

Dunera News



A publication for former refugees from Nazi and Fascist persecution (mistakenly shipped to and interned in Australia at Hay and Tatura, many later serving with the Allied Forces), their relatives and their friends.

No. 100 June 2017



Tatura Memorial Sculpture Unveiling

76th Anniversary Tatura Reunion – 7 May 2017

Dunera Association President Rebecca Silk with committee member Michelle Frenkel, and heritage stonemason Jason Huntley

Foundation Editor:

The late Henry Lippmann OAM

Editorial responsibility:

The Committee of the Dunera Association

Dunera Association on facebook

– Friends of the Dunera Boys

Letters and articles for publication are welcome.

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Many thanks to all the contributors.

APOLOGY

The format of this issue was prepared somewhat amateurishly. With this first experience and your good suggestions we shall show improvement in the future. Apologies for any mistakes in typing, spelling or grammar. ("I wonder me how you can English..")

Note from Dunera News Vol.1 No.1 September 1984

Seeking Help

The Dunera Association and this newsletter can only function with the support of a dedicated small group of volunteers who serve on the committee.

Going forward, we plan to refresh the Committee and are seeking new volunteers to help us.

Committee time is not onerous, so if you are interested please email duneraboys@gmail.com and Rebecca can provide you with more information.



Rebecca Silk
President
Dunera Association

From the President

Welcome to Dunera News number 100!

I wonder whether in 1984 Henry Lippmann, our first editor and publisher, and his Dunera friends ever imagined that 34 years later, the Dunera News would still be in publication. Or whether the men, who did not even call themselves Dunera Boys, thought that their descendants might be interested in their stories. So it is a special privilege to welcome you to edition number 100, and to continue to remember the Dunera story.

We enjoyed a very successful reunion at Tatura on 7 May 2017. The focus of course was the unveiling of our new sculpture, a memorial to those internees who died when their ships were attacked by German U-boats – the SS Arandora Star en route from England to Canada in 1941, the MV Aboosso from Capetown to Liverpool in 1942, and the SS Waroonga in the North Atlantic en route to London in 1943.

I am most grateful to all of you who contributed to the fundraising for this project, and especially our major donors. Thanks go also to the Tatura and District Historical Society for their support and for giving the sculpture a home at the Tatura Wartime Camps Museum.

Last year Dunera Boy Reinhold Eckfeld was with us at Tatura, but he sadly passed away on 16 April 2017. In this edition you can read a wonderful tribute to his life by his daughter Tonia.

Please note the dates of our other reunions this year: Hay on September 2 and 3, Sydney on September 6, and the Melbourne annual reunion lunch on November 14, 2017.

Accompanying this newsletter is our Membership Application renewal form. I encourage you to renew and update your details. Should you wish to add a donation, we would be most grateful.

As usual you can keep in touch at duneraboys@gmail.com or join the conversations on our Facebook group – Friends of the Dunera Boys. I wish you happy reading!

Tatura Memorial Sculpture Unveiling

76th Anniversary Tatura Reunion – 7 May 2017

A very successful event was held at Tatura Wartime Camps Museum on 7 May 2017 on the occasion of the unveiling of the new memorial sculpture, created by heritage stonemason Jason Huntley. The sculpture, made from local stone, replicates a memorial in 1941 by Robert Felix Emil Braun. The new sculpture is in memory of those internees who died when their ships were torpedoed by German U-boats – on the SS Arandora Star on 2 July 1940 which was en route from England to Canada with internees; on the MV Aboosso on 29 October 1942, and the SS Waroonga on 5 April 1943, both ships returning to England with internees from Australia.

Over 80 people gathered at Tatura for the unveiling. It was important to acknowledge the existence of the first memorial that was installed by men who knew some of the Arandora Star victims. It was also important to honour the lives of those who died in such tragic circumstances, and to provide a memorial for these men lost at sea. It was also important for the wartime history of Tatura and Australia by having a memorial.

Mayor of Greater Shepparton, Dinny Adem, commended the memorial as contributing to the diversity of the history of Greater Shepparton city. Suzanna Shead, independent member for Shepparton District, reminded us that a community needs to know its history in order to know where it is going in the future.

Michelle Frenkel spoke about her grandfather Erwin Frenkel who survived the sinking of the Arandora Star. Jack Leder told a moving story about his uncle Louis Biber, who died in the sinking of the SS Waroonga, and Kara Haarburger, granddaughter of Dunera Boy Werner Haarburger, read a piece provided by Jonathan Borchardt about his grandfather Ernst Borchardt who survived the Arandora Star sinking, but died when the MV Aboosso was torpedoed and sank.

The memorial was unveiled by former internee Bern Brent. Bern was at Tatura on 2 July 1941, at the ceremony for the original memorial by artist Robert Felix Emil Braun. Bern recalled how lucky he had been that the ship which would have returned him to England, was diverted for the war effort in the Pacific. This meant that Bern stayed in internment, then joined the 8th Employment Company and made a life in Australia after the war.

