in a golden haze of July, provided the backdrop for a spectacular performance of 7,000 research virtuosi from 73 countries. The maestro on the podium was Dr. Bernhard Cinader, executing elegant control of the major and minor themes.

It was the Sixth International Congress of Immunology, featuring 3,500 papers and not a note was out of place.

Held every three years, the Congress offers experts a rare chance to meet friends and colleagues — and to check up on competing performers. Tokyo conferred with St. Petersburg, Sherbrooke talked to Rome, North Dakota and Taipei traded scientific data.

Chairman of the organization committee and president of the Sixth International Congress, Dr. Cinader, a world-renowned immunologist at the University of Toronto, was honoured at the opening ceremonies of the event. He was one of the four former presidents of the International Union of Immunological Societies awarded the Landsteiner Medal in recognition of their exceptional contributions to

immunology. Dr. Cinader was president of the international union from 1971 to 1974.

Honors such as this are not new to Dr. Cinader. His first prize was won in 1944 while studying in England and 20 other honours have come to him from France, the U.S., Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Rumania to name a few. In 1985 he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Born in Vienna, Dr. Cinader attended the University of London, England, where he received his Ph.D. in biochemistry and his Doctorate of Science in immunology. His career in Canada began in 1958, after teaching in England and France. He was made Head, Subdivision of Immunochemistry at the Ontario Cancer Institute and Associate Professor of Medical Biophysics and Pathological Chemistry at the University of Toronto.

During his distinguished career, Dr. Cinader has travelled and lectured all over the world, published 250 scientific papers and reviews, edited five books and served on numerous national and international committees. He is currently involved in three projects of



Dr. Bernhard Cinader

the World Health Organization: scientific and technical advisory group on development and research training in human reproduction; task force steering committee on birth control vaccines and study group on immunology of aging.

What does he do with his spare time? Adds to his stunning collection of Canadian Indian art.

In addition to many great honours Bernard Cinader has received over the years, we are now informed, that recently he received the ORDER OF CANADA. All Dunera fellows wish to congratulate Professor Cinader on this great honour in recognition of his achievements. We are very proud of Bernard Cinader, a former Viennese Dunera fellow and contributor to our newsletter.

In a 28 page paper, delivered in December 1986 on "THE IMMUNOLOGIC REVOLUTION" Cinader describes in detail his involvement with immunology, his study, his research, his experiences and his past history. (The interment and the Dunera is also mentioned.)

Another 5 page CURRICULUM VITAE on B. Cinader lists his degrees, employment history, research, honours, reference works, and scholarly and professional activities.

A further 7 page article by a National Exhibition Centre FOR INDIAN ART proves that Cinader cultivates yet other interests. He has written extensively on the art of Manitoulin Island and he was curatorially involved with the exhibitions in Canada.

Copies of the papers mentioned are available on request.

Bert Andjel and Paul Husserl sent us copies of their correspondence on the subject; Is Austria anti-semitic? Both writers produce reasonable arguments for their opposing views. The letters are very well written. Bert Andjel, from Argentine, in English. Paul Husserl, from Vienna, in German. The Dunera News does not wish to reprint only parts of these letters. But we can make this correspondence available separately on request.

INSTRUMENTATION

Laser gets the measure of sprays

By John Dunn

THE SIZE of the minute droplets produced in liquid sprays is critical to the success of many of today's industrial spray systems. Manufacturers of aerosols, paint and chemical sprays, fuel combustion systems and spray driers all have to know how big the drops are and the percentages of different sizes present.

Thanks to work at London's Imperial College, a laser-based instrument for analysing sprays is now awaiting commercial exploitation. Fully developed, it would cost just a tenth of

currently available equipment.

Led by Dr Paul Eisenklam, researchers at the College's department of chemical engineering, supported by grants from the Science and Engineering Research Council, have linked a low-cost IBM microcomputer to a laser light scattering device that will print out a droplet size distribution curve in less than two minutes. Measurement time is less than one second and droplets down to 0.1 micron can be detected.

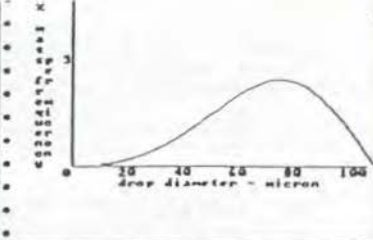
The British Technology Group is now looking for suitable manufacturers to take up the instrument and develop

it commercially. According to Eisenklam, selling price could be as low as £5000.

Apart from price, main advantage over other similar instruments is that it measures the actual size distribution of droplets in the spray. Other, more expensive, devices compare the spray against an assumed distribution pattern, which can lead to significant errors, says Eisenklam.

