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.

Melbourne Reunion 2010

Back row, left to right: Walter Benedikt, Werner Philipp, Steve Arnott, Martin Moore, Mike Brent, Bernie Meyer, Erwin Lamm.
Front row, left to right: Ernest Rodeck, Ernst Wolf, Herbert Treidel, Herbert Barber, Mike Sondheim, Herbert Baer, Martin Sanders.
Missing from photo, though he was at the function, Max Arnott.

Next Stop Tatura

The celebrations will continue in 2011 with a 70th anniversary lunch and camp tour at Tatura, Victoria, planned for Sunday, 15 May, 2011. More details about the event and how to book are on page 6 and 7.

Tatura internment camp, c.1942. Robert Hofmann
OBITUARIES:

Hans Buchdahl
– Adelaide, January 2010, Aged 90.
physicist-who-corresponded-with-einstein-
arrived-as-detainee-20100301-pdg7.html

Leslie Everett (Lutz Eichbaum)
– Melbourne, November 2010.

Steven Strauss (Siegfried Strauss)
– Gold Coast, July 2010, Aged 88.
from-labour-camp-to-family-court-judge-
20100806-11oe0.html

Our very sincerest sympathies to their families and friends.

WRITE TO US!

Letters and articles for publication are welcome.

Please remember to supply your name and contact details with your story.

Write to: info@dunerassociation.com

All correspondence to:
The Secretary – Dunera Association
PO Box 19194, Southbank
Victoria 3006, Australia
Email: secretary@dunerassociation.com

Dunera Association on Facebook
– Friends of the Dunera Boys
Dunera Association website
– www.dunerassociation.com

Next material closing date: 15 May, 2011

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Many thanks to all the contributors.

Looking for information

Tracing a relative
In my father’s (Dr Kurt Epstein) diary he mentioned a relative, Herbert Adler. I never heard this name in the family. From my investigations I found out that Herbert Adler was born in Mikultschwetz on 6 March, 1914. His father was Heinrich Adler and his mother was Olga (nee Guttenberg). Before the war he was married to Margot (nee Fleischer) and he probably lived in Gleiwitz o/s.

If someone knows what happened to Herbert Adler after his release from Tatura, I will be most obliged.

Best regards

Prof. Yoram Epstein
Sackler Faculty of Medicine
Tel Aviv University
Tel: +972-39360043
Mobile: +972-54-4534384
Fax: +972-3-9360753
Email: hlrinst@post.tau.ac.il
2010 marked the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the Dunera on 6 September, 1940 at Pier 21, (now Jones Wharf) in Sydney.

This momentous and now historic event has become a valid occasion for Dunera Boys celebrations. A successful event was held in Hay in September 2010 to mark the Dunera Boys’ arrival at Hay, NSW.

The celebrations will continue in 2011 with a 70th anniversary lunch and camp site tour at Tatura, planned for Sunday, 15 May, 2011. We hope that you will all be able to join us for this important historical occasion. More details about the events and how to book are contained within this edition of the newsletter.

Annual General Meeting of the Dunera Association Inc.
The annual general meeting, which took place on Tuesday, 9 November, 2010 at the Kimberley Quest Hotel, St Kilda, was attended by the current committee members as well as four guests: Mike Brent (Canberra) Erwin Lamm (Melbourne) Martin Sanders (Melbourne) Geoff Winters (Melbourne).

Apologies were received from Michelle Frenkel (now in Shepparton) and Peter Arnott (Sydney).

Mike Sondheim recapped on the events of the preceding 12 months, including the events held in Hay, Sydney and Melbourne.

Ron Reichwald presented the financial report and explained the financial loss for the year due to unexpected expenses incurred for the Hay and Sydney events, and suggested measures to overcome this in 2010/11.

Singapore Internees
We were thrilled that a large group of 12 Singapore internees and descendants attended the annual reunion luncheon at the Kimberley Quest Hotel in November 2010.