The Dunera Association is most grateful to the Tatura and District Historical Society for its partnership on the project and for providing a home for the memorial sculpture in the forecourt of the museum. We encourage all descendants, families, historians and friends of Dunera Boys to visit Tatura and see this new memorial.

Rebecca Silk
May 2017



Erwin Frenkel, Dunera Boy

By Michelle Frenkel – At Tatura Museum

My grandfather Erwin Frenkel was born in Vienna on 28 December 1920. He survived the sinking of the Arandora Star and was then sent on the Dunera to be interned at Tatura, Victoria.

Erwin was the son of a famous Viennese cantor and cantorial music composer. He was 17 when he was persuaded by his mother to flee to Italy, after Hitler annexed Austria (Anschluss) and the persecution of Jews began. His father refused to leave, feeling his duty was with his synagogue. Erwin talked his way across the border into Switzerland and taught for several months at the Yeshiva at Montreux. He then flew to London.

When he left Vienna, his mother said goodbye, with tears running down her face. She said “we’ll never see you again”. “Of course you will,” he replied. But his mother was right. Erwin was interned in England at the outbreak of war.

Years later, I learned how Erwin Frenkel, a man with quite clear-cut and unimpeachable credentials as a refugee was given an “A” or “enemy alien” classification simply because he insulted the magistrate at the classification tribunal. Magistrates had a great deal of discretion on these tribunals. The magistrate, learning that Erwin was living at his girlfriend’s, asked him whether he was her pimp. Outraged by this question, Erwin called the magistrate a dirty old man, whereupon the magistrate responded, “Young man, I shall teach you a lesson” and promptly classified him “A”. Thus, Erwin’s answer nearly cost him his life. This arbitrary classification accorded to him resulted not only in his immediate internment with a bunch of Nazis and fascists, but also in his eventual deportation to St John’s, Newfoundland (at that time a British protectorate) on board the Arandora Star, which was torpedoed and sunk in the Irish Sea.

At the time the Arandora Star left Liverpool for the Canadian internment camps, which was about the end of June or early July 1940, my grandfather would have been 19 years of age. There were nearly 1,700 people on board, including 734 interned Italian men, 479 interned German men, 86 German prisoners of war and 200 military guards. There was a crew of 174 officers.

On 2 July 1940, U-boat U 47, commanded by Günther Prien, was down to his last torpedo, which he apparently thought faulty, however he aimed it at the Arandora Star, and the torpedo detonated sinking the ship in 20 minutes. Later in life, while watching James Cameron’s movie *Titanic* together, my grandfather told me how eerie it was to be reminded of the way the Arandora tipped and went down just as the Titanic did in the movie, only a lot faster.

The torpedo destroyed many of the lifeboats and life rafts, and rendered some unusable. Thus, there were not enough boats or rafts to rescue the 1,500 people

on board. One life raft was swamped shortly after launch and sank. Many Italians could not swim and were too afraid to leave the ship.

My grandfather stayed onboard as long as he could, throwing anything that would float into the water so people would have something to hold onto for the possibility of survival. He was quoted in the book, *Walls of Wire* by Joyce Hammond, saying “There were people falling into the water. It was a terrible sight and I have never forgotten it.” He jumped minutes before the ship sunk. Being a water polo player, he was a good swimmer and was able to tread water for some time before finding a place on a life raft.

Approximately 805 of the nearly 1,700 onboard died in the sinking of the Arandora Star. There were 868 survivors; 586 of whom were detainees who witnessed so many of their friends and family dying in the freezing cold water. They were taken back to England on the HMCS St Laurent and subsequently sent to Australia on the Dunera which departed from Liverpool on 10 July 1940, to be interned in Tatura.

On 2 July 1941, internee Robert Felix Emile Braun unveiled a memorial sculpture at Camp 3 in Tatura as a way for the survivors to grieve for and remember those lost at sea.

About 2011, Arthur and Lurline Knee from the Tatura Museum told me about the Arandora Star Memorial, and how it was knocked down many decades ago. I had seen the memorial in pictures displayed at the museum, and was inspired with the idea to resurrect the sculpture. For it to be accessible for descendants and all interested visitors. I am grateful that the Dunera Association and descendants agreed that this was a good idea worth pursuing.

My grandfather’s family was killed during World War II. He was the only one to survive the Holocaust. He passed away in 2000, aged 80.

Seven years ago I moved to Shepparton with my partner, Paul Kirby, and now our daughter Matilda. My partner plays football for the Tatura Bulldogs. I am now living and supporting the football team in the town where my grandfather started his new life in Australia. He would love the irony of that.

It was at that time that my grandmother entrusted me with the safe keeping of a precious heirloom – my grandfather’s passport, which I have with me here today. It is a miracle that he managed to hold onto his passport during the sinking of the Arandora Star, and on his journey on the Dunera. It is very water stained but still intact. It was one of his few possessions on arrival.

I know that he would be so pleased that this sculpture has been re-created, and placed here at the Tatura Museum, and I thank everyone who has contributed to making this dream a reality.