In operation, a beam of laser light is shot through the spray onto an array of photodiode light detectors. These pick up the intensity of the light scattered by the droplets. Specially devised mathematical routines translate light intensity into droplet size distribution.

Eisenklam hopes to be able to develop the instrument further to analyse particles as well as droplets 'on line'.



Professor Dr. Paul Eisenklam, who is one of the organisers of the London Dunera reunion and an earlier boy scout leader, visited Australia this May. He lectured at Melbourne university on a specialised subject of chemical engineering. Paul is a world authority on spray technology (see article above). He has lectured in many parts of the world. His headquarter is the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London.

As the editor of an international journal 'ATOMISATION AND SPRAY TECHNOLOGY' Paul Eisenklam heads an impressive list of 32 leading international scientists

We talked with Paul in Sydney where he met some of the D.B.'s. Paul was preparing himself for the London meeting. He will be there just in time. He carries to London some memorabilia and the greetings to the meeting by the Australian group.

Paul took a particular interest in an exhibition of sculpture by well known artist Fleischmann at David Jones's Art Gallery. Fleischmann - not a Dunera man - but an European emigrant who lived in Australia years ago, now lives in London. His work is superb. There was an elegant modern fountain on which Paul Eisenklam had cooperated with Fleischmann. Paul had designed the spray system. When Paul checked at the gallery about the items that had been sold - the fountain was still available.

In spite of his achievements Paul Eisenklam has remained a humble and approachable man. Neither has he forgotten the assistance he received from other kind people during the days of the internment or his study at Melbourne university. Of all the hundreds of people who were on the Dunera - here in Sydney no one could remember Eisenklam. But we were pleased to meet him now and hope he will keep in touch with us.

Post-election gold tax makes good sense, says Gutman

By ANDREW MAIN,
Resources Writer

Even if he did not start the latest rumour about a return of the gold tax question, Mr Gerard Gutman added further fuel to the controversy yesterday.

Speaking to *The Sydney Morning Herald*, he indicated the Federal Government very easily could take another look at the whole idea if re-elected.

"The reason that the Government turned down the recommendations of my report was, presumably, because they were not the sort of things that could be introduced before an election," said the Canberra-based economist who carried out the one-man gold tax inquiry last year.

He recommended that a gold tax was a perfectly feasible move but, despite his report, the Government decided against it.

He is now less coy and says the Government comfortably could raise about \$400 million a year from the gold industry in the near future without harming it.

"They [the Government] had been informed, incorrectly in my view, that a number of swinging seats depended on the gold vote.

"This means that if there is a Budget after an election then a gold tax would make excellent sense."

He said the gold mining lobby had never put up a properly argued economic case against the tax.

Mr Gutman's calculations are that with an annual gold production of 100 tonnes worth \$2 billion at the current \$625-an-ounce gold price, producers would be making about 75 per cent of that figure — \$1.5 billion gross.

"People have capital investments and past losses that must be deducted but by and large if you apply the average income-tax figure to the mining industry — anything between 25 and 30 per cent — to the figure of \$1.5 billion you would have an idea of the sort of revenue to expect," he said. "That includes very generous exemptions for small miners."

The tax take comes to \$400 million at an average of 27 per cent.



Mr Gutman ... arguments against it are derisory.

"My estimate in the report was based on the best estimates provided by the goldminers. They showed that a tax would prevent very few projects that were actually being talked about on the drawing board.

"And since I wrote all that the price of gold has risen another 20 per cent.

"I said in my report that the imposition of the gold tax would be a sound measure. The economic arguments against it are derisory.

"I think you will find that a good many people will now call for that report again.

"Once the election is out of the way, rationality tends to assert itself in the political mind and you could expect the question of the gold tax to be taken once again under close consideration."

The former Berlin/Leeds ORT School boys will be pleased to have found a lost mate: John Collins (Hans H.Cohen ,ORT-Berlin). The picture (right) was taken circa 1938. came to us via Ernie Green. John Collins lives in N.J. he had contacted the American Dunera group and intended to go to their meeting in New York on May 21. Ernie Green wrote on May 12 that 19 fellows were expected at that meeting and a report would follow.



Plans to establish ORT locally

Henry Lippmann owes his escape from the Nazi scourge to the Organisation for Rehabilitation through Training (ORT), and he wants to repay his debt in kind.

A dedicated band of volunteers led by Liberal Senator Peter Baume is in the process of establishing a branch of the worldwide organisation in Sydney.

Australia is the only continent where ORT, whose raison d'être is helping people become self-sufficient, does not exist.

Until now, that is.