We wish to thank Eva de Jong-Duldig for bringing her co-Singaporeans to the reunion. Eva has always been a close friend of the Dunera Boys and has attended some past functions. She pointed out the many similarities in the backgrounds, except the transport from Singapore in the comfort of the Queen Mary, very unlike the Dunera Boy experiences. Eva and some of the descendants lived with their parents in the married quarters in Tatura Camp 3 but were too young to remember details.

We happily incorporate the Singapore contingent in the Dunera Association. Some 80 of the Singapore men shared four years of army service in the 8th Australian Employment Company, under Captain Broughton, with the Dunera Boys.

The Association looks forward to having more involvement by the Singapore contingent to keep our common interests alive.

Hoping that you have a HAPPY NEW YEAR and that you enjoy a prosperous 2011.

Mike Sondheim
President – Dunera Association Inc. president@dunerassociation.com
For the second time, the traditional annual Melbourne reunion was held at the Kimberley Quest Hotel, St Kilda. About 80 people, Dunera Boys, families and friends, enjoyed the excellent get together.

Some guests had not attended any previous Dunera functions, such as Rebecca Forgasz, who succeeded Helen Light as the director of the Jewish Museum of Australia in Alma Road.

Also present for the first time was a contingent of Singapore internees and family members, including:
- Ilse Blair, sprightly 92-yr-old, with daughter Miriam Gould (nee Baer) and husband Mick; and daughter Noelle Wengier with her son Michael
- Ruth Simon (nee Gottlieb)
- Edith Szklarski (nee Gruenbaum) and her daughter Jayne Josem (curator at the Jewish Holocaust Centre),
- Jennifer Huppert MP (daughter of George Huppert), State Member for Southern Metropolitan Region
- Harry Zipper
- Harry Bader
- Eva de Jong–Duldig.

Only some of them, including Eva, have faint memories of the internment camp days. They were too young but are keen to hear more of Tatura and Dunera.

The guest speaker was Emeritus Prof. Ken Inglis AO who is in the process of writing a book about the Dunera Boys.

While a professor at the National University Canberra in the early years, Ken had made the acquaintance of our Canberra academic elite, Fred Gruen, Gerald Gutmann, Peter Herbst, Bern Brent, and also others at Monash University.

Over the past year, Ken has personally interviewed many more Dunera Boys about their successful careers and their contribution to Australian history. We look forward to reading the book once it has been completed.
The Tatura area had five major camps around the Waranga Basin, housing thousands of World War II internees of different nationalities, including German and Italian POWs, all kept apart for obvious reasons.

Only a handful of Dunera Boys were taken from the Dunera in Melbourne on 3 September, 1940, together with other German and Italian POWs, destined directly for Tatura. They were finally re-united with the rest of the Boys from the Hay camp in 1941.

A special mention also goes to the Singapore internees, mainly German and Austrian refugees with families, who disembarked from the Queen Mary in Melbourne, in late 1941. They were housed in a separate compound at Tatura. These internees were released in early 1942, along with the Dunera Boys. Some were sent to work picking fruit and others joined the Australian army.

The Tatura Museum exhibits a vast array of memorabilia from the Dunera and Singapore internees at Tatura, and many valuable postwar contributions such as paintings, artworks and documents. The museum will be open from 10.30am for those interested in visiting.

Lunch will be held at the Hill Top Golf Club. It is a two-course lunch (main and dessert). Tea and coffee are included. Drinks will be available at the bar at bar prices.

The afternoon camp site visit offers a few remnants of the camp facilities in the hilly surroundings, including a view of the Waranga Basin, somewhat different from the flat and very plain desert area at Hay. Cars will travel in convoy to Camp 2.

The Dunera Association, in conjunction with the Tatura Historical Society, are organisers of this program:

- **10.30am**
  Tatura Museum

- **11.00am**
  Morning Tea at Tatura Museum
  Official Welcome

- **12.30pm**
  Lunch at Hill Top Golf Club
  Gowrie Street, Tatura
  (To be pre-booked and prepaid, see Registration form on next page)

- **2.30pm**
  Camp 2 site visit – 16km trip (see map)
  Commencing at Hill Top Golf Club
  Guided tour by Arthur Knee from the Tatura Historical Society, and landowner Geoff Reed.