Ernst Borchardt, Dunera Boy

By Jonathan Borchardt – Presented by Kara Haarburger at Tatura Museum

My grandfather Ernst Borchardt (pictured at left) was born in Berlin on 8 June 1893 to Isidor and Anna Borchardt. They were a comfortably off middle-class family and ran a very well-known cigar business in Berlin called Borchardt Gebruder. Ernst worked in the family business.

In World War I, Ernst served as a Lieutenant in the Guards Regiment on the Western Front and was highly decorated. He was the last surviving officer from his regiment and he walked with his men from France back to Berlin when war ended.

In 1925, Ernst had a son named Ralph with his wife Steffie. The couple divorced in 1929, and Steffie moved to London in 1933 with Ralph and her second husband in order to escape the Nazis. Ernst followed them to London in 1936 when he had the opportunity.

In 1940, Ernst was rounded up along with all other men and boys 16 and older who had come from Germany, Austria or Italy, to be interviewed, and it was decided that he should be interned. He was sent to Liverpool and put on the Arandora Star with the intention that he be held in a camp in Canada till the war was over.

Off the coast of Ireland the ship was torpedoed and he was one of the lucky ones to be rescued and returned to Liverpool. But before his ex-wife Steffie and son Ralph were even aware of any of this he was already on his way to Australia on the Dunera.

Ernst was taken off the ship at Melbourne with some of the other internees and transferred directly to the internment camp at Tatura where he spent the whole of his time whilst in Australia.

In 1942, along with other internees, he was released and given the option to either stay in Australia till the end of the war or they could leave and return to Europe. Forty-four internees who decided to head for the UK were put on the ship Westernland, but when it docked in South Africa the ship was commandeered by the armed forces to be used in Operation Torch, the forthcoming invasion of North Africa. All the passengers were transferred to the Aboosso for the final leg of the voyage to the UK. The ship was sent without escort across the Atlantic. It was spotted by U-Boat U 575 which followed it until it was close enough to fire on the ship. Two torpedoes made contact and the Aboosso and the ship went down very quickly, with the loss of most of the passengers and crew. Many hundreds died either immediately or later, only one lifeboat with 31 people was found and rescued despite others having got away from the sinking ship.

Ernst was only 49 years old when he died. He was one of four brothers and he was the last to survive. His father Isidor died in 1940 in Berlin and his mother Anna was murdered in Theresenstadt in 1942. The only survivor of their family was Ernst's son Ralph who went on to have two sons in London, Jonathan and Terence.

Louis Biber, Dunera Boy

By Jack Leder, nephew of Louis Biber – At Tatura Museum

The Annexation of Austria by Germany, known as the Anschluss, occurred in March 1938. Three months later (I had not been born then, but if my mathematics and obstetrical knowledge is correct, my mother Hilde must have been pregnant) my parents and my brother, then aged 11, decided to escape to Belgium from Vienna.

My mother's mother, Zirl Biber, would not go with them because her two sons, my uncles, were in the Dachau camp, having had their business confiscated and been jailed as criminals on trumped-up charges. This incredible woman somehow managed to have them released, and she joined us in Belgium.

The two boys managed to get to England, and were subsequently interned on the Isle of Man because they were considered Germans and therefore "enemy aliens", despite being Austrian Jews.



Ernst Biber with his daughter Jacqui.

My uncles were transported on the Dunera to Australia in terrible circumstances, the crew and guards believing that these were all German prisoners.

Australia was made to believe that it was doing something for the mother country by taking these dangerous men! It became somewhat of a scandal and England decided that anyone

who wanted to go back could. One uncle, Ernst, did not. He got married here and his daughter, my cousin Jacqui, is here with us. Indeed, he was responsible for sponsoring us to Australia in 1947-48.

The other uncle, Louis, decided to go back. We don't really know why, but he had endured one trip, and knew of the dangers of being at sea during the war, because onboard the Dunera, there had been survivors from the sinking of the Arandora Star, on her way to Canada with other so-called "enemy aliens".

I wonder whether Louis might even have seen the original sculpture that was made in memory of those that had been lost at sea. There must have been a strong pull for him to want to return to England. We suspect there was a lady involved.

But let us stop for a moment and think of these men, many of them coming from a relatively comfortable life in such a cultured centre as Vienna, now away from their loved ones. By 1941 they knew what was happening in Europe. What anxieties they

had. I have a letter card written by Louis in March 1941 from Australia. Incidentally it is stamped "Prisoner of War Service" and "Opened by Censor" It is written in German and I have tried to translate it. Here is a little of it:



*My Dearest Mother,
At last we have heard that you have remained in Belgium. You can understand how worried about you we have been. I am here with Ernst and life is outstanding for us. I am so anxious to know how you poor women are getting on, what are you living on?
The Fate that we are experiencing is naturally terrible but it must be our determination to overcome this time. I just cannot believe that there will not be more joyous days to come. You should be protected from all bad things. I embrace you all.
Thousand Kisses, Louis.*

I will now describe what I have managed to find out about a steam merchant ship, called the Waroonga which left Sydney in March 1943, it travelled through the Panama Canal onto New York, bound for Liverpool with 5000 tons of butter, 1500 tons of lead, 1000 tons of canned meat, 1000 tons of beef and 218 bags of mail. Apart from the Merchant Navy crew, there were 3 Disabled British Seamen and listed also as passengers were a German, 6 Austrians, 2 Poles and 3 Italians.