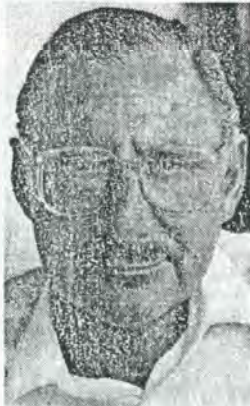
Born in Berlin in 1921, Mr Lippmann was enrolled by his parents at an ORT trade school at the age of 17.

The Jewish consensus was that it was preferable to acquire a practical skill with which one could migrate, as opposed to pursuing a profession.

Mr Lippmann studied electrical engineering at the ORT school, which was set up with funds from British ORT with the approval of the Nazi government.

There were 200 students at the school, Jews from throughout Germany studying mechanical or electrical engineering and technical trades ranging from carpentry to blacksmithing.

In late August 1939, a week before war was declared, 100 students from the ORT school were hurriedly taken across the border to Holland, from where they shipped to England.



• Henry Lippmann

"It was one of the last transports that was allowed to leave Europe," Mr Lippmann recalled.

"We were received in England by an ORT committee and accommodated in a Kitchener refugee camp in Kent with hundreds of other refugees.

"Three months later, ORT re-established the Berlin school in Leeds and the 100 boys were given accommodation in hostels."

Then followed the evacuation at Dunkirk and the Nazi sweep through Europe, raising fears in Britain that foreigners, particularly of German extraction, might constitute a fifth column.

Many refugees were interned — including those of the 100 ORT boys who were over the age of 18.

A decision was taken to ship internees to "the colonies", and Mr Lippmann was one of 30 ORT boys to set sail for Australia aboard the Dunera.

By VIC ALHADEFF

"It was 1940 and we were interned in a camp at Hay," Mr Lippmann continued.

"The ORT boys stuck together and we even formed a soccer team.

"When we were released, in 1942, we all joined the Australian Army.

"With our technical skills, we had no problems finding jobs once the war was over."

Mr Lippmann is hopeful that the "ORT boys", as they still dub themselves, will involve themselves in the nascent movement in Sydney.

"We owe ORT a great deal," he said.

"If it hadn't been for the organisation, we would not have escaped the Holocaust, in which most of our families perished."

With Senator Baume as chairman, a committee has been formed and a constitution is currently being drawn up for the establishment of ORT in Sydney.

One of the aims of the organisation will be to promote computer literacy in Jewish dayschools, as ORT has done successfully in South Africa and the United States.

The philosophy behind the organisation is embraced in a quotation by Confucius, who said: "Give me a fish and I eat for a day. Teach me to fish and I eat for a lifetime."

...strange how from various corners of the earth reminders of the past reach me in Berlin: there is Pearl's Dunera Scandal where I am quoted at length from a novel The Turn of the Spiral which is the one book of my twenty books that was never published, there is the Thesis for the degree of master of Arts submitted in 1983 by someone named Fred Dobberstein whom I have never met, and now your Dunera News of February 07 with a contribution ^{by} of my old friend Auer in Vienna and a list of names from the Florida News which contains the name of Günter Hirschenberg, who, if he is a Rabbi, could only be a very dear friend of mine from May who once gave me an Oxford book of English poetry which had a lasting influence on my best writing. And so it goes. I am still creative after all these years, my last book Death in Fremantle, which deals with the fate of an Aboriginal boy who was taken to Chemnitz/Karl-Marx-Stadt and shot to death at the age of nineteen in an Australian jail, is coming off the press here in May this year. It was serialized in an illustrated paper called NWJ (Neue Berliner Illustrierte) last autumn. And now I am slowly piecing together a book called Jubiläum in which a man of sixty reflects on his past. And since I was not born in 1914, as Pearl has it on page 36 of his book, but in 1924 I am still fit enough to be general secretary of the GDR PEN - after all, one is as young as one feels, and that keeps me going...

Most sincerely
Walter Kaufmann

With his letter Walter Kaufmann sent us a copy of his life story. This 16 page story is not written by Kaufmann himself but a Melbourne student of 'Deutsche Exilliteratur in Australien', Fred Dobberstein. This Kaufman Biography represents part of a thesis for the Masters of Art degree submitted to the University of Melbourne by Fred Dobberstein. Since this paper travelled from Melbourne to Berlin and now to Sydney, we can make copies available on special request. The Sydney journalist, Max Watts, who is in contact with Kaufmann, advised us that the book 'Death in Fremantle' (see Dunera News no.10 page 22/23) is now available (in German). Price \$10.00.