Getting there
Tatura is a two-hour drive from Melbourne, north on Hume Highway, then past Seymour turn onto Goulburn Valley Highway, past Nagambie, left at Murchison East. At Murchison, turn right to Tatura.

Return to Melbourne
From the camp site, head on to Tatura-Murchison Road and on to Goulburn Valley Highway back to Melbourne (see map).

Accommodation
Overnight accommodation is available at Tatura or the nearest large city, Shepparton (20km), offers a range of accommodation options.
REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT AS LISTED BELOW

The deadline for bookings is 1 May, 2011

Names of people in your group and contact details  (Use preferred name for name tag; please print clearly)

............................................................................................................................................................
............................................................................................................................................................

Phone numbers.....................................................................................................................................

Emails..................................................................................................................................................

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of people</th>
<th>Cost per person</th>
<th>Sub-total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of people you are registering</td>
<td>$3 member / $6 non-member</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people attending Lunch</td>
<td>$33 member / $36 non-member</td>
<td>$</td>
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Please advise if you have any dietary, disability or other special requirements.

HOW TO PAY

All monies can be paid by cheque or money order to Dunera Association, OR by internet banking to our account utilising the “pay anyone” section, or directly into our account through a Westpac branch (no other bank).

Dunera Association.  BSB 033-132
Account No. 22-9051  Westpac North Melbourne.

* Please ensure that you advise where the payments have come from. That is, include your name on the internet payments, or the transaction details if making a direct deposit at a bank branch.

Please send registration form, and payment or payment details, to Peter Felder:

Post – 10 Fairview Ave. Glen Waverley 3150, Victoria, Australia.

Email – events@dunerassociation.com and advise of Direct Deposit reference. (eg. Initial and surname)

Receipts will be provided at Tatura, along with name tags. Cancellation refunds after 1 May, 2011 will be at the discretion of the Committee.

All accommodation should be booked privately.

If you have other questions or queries please contact Peter Felder by phone 03 9561 2834 or email – events@dunerassociation.com

The Camp 2 site visit will commence from the Hill Top Golf Club. Gowrie Street, Tatura at 2.30pm
Membership matters

JOIN THE COMMITTEE
The Dunera Association is seeking interested parties to join its committee.

At the annual general meeting, no new nominations were received. While most previous members have declared their willingness to continue for 2010/11, we would very much welcome more involvement, in particular those of the third generation and those with graphic design, publication and database management skills to contribute.

Michelle Frenkel (grand-daughter of the late Erwin Frenkel) is the sole representative from the third generation on the Association committee and is helping to manage publicity and the online presence for the Association.

Being on the committee involves attending meetings approximately four times a year and assisting with special activities or events.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Michelle Frenkel at info@dunerassociation.com

Receive the Dunera Newsletter electronically
The Dunera News can be emailed to you to read in full colour (rather than the mailed, hard-copy version in black and white), which is a better way to view the photos.

If you are a Dunera Association member and have an email address, please send your email address with a request to receive the digital newsletter to info@dunerassociation.com and we will add you to the list to receive the newsletter electronically.

Dunera News
We are always looking for interesting news and stories about Dunera Boys for the Association newsletters. If you have any information, documents, photos, or heard a story that you want confirmation or more details of, please email us at info@dunerassociation.com and we’ll make sure it is included in a future issue of the newsletter.

Application for Annual Membership (Financial year 1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011)

Dunera Association Incorporated. Corporation No. A0018624W
I hereby apply for membership of the above, and in so doing agree to abide by the rules of the Association as detailed in the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

Name:

Dunera Boy: Yes / No Relation or connection to Dunera: 

Email: Use email for notices and newsletter: Yes / No

Postal address: Phone:

Membership ($20 per household) Membership: $ Donation: $ 

Total payment: $ Cheque / Money order / Direct deposit / Internet

Payment options for fees and donations:
Direct payment at any Westpac branch. Please make sure your sender details are shown on the deposit slip or internet banking.