They are listed as "U.K. Internees returning to the United Kingdom".

One of the Poles was listed as having been on the Arandora Star and the Dunera. He must have been really keen on dangerous sea travel.

The Waroonga was part of a large convoy of ships sailing for England. In the early hours of 5 April, southeast of Cape Farewell, off Greenland, she was attacked for a second time by U-boats of the famed German Wolf Pack.

On 6 April, she was scuttled and most of the 132 on board were picked up by accompanying ships. However 18 lives were lost, including 5 passengers. One of these was my Uncle Louis.

I am not sure whether he died on the 6 April, but it is most bizzare, that this was the 40th birthday of his sister, my mother, still in Belgium with her two sons and her mother. By then her husband, my father, had already perished in Auschwitz.

I know that Louis, the youngest of 4 siblings was especially loved, and his death brought understandable grief to his mother, brother and sisters when, one by one, over the next two years or so, they learned of his fate. It is for them that my cousin Jacqui and I are grateful to be able to identify with this event in memory of Louis Biber and the others who perished at sea on that fateful night.

Reinhold Eckfeld – A Story of Luck and Not

21 September 1921 – 16 April 2017

By Tonia Eckfeld

He pursued his own destiny living his life in authenticity, integrity, truth, love, compassion, kindness and generosity – a wonderful son, husband, brother, father and a widely respected, admired and loved man.

PART 1: Vienna – The Early Years

With the wisdom of age Reinhold Eckfeld commented: “None of us knows our destiny. Only hindsight tells the story of luck and not.” A Dunera Boy, Reinhold Eckfeld’s story is one of luck, survival and triumph through perseverance.

Reinhold Eckfeld was born in Vienna, Austria on 25 September 1921, into a typical middle class Viennese family. He was the third child of Eugenie Eckfeld a telegraphist (and Roman-Catholic) and Wilhelm Eckfeld, a journalist for an important Viennese newspaper (who had studied at university in Prague and was Jewish). To quote Reinhold: “The first years of my life were simple.”

Reinhold spent his formative years in Vienna growing up in the 19th District in an apartment at 34 Döblinger Main Road. Reinhold recalled: “I attended Pantzer Gasse 25 Primary School. To go there, I crossed no road, as it was in the same street block as our flats. During my four years of Primary School, I met and made friends with boys I later on went to BG 19 with (Bundesgymnasium 19). The Grammar School was 7 minutes walk from home. Waldi (my brother, also a Dunera Boy) was there when I started there in 1941. In those days (we had) no idea of what was ahead of us, despite the popular anti-Semitism movement.” On 29 April 1938, he was expelled from school, as he was classified as a “half-Jew” according to the Nuremberg race laws.

On the morning of 10 November 1938, Kristallnacht, on the way to his Aunt’s house, Reinhold was arrested. He was viciously beaten and mistreated during the night through to 11 November. As he was still under 18 years of age, he was released in the early hours of the morning and thus escaped transport to the Dachau concentration camp. From that point, it was clear to him, as it was to many others, that he had no future in Vienna and that the only path for him and his family was emigration. He said: “So, in 1938 our small and modest world came to an end. Aircraft flying overhead, trucks with German soldiers and swastika flags appeared everywhere over night. These, with propaganda in the media, all pointed to a different future. In order to strengthen this impression, I saw one Jewish-owned shop plundered by SS and my brother was dragged off the street one day and made to clean public toilets. My parents had separated and my father could only work for a small Jewish periodical. My brother who had matriculated in 1935 was

forced to stop studying medicine after his third year at the University of Vienna. (My sister) Judy had studied for 2 years at the Community College on the same campus as my school. She was a secretary to a non-Aryan solicitor and supported the family. At that time I was in year 11 (year 7 in the Austrian system), and allowed to complete that after being moved to the school in the IX District. As I said goodbye to one professor on my last day, he said it would be better for me that way. I still don’t know what he meant. There at the new school, we were treated kindly by the professors. At the end of that year, my report stated that “the pupil can progress to next level”, but a stamp from the principal said “this pupil is terminated according to the rules”. Unexpectedly I was at the end of my schooling and could only wonder: “What happens now?”

Reinhold later recorded these experiences in notebooks written in 1940–41 and in drawings in the Australian internment camps at Hay, New South Wales and Tatura, Victoria. (These records formed the basis of his book edited by Martin Krist, Last months in Vienna / Letzte Monate im Wien.) Reinhold faced uncertainty, many obstacles and dangerously vexatious processes as he was expelled first from his school and then from his homeland. Expulsion however saved his life.



Reinhold Eckfeld. 1940.



Reinhold Eckfeld (at right), with Bern Brent, and Bernhard Rothschild at the 75th anniversary Tatura reunion 2016.



Hay. May 1941. By Reinhold Eckfeld

Reinhold Eckfeld
– A Story of Luck and Not

Part 2: The Wasted Years

Part 3: Life in Australia – the happy years

To be continued in the next issue of Dunera News.