George E. Kaufmann asks: Can we do anything to bring the children or grandchildren into our organisation? Whether we call them 'Last Fleeters' or 'Sons of the Dunera Boys' or whatever, does not matter. As long as we do something like this, if we want to keep the spirit alive. - George K. identifies George Auer, Vienna, as 'known to me as Schurl Auer'. Then he looked up the word 'Schurl' in 'Vergnuegliches Handbuch der deutschen Sprache', where it says: "Orje aus Neukölln - Ist der Schurl bei die Wiener"

Werner Frank writes from Ringwood Vic.: The guy with the question mark on the left of the bottom picture on page 5 of no.11 Dunera News is myself, possibly best remembered by old Dunera Boys in Melbourne as "The Carrier" of Flinders Lane. Later on hire car operator; now retired.

"Ich kuesse Ihre Hand Madam...." - MUSICAL HIT AGAIN ?

One of the most popular continental 'Schlager' of the 1920's is tipped to reach the hit parade again. Strong requests for this song are reported whi&st there is a revival of the chivalreous custom from the past where a gentleman kisses a ladies hand . This show of affection is back in fashion because it carries the approval of the 'save sex ' campaign.



A Melbourne friend recalled the information he once received in a city street . when a large funeral procession had passed he had asked a bystander : "Who has died ?" - The reply was : "The guy in the first car ."



Edinburgh, March 31 , Robert Farnborough wrote : The Scottish section of HOLD types (HAY OLD LADS DUNERA) had its foundation meeting on Wed.28 January at Kingseat Road in Dunfermline. This was a full meeting consisting of both of us ... The meeting was presided over by Audrey Leäser providing blood red tea and was attended by my godson Robert from Ghana who actually knows Takoradi from the landside. From George Leäser's house one can see forever (on a clear day , that is three times a year). For instance one can see the Binns, stately home of the Dalryells. Tam Dalryell's ancestor founded the Royal Scots Greys, a famous regiment. Tam himself, a former school teacher and now an M.P. founded ship school cruises. These were started on a luxury liner called Dunera about 15 years ago.....

PETER TIKOTIN

When I sent you Henry Eggebrecht's essay a couple of days ago, I forgot to enclose some information he also supplied.

He noted from a previous Dunera-News issue that Dunera veteran Feich asked about his cousin Freddy Reichwald. Freddy returned to Berlin in 1947 and became a famous playwright. He also pioneered writing plays for the GDR's state broadcasting system; many of his plays dealt with life and development in rural areas, and the impact of cooperative farming. Unfortunately he died very young - about 25 years ago. His pal since childhood days, Paul ("Bonzo") Friedländer, became a well-known scientist (Professor, D.Sc. etc.). He died about 4-5 years ago, Henry believes.

Henry himself seems to have had quite a distinguished career. He returned to Berlin in 1947 (everybody that returned to Berlin seems to have done so in 1947 - P.T.), and from 1950-1956 he was a part-time student of journalism - daily lectures, on top of his normal "b.... work" as he puts it.

But the "best part of his work, and the most successful", he feels, was his international work as First Secretary of the International Solidarity Committee. As such he took part in 17 international Conferences and Congresses - in some African states, in Rome, London, Oxford, Helsinki, Moscow, Baku, Budapest, Warsaw et al.

Further, in his capacity of Official Representative of the GDR, he took part in 22 receptions of Chiefs of State and Heads of Governments. On such official occasions he at one time met the Sultan of Zanzibar three times in one week (Dec. 1963). That was before the Sultan went into exile. On another occasion, he met the Duke of Edinburgh, also Princess Anne. Just a glimpse, he comments, on the kind of doors that his experiences in Hay and Tatura, plus his "intensive political studies", opened to him.

Peter Tikotin

HEINRICH EGGBRECHT (PIEPEL) from East Berlin corresponds with Peter Tikotene. He recently sent him the following essay which is copied with their consent. The three pages that follow here are tightly packed with Eggebrecht's interesting formulation ; his views and conclusions :

Meine persönliche Meinung über unsere gemeinsame Dunera-Zeit, d.h. einschließlich Camp Hay und Tatura, sowie 8th Employment Company, kann ich natürlich aus zwei Gründen nur fragmentarisch wiedergeben, erstens sind 45 Jahre + 2 vergangen, und zweitens verfügt man im hohen Alter (77) nicht über die erforderliche Zeit, um richtige prinzipielle Gedanken so zu fixieren, daß man sie in wenigen Worten, und dennoch sachlich exakt, zu Papier bringt. Was ich dazu heute, 1987, zu sagen habe, erhebt keinen Anspruch auf Wissenschaftlichkeit, soll aber dennoch eine offene und ehrliche analytische Zusammenfassung meiner Einschätzung sein, die ich ohne jegliche Vorbereitungszeit niederschreibe!