Dunera Association Inc. – BSB 033-083 Account No. 20-8851 Westpac South Yarra
By cheque – made payable to Dunera Association. Mail application form and payment to:
Australia: The Treasurer. 4 Callantina Court, Frankston, VIC 3199.
UK: Anthony Field. 12 Bouverie Gardens, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 ORQ, England
USA: Steven Guttmann. 359 Vernon Street, San Francisco, California 94132, USA
I left Stuttgart and arrived in the UK in March 1939 with my parents, sister and grandparents. I was fifteen and a half years old.

We first lived in a house in Edgware with a cousin of my mother. We moved to Wembley Park just a few weeks before World War II.

I found the people friendly, they realised that we were refugees from the Nazis.

Although I was older than the rest, I went to a local school, and the scholars there were very helpful, as I knew practically no English. One girl in particular used to take me round the garden, pointing to things and saying “flower” or “grass”.

I was asked to report to the police in Wembley, where we lived, and was taken to Kempton Park Racecourse. From there I was taken to Huyton, the accommodation was in tents in a soggy, rainy field. After a short time there, I can’t remember how long, we were taken to Liverpool Docks and on board the Dunera.

I was surprised that my luggage was taken from me and that we were treated as prisoners of war; shouted at and very roughly dealt with.

The time on the Dunera was probably the worst experience of my life. No change of clothes for 12 to 13 weeks, the “guards” stealing watches, rings, etc.

On the odd occasion we were allowed on deck, we were made to run around barefooted, with the guards throwing glass bottles on to the deck, so we had to run through glass splinters.

I was with a second cousin of mine, and as I had very slim hands and wrists, I hid watches and other valuables of ours and some friends in the narrow ventilation air outlets.

When we tried to wash some of our clothes it meant either no shirt, or no underwear; we had no change of clothing.

During the journey, the Dunera was torpedoed by a U-Boat. We heard the torpedo strike, but it did not explode; otherwise right now, you would not be reading this story.

I was very glad to get off the Dunera, it was a real “Hell Ship”, and the soldiers guarding us were the scum of the earth. Why the officers in charge allowed the above mentioned things to happen remains an unanswered question.

On arrival in Hay, NSW, I was happy to see a camp without British soldiers.

When a Swiss delegation turned up as representatives of the German government (they still thought we were Nazis), we told them to go away, we wanted nothing to do with the German government or their representatives.

My time in Hay was not too bad. It was of course extremely hot, 120ºF in the shade, and sandstorms quite often, but the activities and opportunities to study in the camp made a big difference. I had no money to buy chocolate, soap, etc., from the camp shop, so I worked in the kitchen to earn a little pocket money.

Overall, my memories of the camps in Australia and of Australians are as good as you can get from an internment situation.

I found the Australians I had contact with pleasant and understanding of who we were, and that they were not dealing with Nazis.

The Home Office gradually worked its way through the internees, and I was “theoretically” released, but still kept in a camp in Australia until transport in the form of the liner Stirling Castle became available. On her, we, “the released internees” were unguarded, but those who had volunteered for the Pioneer Corp were still under guard.

I had not volunteered for the Pioneer Corp, I was upset at being interned and wanted nothing to do with the British Army.

However, after working for about a year in a war factory, I volunteered for the Royal Air Force, and worked as ground crew on the engines of the heavy bombers that attacked Germany. That felt good.

Towards the end of the war, I was transferred to a “Disarmament Unit” and spent two years in Germany, disarming the Luftwaffe. Mostly, I translated for RAF officers interrogating the Luftwaffe personnel.
**Dunera Soccer Team 1942**

We received this photo from Herta Koppel (widow of Heinz Koppel) and printed it in the October issue of the Dunera News and asked if anyone recognises the other men in the photo. We have had a couple of responses so far.

*Letting you know my mother is 99% sure it’s my father Rudolf Carl Heinrich Meth in the front row, extreme left of the soccer team photo.*  
— Naomi Meth

*I wonder whether my father, Siegfried Grossbard could be second from right (standing)? Not sure, though.*  
— Michael Gordon

Do you recognise the people in this photo? Or can confirm the information in the responses so far? Please contact us – info@dunerassociation.com

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**Greetings**

Wish that it were possible for us to be there. We have fond memories of being together, some time ago.