A short story about two Dunera Boys

By Gerry Hofmann



The Hoffmann family from Vienna

My father, Peter Hans Hofmann (note the single 'f') was born in Budapest, Hungary on the 12 October 1918. His parents, Stefanie and Felix Hoffmann lived in Vienna, but for some unknown reason, Peter was born whilst they were temporarily living in Budapest. Sometime later, they returned to Vienna, where Peter grew up, went to school and attended Technical College.

Peter's birth certificate records his name as Peter Hans Hofmann (one 'f'), despite the fact that both his parents spelt their surname with two 'f's, as well as his younger sister Erica. It therefore seems likely that an error was made on his birth certificate in Budapest.

In 1937–1938, as the Nazis were coming to power in Europe and about to take over Austria, it became apparent to anybody of Jewish extraction that the time to escape was now. This included the Hoffmann family, despite the fact that Peter and Erica had been brought up as Lutherans. Under Jewish tradition, they were both "classed" as Jewish because their mother, Stefanie, was Jewish.

So, Peter and Erica, as teenagers, escaped from Austria and ended up in London. Their father, Felix, went to Shanghai, but Stefanie stayed in Vienna.

To leave Austria and enter England, Peter would have had to obtain a passport or travel document, and to obtain such a document, he would have had to produce his birth certificate – the one with only a single 'f'. Peter never bothered to change his name to the correct family spelling.

After war broke out with Germany, all citizens in England of German or Austrian nationality were regarded as "aliens" and potential enemy agents, whereupon, they were rounded up and deported to Australia on the converted troop ship, HMT Dunera, arriving in Sydney on 6 September 1940. Erica was not rounded up (as women seemed to have been exempt), although her husband-to-be, Heinz (Henry) Federer was.

After being interned at Hay in NSW, Peter was eventually released and became an Australian citizen. He became reunited with and married his childhood sweetheart, Susanne Schwätzer, who had independently escaped to Australia with her parents and had settled in Sydney. Peter and Susanne lived in Sydney and had two sons, I was born in 1945 and Francis in 1950.

Meanwhile, Peter's sister, Erica, married Henry Federer when he returned to London after his release from internment in Australia. They had one daughter, Frances.

Felix returned to Vienna after the war. He re-married and lived there the rest of his life. But nobody knew what happened to Peter's mother, Stefanie, who remained in Vienna after war broke out and who was never heard of again.

Johanna (Hanna) Ambrosch

Hanna was born in 1937 in Vienna and has lived there her whole life. She is the daughter of the sister of Heinz (Henry) Federer who married my aunt, Erica Hoffmann.

Hanna was inspired to undertake some research about the fate of Stefanie. Through the assistance of the Jewish war and holocaust archives, Hanna was able to trace the fate of her grandmother and found out the date that Stefanie was "taken" and where she had been sent.



Erica Hoffman with her brother Peter.



Remembrance Plaques in Vienna

Hanna became aware of a push in Vienna and other cities in Europe, by local and Jewish communities, to erect remembrance plaques outside the buildings where Holocaust victims had lived. She therefore applied to have a suitably worded plaque located outside the former family home of Stefanie and this request was duly granted and the plaque was unveiled in May 2014.

Here lived Stefanie Hoffmann (née Fion) Born 15 May 1888. On 9 April 1942 deported to Izbica and murdered in the Holocaust.

Epilogue

Peter Hofmann was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident whilst on holiday in Warwick, Queensland, in 1970. His two sons, Gerald and Francis, live in Perth and Melbourne respectively and are both members of the Dunera Association.

Erica, lived in London until the ripe old age of 96 and passed away in 2016. Although not in the best of health, Henry Federer is 98 and living in Poland with his daughter, Frances.

Dunera News no.100 – Henry Lippmann OAM

From September 1984 – June 2017

Some of you might have noted inside the cover of each issue of the Dunera News the line “Foundation Editor – The late Henry Lippmann OAM”. Henry Lippmann started publishing the Sydney Dunera News in September 1984, in response to the need for something to “hold together the band of the ‘Lost Legion’”, all those who arrived on the Dunera in 1940, and interned at Tatura and Hay.

Henry Lippmann was born in Berlin in 1921 to Ruth and Leo Lippmann. The rise of the Nazis prevented him from going to university, but he managed to get enrolled in an overseas training scheme. Sadly, efforts by his parents to emigrate were unsuccessful, but Henry managed to leave Berlin on 27 August 1939 and entered the training scheme in England, till he was rounded up and interned on the Isle of Man before being transported to Australia on the Dunera.

Henry chose to remain in Australia after he was discharged in 1946 from the 8th Employment Company. He returned to Sydney and found work as a travelling sales agent for John Lewinnek, a pre-war refugee from Berlin, who was involved in the clothing trade. Henry thrived in the clothing trade, and started a fashion business with Julie Wakil, a dressmaker, after they married in 1951.



Henry Lippmann (right) with Max Bruch, at the 50th anniversary celebrations in Sydney in 1990.