Ich habe aber nicht die Absicht über die Dunera-Affaire als "deplorable mistake" oder "crime against humanity", als unverzeihliche Handlungen, zu diskutieren. Es steht uns einfach nicht zu, angesichts der vielen Millionen Opfer, die die Völker Europas gebracht haben, die nie vergessen werden dürfen.

Schließlich sollten wir auch nicht vergessen, daß das liberale Bürgertum, die Labor Party, der TUC, die Communist Party und nicht zuletzt auch kirchliche Kreise der verschiedensten Konfessionen, innerhalb und außerhalb des Parlaments, sich sehr solidarisch für unser Asylrecht gegen die konservative Regierung in England eingesetzt hatten.

Es ist richtig und wichtig, daß auch die Dunera-Affaire nicht der Vergessenheit und der Vergeßlichkeit vieler zum Opfer fällt. Sie ist und bleibt aber im Inferno des II. Weltkrieges eben nur eine Affaire für die allgemeine Öffentlichkeit. Nebenbei gesagt, ich bezweifle auch, daß Sir Winston Churchill deswegen ein schlechtes Gewissen bekommen hat, vorausgesetzt, daß er überhaupt eins hatte.

Dennoch halte ich es für eine ausgezeichnete Sache, daß die ehemaligen Dunera-Boys, heute bereits ergraute Veteranen, jährlich eine Reunion und weitere Zusammenkünfte haben, soweit es dem einzelnen möglich ist. (Mir ist es leider altersbedingt nicht mehr möglich). Großen Respekt zolle ich Henry Lippmann für seine Arbeit mit der Dunera News.

Soweit meine Präambel, nun zu meiner Einschätzung:

1. Richtig ist, wir waren eine Schicksalsgemeinschaft, by force of circumstances, auf die wir keinen Einfluß hatten, damals! Wir waren schlicht und einfach Emigranten aus dem faschistischen Deutschland, und zwar aus verschiedenen Gründen, politisch, religions, rassischen oder sonstigen Ursachen, die 1940 zum Strandgut Europas geworden an die Küste Australiens getrieben oder geweht wurden. (Natürlich mit Hilfe der Dunera).

2. Dieser zusammengetriebene (durch höhere Gewalt) Haufen von Europäern wuchs in australischen Lagern zu einer Gemeinschaft zusammen, ebenso vielschichtig wie jedes normale Gemeinwesen in der Welt. Das war aber nur möglich, weil wir uns eine demokratische Ordnung in Form einer demokratischen Selbstverwaltung geschaffen haben; das Parlament setzte sich aus den in den Hütten gewählten Vertretern zusammen, und das Parlament wählte die Lagerleitung (lies Regierung) und diesen Spokesman (lies Regierungschef). Die Gerichtbarkeit war ebenfalls gewährleistet, durch die hervorragende Tätigkeit des Ausschusses der demokratischen Juristen unter dem Vorsitz von Dr. Levi.

Soweit war alles normal, die demokratische Selbstverwaltung führte zu unserer physischen und psychischen Selbsterhaltung, d.h. zum Überleben.

3. Was sind nun die Besonderheiten dieser Community, die sie zu einer historischen Ausnahme werden ließ?

A. Die personelle Zusammensetzung war wesentlich eine andere als normal.

i. Goethes Spruch: "Der Umgang mit Frauen veredelt die Männer!" konnte bei uns nicht zu einer fruchtbareren Realität werden, weil wir leider nur Männer waren. Trotzdem trieb die Eifersucht ihre Blüten, jedenfalls bei einigen.

ii. Die altersgemäße Zusammensetzung war völlig unnormal, es gab kaum noch 70-jährige, aber dafür sehr viele 17-jährige. Die Jugend bis 25 Jahre und die Gruppe bis 50 Jahre waren gleichermaßen stark. Über 50 Jahre waren eine kleine Gruppe.

iii. Die konfessionellen Gruppierungen spielten eine große Rolle, am stärksten die jüdische Konfession.

iv. Hochschulabsolventen, Schüler und Studenten waren in erheblicher Anzahl vorhanden, während Facharbeiter, Handwerker, Bauern und Landarbeiter in der Minderheit waren.