Best regards  
Anita and Max Freilich  
Greenville, South Carolina, USA

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**Die Verschwundenen Musiker**

Albrecht Dümling

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**Dear Dunera Association**

The publisher has announced my new book, which deals with German-speaking refugee musicians who came to Australia, is due to be published in March/April 2011:  
[www.boehlau.at/978-3-412-20666-6.html](http://www.boehlau.at/978-3-412-20666-6.html)  

The story of several Dunera Boys is told there. Although it is in German I hope that some subscribers of the Dunera News will be able to read and understand it.

Best wishes for 2011!

Dr. Albrecht Dümling

Email: albrecht@duemling.de  
Website: www.duemling.de

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**Hay Dunera 70th Anniversary DVD**

Copies are still available.  
Costs: $13. Includes delivery within Australia.  
Contact: Peter Felder  
– events@dunerassociation.com

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From 3 to 5 September 2010, more than 140 people descended on the township of Hay, NSW to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Dunera Boys’ arrival at the Hay internment camp. It was a tremendous celebration.
Memories of my time in Australia

In brief:
• I was in Camp 8, Hut 29.
• I spent my 21st birthday in the camp hospital with a suspected fever.
• I worked in the camp kitchen as cook and butcher.
• I learned to swim in the Murrumbidgee River.
• I improved my English in the camp.
• I played football and did boxing training.

I was in a camp near Barmera, and at Tatura before returning to Sydney to sail on the Sterling Castle to go back to Liverpool, England via New Zealand and Panama.

Whilst in camp, through the Red Cross, I received a letter from my parents in Germany. It was the last I ever heard from them as they were deported to Riga.

Later, when I was transferred to Army Intelligence, I was able to gather more news about what had happened to my parents.

In England, I took the King’s shilling and was declared fit for Army Service. I was sent on to London, to report at Ilfracombe for training with several other Dunera Boys to join a Pioneer Corp in Weymouth. There I got into the kitchen and was promoted to Corporal.

Together with Michael Mellinger and Ray Martin, we formed a company band. We moved several times to different locations. After we reached Bicester, I felt that as a cook, I would not get very far and requested to transfer to a fighting unit. I chose to join the Armored Corp and I resigned my commission.

I was sent to Catterick for intensive training. After completing the training, I joined the 43rd Reconnaissance unit, formerly the 5th Glosters. I got more training and was then sent to a holding unit awaiting D-Day.

Three or four days after D-Day, we were sent to France where our forces had gained a foothold. Our group joined the Eighth Army. I had hoped to get an armored car but instead I got a motorbike and was delegated as a dispatch rider. I had that motorcycle through France, Belgian, Holland, crossed the Rhine at Cleve and, finally, finished the war at Soltau in the vicinity of Bergen Belsen. I was assigned to the Intelligence section and interrogated German prisoners returning from Russia. I was then sent to Bad Oeynhausen, to a school for British Military Intelligence, to train for service with MI5 and was promoted to Sergeant.

While stationed in Muhlheim, I made contact with a cousin who had returned from Theresienstadt. Another cousin, Ernest Lion, who had survived Auschwitz, used to live in Dortmund and requested permission to visit the British zone. He was rescued by US troops and he helped them in their intelligence work. He eventually finished up in Washington DC. He worked there as a store manager until his retirement. He wrote a book about his experience, titled *The Fountain at the Cross Road*. He passed away several years ago but he had made a good life in America and was a governor of the Lions Club for several years, providing guide dogs for the blind.

During my time in Soltau, I was granted a week’s leave. I went to London and met a nice, young woman and fell in love. Her mother made sure that I would not get away and arranged our wedding in March 1946.

After my discharge from the army, I found work as a butcher. I was offered a job in the east end of London but I hated the job and was not to keen on my boss. I found a job as a manager, which I held for three years until I opened my own business, which flourished until my retirement.
WRITE TO US!

NEXT CLOSING DATE – 15 MAY, 2011

Letters and articles for publication are welcome.

Please supply name, address, phone number,
and send to:

Public Relations – Dunera Association
PO Box 19194, Southbank, Victoria 3006, Australia OR email to: info@dunerassociation.com

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