In the early 1980s, together with friends from the Dunera – Peter Tikotin, Werner Baer, Peter Huppert and Rudi Meth, they started a committee in order to gather together the people who were on the Dunera, the “Lost Legion”, to share stories, to offer advice, and to keep in touch.

In time, Henry became the chronicler, archivist, record-keeper and historian of the Dunera story. For many years, he was the driving force behind the annual commemoration of the arrival of the Dunera at Walsh Bay in Sydney. He was the editor, publisher and distributor of the Dunera News. He produced about 4 issues a year up till about 1989, gathering items from various publications as well as items sent in to him.

Initially, there were lists of subscribers from Sydney, Canberra, NSW and Queensland. There wasn't a list from Melbourne. However, in the late 1980s, due to legal requirements in regards to an “Association”, the group had to be officially organised, forming the Hay Tatura Association. Over time, the responsibilities of the organisation, such as the Dunera News, shifted from Sydney to Melbourne.

That first committee in Melbourne comprised: Horst Jacobs, President;

Eric Eckstein, Secretary and committee members George Strauss, Renata Heine, Heinz Kuehenthal, Mike Sondheim. Henry Lippmann remained as Convenor of the Sydney Dunera Function, Mike Sondheim in charge of the Hay reunions, and Jimmy King and Henry Felder looked after the Melbourne reunions.

In his president's message in issue no.21, July 1991, Horst Jacobs provides us with some insight on the responsibilities he had inherited from Henry Lippmann.

It is now eighteen months since, after discussion with Henry Lippmann, the danger of a last issue of the Dunera News was avoided ... and the Association took on (with some reluctance & trepidation) the publication from Melbourne.

I must admit, the first issue was a rather poor attempt, but we have kept on improving, learning on the job & from our mistakes, and we have been able to keep our promise of quarterly issues, probably our greatest achievement. This has been made possible by the dedication of the Committee, their spouses, & other members when needed, the response of readers to supply us with material on which we depend for our life-blood. Henry, as promised, has always been on hand when needed, with advice & help.

It is interesting to note, Horst's message contained a request to pay membership dues which coincidentally is also in this 100th issue of the Dunera News.

The subscription for the next four issues is now due for most members, and an account is enclosed. If you judge us by results you will send us your cheque.

In 1994, in the 10th Anniversary issue of the Dunera News, Mike Sondheim, who took over from Horst Jacobs as president in 1992, wrote:

Henry Lippmann, single handedly, produced our journal for the first five years, and he is still one of our stalwart supporters with contributions from his vast library and the many connections he built up. Full credit to Henry for the initiative to start this project, and thanks for his continuing efforts on behalf of the Association and our NEWS.

Henry Lippmann died in 2004, aged 82. His memory lives on in each issue of the Dunera News. We are most grateful for his dedication to the Dunera story.



Dunera News Vol.1 No.1, September 1984

This letter to readers is reproduced from the first issue of Dunera News.

Dear Friend

A few weeks ago our friends Werner Baer, Peter Huppert, Rudi Meth and myself have formed a committee to organise further initiatives for our Sydney group.

Rudi has since sent out a questionnaire to find out what you many want. The result was very heartening.

One courteous (although negative) reply to Rudy Meth's recent circular is noteworthy:

"... Your efforts will be praiseworthy to those who feel nostalgic of the days forty years ago. I, on the other hand, would rather forget these wasted years and do not think that there is much worthwhile to remember ..."

Whilst one recognises this as an understandable view which many may share (probably those that did not even bother to send their reply in a pre-paid envelope), the majority have clearly indicated their desire to keep in touch.

By contrast part of a letter from another esteemed friend:

"... thanks for your efforts to hold together the band of 'the Lost Legion' who came here under difficult circumstances many years ago. It is most salutary to be reminded of bitter moments in our lives which at least some of our mates have been able to overcome ... to get together from time to time makes this whole miserable business worthwhile."

Whatever view you, dear friend, may hold please consider that our number is not growing any larger and those who wish must 'close ranks'.

Since our last general meeting on Anzac Day many suggestions have come forward to improve contacts between ourselves. This first Sydney Dunera News Letter is the instrument that shall serve us all in this direction. Initially it is being posted to everyone who is on our list. (Sydney, Canberra, N.S.W., Qld.) At present we have no Melbourne list and can post this letter only to a few personal friends. We would appreciate a Melbourne mailing list in reply. The following News letters will be posted only to those who have become subscribers. The subscription fee is \$5 to cover printing and postage. It is estimated that for the \$5 you should receive 4 or 5 issues.

The Dunera Letter should be sent out approx. 4 times a year, depending on the news to hand and its urgency. The News is made up from items that friends are sending in. Whatever you might wish to tell any ONE friend you can now convey to ALL of us at the same time.

Send in your suggestions, your objections, your discovery, your experience, your reflection, your review of anything that would be of our common interest.

We must report on: Correction of previous misinformation, change of address or telephone numbers, announcement of forthcoming events, meetings, public lectures,

exhibitions, shows, T.V., Radio etc. Write us from holidays local or overseas, about your activities professional, leisure and sport, other interesting personalities you have met. Look out for missing friends and advise when located. Write whatever you have observed and that you are alive and well and if perhaps not well, we care to know about that too.