v. Die politische Zusammensetzung war ebenfalls ungewöhnlich, aber von meinem Klassenstandpunkt, als ein alter erfahrener Kommunist, doch sehr interessant. Die absolute Mehrheit gehörte keiner Partei an. Bei den Älteren herrschte aber das konservative Denken vor, wobei aber auch die liberalgesinnten Kameraden eine sehr kooperative Gruppe bildeten. Deutschnationale gab es nur wenige, Nazis keine, dafür blühte bei einigen Unbelehrbaren, nach wie vor, der Antikommunismus — den wir, die Gruppe der politischen Emigranten, deren offizieller Sprecher ich war, des öfteren unliebsam zu spüren bekamen. In dieser Beziehung verbindet mich heute noch eine ehrliche gegenseitige Abneigung zu dem Herrn —, dem ehemaligen Staatsanwalt aus Düsseldorf, dessen Namen mir leider, oder Gott sei Dank, entfallen ist, vor allem aber mit dem —, um nur einige wenige zu nennen; sie haben uns und der Gemeinschaft das Leben keineswegs leichter gemacht. Es hat uns damals nicht leid getan, und heute nicht mehr weh. Dabei möchte ich es belassen. Diese Leute verdienen kein weiteres Wort mehr.

vi. Die sechste Besonderheit war besonders einschneidend in unserem täglichen Leben — das war

der Stacheldrahtzaun, mit jener Enge, in die er uns zwängte. Dieser Stacheldrahtzaun hatte drei besondere Eigenheiten:

- Er war sicht- und fühlbarer Ausdruck undemokratischer Gewalt gegen uns.
 - Er zwang zur räumlichen Enge, ließ uns wenig Spielraum und Bewegungsfreiheit, konnte aber nie verhindern, daß unsere Gedanken, Sehnsüchte und Hoffnungen sich wohl nicht nur in die geistige Tiefe sondern auch in die räumliche Weite erfolgreich entwickelten.
 - Er gab nicht wenigen die Gelegenheit, sich unter dem Schutz der Neutralität des Stacheldrahtes wohlzufühlen, um ungeschoren über den II. Weltkrieg zu kommen. Es ist ebenso hart wie es wahr ist, es darf nicht ungesagt bleiben.
- B. Wie hat nun unsere Gemeinschaft, trotz dieser sechs Besonderheiten, ihre jetzt schon historische Prüfung bestanden?

Ich werde die Antwort geben als Kommunist, die bestimmt einige unser Freunde nicht erwarten.

Da ich meine Einschätzung nur im Zusammenhang mit dem Ergebnis der Tätigkeit der Gruppe der politischen Emigranten vornehmen kann, möchte ich einiges zur Letzteren sagen. Unsere Gruppe war relativ klein, circa 50-60, die meisten waren Kommunisten, desweiteren einige linke Sozialdemokraten und parteilose Gewerkschafter. Leiter der Gruppe war der ehemalige Reichstagsabgeordnete Josef Wiora, den ich schon seit 1930 gut kannte. Als einziges Mitglied dieser Gruppe war ich Mitglied der Lagerleitung unter Dr. Wiener als Spokesman, damit war ich auch der offizielle Sprecher der Gruppe geworden. Unser Ziel war stets uns aktiv einzusetzen, um die gegebenen demokratischen Möglichkeiten entsprechend zu nutzen, um das demokratische Mitspracherecht für alle zu sichern, damit unser Lagerleben menschenwürdig gestaltet und unsere Lagergemeinschaft sich demokratisch entsprechend entfalten kann. Wir hatten nie die Absicht die Führung zu übernehmen, sondern nur durch unsere politische Aktivität das demokratische Leben im Lager zu aktivieren, im Interesse der Allgemeinheit, was auch gut gelang mit Hilfe der fortschrittlichen und liberalen Kreise im Lager.

Nun zur Sache:

1. FESTSTELLUNG: Die zwei Jahre Lagerleben, und auch die Jahre in der 8th Employment Coy. waren keine nutzlose Zeit. Ich persönlich möchte sie nicht missen, denn es waren nicht nur für mich Jahre intensiven Lernens.

Was habe ich gelernt? Unerhört Vielseitiges.

Ich muß vorausschicken: Ich war damals, 1940, dreißig Jahre alt, seit 15 Jahren politisch engagiert, seit 11 Jahren Mitglied der KPD. Kurz gesagt, ich war ein klassenbewußter Arbeiter, der im Wesentlichen nur Umgang in Arbeiterkreisen hatte. 1933 gab ich eine Gastrolle, als sogenannter Schutzhäftling Nr. 937, im KZ-Lager II, Esterwegen, bekannt als die Hölle von Esterwegen, bis zur Amnestie Weihnachten 1933. Laut Gestapo-Akten beim Oberreichsanwalt des Volksgerichtshofes Berlin war ich seit 1938 im Deutschen Fahndungsbuch zur Festnahme ausgeschrieben. Erst 1949 erfuhr ich von meiner geschiedenen Frau und meinem Schwager, daß ich 1939 vom Volksgerichtshof Berlin in absentia zum Tode verurteilt worden bin. Gesucht und verfolgt wurde ich bereits seit dem 10. August 1935. So das nur, damit man mich besser und leichter versteht.