Dear friend, you are hereby invited to take part in this, your own news service. As long as it pleases you, or anyone else wishes to take over, I shall compile the various items received. I shall be pleased to receive your subscription and I shall be responsible to post to you future issues.

I send you greetings and wish you well on behalf of all of us. I hope that this Dunera Letter will have the desired response and that we are not the Lost Legion after all.

Henry Lippmann

A PIECE OF OUR HISTORY – Exerpts from an earlier Paper by Henry Lippmann

- One became acquainted with many fellow internees. Interesting people from all walks of life, many whom under normal circumstances one would never have had the opportunity to meet. Our internment in Australia was not exactly a holiday, but we made the best of it.
- We made appeals to our own release from internment on the grounds that we, as Refugees, had every reason to help the cause of the Allies. We were allowed to join the British Pioneer Corps but the shortage of shipping prevented many from that. Later we were allowed to join the Australian Army, the 8th Australian Employment Company. We had Australian uniforms, equal pay and conditions, but no combat action. (The main action we took part in was the dance halls of Melbourne.) In other words we had a pretty good time.
- Our English was still not the best, but we managed. On the first Saturday morning in the Army at Caulfield Racecourse, our Captain asked who wanted to go to Synagogue services. Since one would have been detailed for regular work otherwise, most of us "volunteered" for the Synagogue. We made contact with the local Jewish community and they were pleased to welcome so many nice young boys as newcomers.
- When we were demobilised the majority of the boys that came on the Dunera had decided to remain and settle in Australia. Their individual finances consisted then of only their deferred army pay which was needed to be spent on decent civilian clothing (since they owned none from before) and a few pounds spending money. We were confident of our future and our ability. We had no trouble finding jobs. Many made use of the skills they had learnt. Others were experimenting in other avenues, finding suitable positions. Honest, reliable, efficient and able boys like we were brought up to be, were easily absorbed on the Australian job market. (Where today, would you get such dedicated employees like this?)



PHOTO: ANDREW CHAPMAN

Dunera Association Hay Reunion

2–3 September 2017

In recognition of the 77th Anniversary of the arrival of the Dunera Boys at the Hay Internment and POW Camps 7 and 8 in 1940.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Friday 2 September

From 6pm **Dinner at JJ Bistro, Riverina Hotel.** PAYG – Pay As You Go
A la carte menu.

Saturday 3 September

- 9.30am **HAY RAILWAY STATION**
Symbolic re-enactment. Siren and sounds of four steam trains, 48 carriages, arriving at Hay Railway Station. Museum displays will be open.
- 9.45am **SYMBOLIC MARCH**
March from railway carriage to Dunera Place to *March of the Hebrew Slaves* from Verdi opera, *Nabucco*.
- 10am **DEPART HAY RAILWAY STATION**
Follow “Dunera Way” from the station to Camps 7 and 8 by car convoy. Tour of Camps 7 and 8, Racecourse/Showground, Garrison areas. Stop at Dunera Commemorative Obelisk in Dunera Way. The obelisk was unveiled at the 50th anniversary in 1990.
- 11am **MORNING TEA** PAYG
Havachat coffee shop opposite the Post Office, 120 Lachlan Street.

- 11.45am **HAY WAR CEMETERY**
Visit Hay General Cemetery and the camp River Farm site by car convoy. Stop at riverside beach where Jewish boy Theodore Tartakover (b. Hay 1880) first trained for swimming. He competed at the London (1908) and Stockholm (1912) Olympics. Visit the grave of Menasche Bodner, the only Dunera Boy who died in Hay, now buried in the Jewish section at Hay Cemetery.
- 1pm **LUNCH** PAYG
Hay Services Club. Dining Room, 371 Murray Street. A la carte menu.
- 2.30pm **OPTIONS**
Dunera Museum at railway station • Free time to wander Hay or rest.
• Film showing: *When Friends were Enemies* – location TBA. Judy Menczel’s 1991 Dunera story for SBS. Free, open to the public. Duration: 58 mins. • Hay Gaol Museum: Site of the first military hospital where sick Dunera Boys were sent until the camp hospital was completed. The gaol was also a high security lockup for Japanese POWs. It is where Italian Captain Simone escaped from his cell. • Shear Outback Museum. A history of Australian shearing on display. Shearing demonstration at 3.30pm. Also has a cafe and souvenir shop to browse in. • Visit Bishop’s Lodge. 1890 historic house and garden. Open Saturday 2–4.30pm.
- 7.00pm **DINNER** PAYG
Bishop’s Lodge Motel Restaurant, Sturt Hwy, Hay. A la carte menu.

Sunday 4 September

- 9.30am **MORNING TEA** FREE
With David and Coleen Houston at Bishop’s Lodge Historic House & Garden. Corner of Roset Street and Sturt Hwy, Hay.