1940 war ich nun wieder hinter Stacheldraht, mit Euch, unter ganz anderen Voraussetzungen. Umso größeres Gewicht erhält das, was ich zu uns und unserer Schicksalsgemeinschaft zu sagen habe.

Die Kulminationspunkte wurden durch zwei, in dieser Situation einzigartige Komponente gesetzt, die entscheidend unser Lagerleben prägten; zum ersten die Camp School, die nicht nur die Mehrheit der Jugend erfaßte, zum zweiten das geistig-kulturelle Leben, das auf einem hohen Niveau stand, dank solchen Künstlern wie dem österreichischen Konzert-Pianisten Peter Stadler, sowie den Schauspielern Schuster, Bieber, Almas, dem Kunstmaler Prof. Hoffmann aus Wien, usw.

All diesen Künstlern sei heute noch Dank, gleichermaßen den Initiatoren und Lehrkräften der Camp School, die nicht wenigen jungen Menschen den Weg bahnten in die akademische Laufbahn, so aus meiner Baracke Nr. 28 Hans Kronberger, Hans Jakob (oder Jakoby).

Wenn ich mich recht erinnere, lieber Peter [Tikotin], gehörtest Du auch zum Lehrkörper! Ich selbst hielt in unseren eigenen Zirkeln ständig Vorträge über historischen und dialektischen Materialismus und politische Ökonomie und leitete Diskussionsabende über aktuelle Probleme.

Zusammenfassend kommt bei meiner ersten Feststellung das folgende heraus:

Unser geistig-kulturelles und politisches Leben hat, trotz Stacheldraht, vermocht, den geistigen Horizont vieler zu weiten, die Sehnsucht so mancher zur Realität werden zu lassen, und vielen politische Klarheit und neuen Optimismus und so manchen geistige Zuversicht in seine eigenen Potenzen und Möglichkeiten zu geben. Wer in unserem Lager nichts zugerlernt hat ist selber schuld!

2. FESTSTELLUNG: Was habe ich dabei gelernt?

Ich befand mich, wie auch meine übrigen Genossen, wie bereits eingangs betont, im Lager mitten in einer bürgerlichen Welt, mit einer normalen klassenmäßigen Zwiespältigkeit auf grund ihrer Vielschichtigkeit; anders ausgedrückt, und zwar auf marxistische Weise, es war eine normale Klassengesellschaft, aber wie bereits gesagt mit sechs Besonderheiten behaftet.

Daraus ergab sich für mich und meine Genossen, aus dieser Situation möglichst viel Kapital für unsere Zukunft nach dem II. Weltkrieg zu schlagen. Dabei halfen uns die reichen Kampferfahrungen unseres Leiters, Josef Wiora, sowohl als Parlamentarier als auch als alter Gewerkschaftsfunktionär. Für mich war aber die Lagersituation etwas völlig anderes, verglichen mit dem KZ

Esterwegen, wo wir als sogenannte Moorsoldaten täglich allerhand auszuhalten hatten. Hier im australischen Wüstenlager wuchs mit jedem Tag etwas mehr Handel und Wandel, es wuchs das Handwerk und Gewerbe und das geistlich-kulturelle Leben blühte auf, ja für die Begüterten gab es jeden Tag Kaffee und Kuchen, auch echte Schlagsahne zu genießen. Hier merkte man nichts vom Krieg, während dem wir Moorsoldaten jeden Tag und jede Nacht bei Hungerrationen innerhalb des Stacheldrahts von Esterwegen auf dem Kriegsfuß mit der SS standen und das ständig Auge im Auge. Dazwischen lagen zeitlich nur ganze sieben Jahre, in denen ich im illegalen Kampf viel erleben und so manches durchmachen mußte.

1940 bei Euch fand ich endlich die Zeit und Gelegenheit, die mir bis dato nicht zugängliche bürgerliche Gesellschaft eingehender zu studieren.

So lernte ich u.a. folgendes kennen, was vielleicht dem einen oder anderen unserer Dunera-Veteranen nicht gefallen mag.

i. Der Widerspruch zwischen der geistigen Größe einzelner, ihrer Bildung und Herkunft einerseits und ihrer Ignorance und Engstirnigkeit gegenüber den Problemen des aktuellen Zeitgeschehens andererseits. Das war für mich manchmal einfach unfassbar. Das stärkte andererseits natürlich mein Selbstbewußtsein, an dem es mir nie mangelte. So erging es aber auch allen Mitgliedern unserer politischen Gruppe.

ii. Ich war überrascht wie wenig Eintracht eigentlich herrschte zwischen den verschiedenen jüdischen Gruppierungen und welche Zwietracht, ja sogar Haß, gestreut wurde gegen getaufte Juden. Bei einigen Vorfällen spielten wir Kommunisten sogar den Friedensstifter, um die Ruhe und Ordnung wiederherzustellen. Einig waren sich die einzelnen Konfessionen besonders dann, wenn es um uns, bzw. gegen uns, Kommunisten ging. Das war eigentlich schade, da wir immer bemüht waren, die Ordnung im Lager auf eine möglichst breite Koalitionsbasis zu stellen, im Interesse der Gesellschaft.

iii. Ich fand in der Praxis des täglichen Lagerlebens vollauf bestätigt was Karl Marx über die Unzulänglichkeit der bürgerlichen Denk- und Handlungsweise lehrte, die mit unzähligen Vorurteilen und Vorbehalten sich selbst jene Grenzen setzt, wo dann so manches Positive der bürgerlichen Gesellschaft sich ins Negative verkehrt, und damit auf das einzelne Individuum wie ein Bumerang, zwar nicht immer tödlich aber doch lähmend, wirkt.

iv. Im Lager wurde mir bestätigt, was ich bereits etwas in meiner Prager Emigrationszeit gelernt hatte, nämlich welche großpositive Rolle das fortschrittliche, liberal jüdische Bürgertum bei der Entwicklung und Förderung der deutschen Nationalkultur, als wichtiger Teil der Weltkultur, gespielt hat.

Zusammenfassend kurz gesagt:

Ich habe im Wesentlichen alle Licht- und Schattenseiten der bürgerlichen Gesellschaft im Lager kennengelernt, die für meine spätere politische Tätigkeit im In- und Ausland für großen Wert war; diese Kenntnisse halfen mir später so manche Fehler zu vermeiden, mit dem Ergebnis, daß ich international über einen sehr guten Freundeskreis verfüge, und so manche schöne Anerkennung bei manchen Staats- und Regierungschefs gefunden habe. Ich war je dafür bekannt, daß ich immer ein offenes Ohr und ein offenes Wort für jeden Menschen guten Willens parat hatte; dazu gehört natürlich auch stets eine offene Hand und ein offenes Herz zu haben.

Damit es nicht zu lang wird, lieber Peter, möchte ich zum Schluß kommen.

Im Grunde können wir Dunera-Veteranen heute noch ein bisschen stolz sein über das, was wir aus der Dunera-Affaire für uns gemacht haben. Das soll uns erst mal ein nachmachen. Aus vielen "ifs" und "buts" haben wir nicht wenige "either - or" gemacht, und das mit Erfolg. Wir, die Gruppe der politischen Emigranten, sind aus Australien mit mehr Genossen zurückgekehrt als hingekommen, die heute bei uns in der DDR gute Positionen einnehmen, darunter hervorragende Akademiker und Journalisten, sowie gute Lehrer und Propagandisten. Keiner von uns hat den Schritt je bereut, in die verbrannte Erde unserer Heimat zurückgekehrt zu sein. Wir haben Friedrich Schillers Wort wahr gemacht "... und neues Leben blüht aus den Ruinen".

Ich, lieber Peter, könnte noch viel über uns sagen, meist sehr Gutes - leider haben meine hiesigen Freunde auch noch viele Wünsche, die mir nicht viel Zeit lassen.

Lieber Peter, es war mir ein Bedürfnis, Dir mein Herz über unsere Dunera-Veteranen auszusprechen. Liezuzugern würde bezw. hätte ich folgende Freunde wiedergesehen, so z.B. Dr. Schatzki, mein Leib- und Magendoktor; Dr. Levi, den sehr klugen Vorsitzenden des Lager-Ausschusses der Juristen, den österreichischen Klaviervirtuosen, Peter Stadler, Prof. Hoffmann, und viele andere, alles Menschen mit viel Herz, großem Können und Wissen, für die Toleranz uns gegenüber immer eine moralische Verpflichtung war.

Lieber Peter, ich werde schließen mit einem Zitat aus einem Epilog eines Buches, das 1989-90 auf dem Büchermarkt in großer Auflage erscheinen wird. Es ist der Schluß-Akkord!

"Mit der politisch-moralischen Bürde fast ein ganzes Leben Kommunist zu sein, wuchs auch die Würde Mensch zu sein. Dank all jenen, die mir dabei geholfen - es waren nicht nur Kommunisten."

Lieber Peter, das sei auch gleichzeitig eine Anerkennung für nicht wenige Dunera-Veteranen.

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