EVENTS REGISTRATION

Please register before 25 August 2017

FRIDAY: Dinner at JJ Bistro

SATURDAY: Morning tea / Lunch / Dinner

SUNDAY: Morning tea at Bishop’s Lodge

Please advise David Houston by email (preferred), fax or phone, of the number and names of people attending the events. It is essential we know numbers for catering and seating. Advance payment is NOT required.

Contact David Houston: davidhouston23@bigpond.com

Phone (02) 6993 2161 **Fax** (02) 6993 2171 **Mob** 0428 932 161

For information about visiting Hay:

www.hay.nsw.gov.au

haytouristcentre@bigpond.com Phone (02) 6993 4045

SLAWA: Modernist Art + Design

New exhibition at the Duldig Studio

For the first time, an exhibition by the Austrian-Australian artist Slawa Horowitz-Duldig (1901–1975), is on display in the home she shared with her sculptor husband Karl Duldig.

The exhibition presents her drawings, sculptures, fashion and furniture design, as well as her ingenious invention, the modern folding umbrella. She received a patent for the invention in 1929, this was a remarkable achievement, especially for a woman. The umbrella was called Flirt. When it was exhibited in the Inventors' pavilion at the Vienna Spring Fair in 1931, the Viennese press called it 'the magic umbrella of the sculptress'.

Slawa supervised all the contracts, organised the umbrella's manufacture in Austria and Germany, and received substantial royalties till 1938. After fleeing Austria, she sold all her rights to the Austrian manufacturer Brüder Wüster. Although she never saw another cent from her invention she was philosophical about this and never made any claims for restitution. Prototypes of the umbrella are held in the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (Powerhouse) Sydney, Australia, and in the Duldig Studio, Melbourne. In 2005 Slawa's invention was recognised in the Austrian publication *Designlandschaft Österreich 1900-2005*.

Slawa Horowitz was born in Poland and moved to Vienna with her family before the First World War. She met her future husband Karl Duldig while they were students of the prominent Austrian sculptor Anton Hanak (1922–1925). In 1926 she continued her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, graduating in 1929. Till 1938 she exhibited regularly in Vienna and completed a number of private commissions.



Slawa and Karl married in 1931 and she became the



mainstay of his personal and professional life. Their only child, Eva, was born just before the family fled from Vienna to Switzerland in 1938. The Duldigs arrived in Singapore in 1939 where Slawa practised her art, conducted an art school together with Karl, and also restored valuable paintings in the Municipal Collection.

In 1940, however, the Duldig family was deported to Australia and interned as 'enemy aliens' in Tatura till Karl Duldig joined the Australian Army 8th Employment Company in 1942. The family settled in Melbourne where Slawa became a leading art educator. She taught for 16 years at St Catherine's Girls School, Toorak, where an

annual Art Prize bears her name. In retirement she continued to teach art and work on private commissions till her death in 1975.

In 1977 a Slawa Duldig retrospective exhibition was shown at the McClelland Gallery, Langwarrin, and subsequently at St Catherine's school. Her work was included in the exhibition *Karl Duldig Viennese Sculptures – Vienna and the Early Twentieth Century*, at the National Gallery of Victoria in 1990. Since 1986 the Annual Duldig Lecture on Sculpture has commemorated the life and work of Karl Duldig and Slawa Horowitz-Duldig. She is represented in public and private collections in Australia and overseas.

SLAWA: Modernist Art + Design

Exhibition on view till end of 2017

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www.duldig.org.au

DRIFTWOOD – Escape and survival through art, by Eva de Jong-Duldig will be released in July 2017.

Spanning three continents and three generations, the book poignantly captures the loss that families encounter when they are dislocated by war and the challenges they face when adapting to a new way of life.

Available from Australian Scholarly Publishing

P.O. Box 299, Kew VIC 3101

www.scholarly.info

SAVE THE DATES 2017

Dunera Hay Reunion:

2–3 September

Dunera Sydney Reunion:

6 September

Melbourne Reunion Lunch:

14 November

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

f Friends of the Dunera Boys

Dunera Museum at Hay

Carol Bunyan – Volunteer Researcher Contact for background information on Dunera Boys
lcb5@bigpond.com

(NOTE: the first letter is a lowercase “L”)

Dunera Hay tours

David Houston – davidhouston23@bigpond.com

❧ IN MEMORY ❧

Steven Frank Arnott

13 February 2017, Melbourne

The Dunera Association mourns the loss of Steve Arnott, aged 94, an active member. Condolences to Yvonne, Dianne, Russell and family. Vale Steve Arnott, Dunera Boy.

Berta (Betty) Strom

10 March 2017, Melbourne

Widow of Dunera Boy Leo Strom. Condolences to Jack Strom and family and friends.

Reinhold Eckfeld

16 April 2017, Melbourne

The Dunera Association mourns the loss of Reinhold Eckfeld, aged 95. Loving husband of Beryl (dec). Condolences to Erica, Steven, Tonia and family. Vale Reinhold Eckfeld, Dunera Boy.

Committee members 2016–17

Rebecca Silk – President
rebeccasilk@bigpond.com

Peter Felder – Vice President
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Selma Seknow – Secretary
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Geoff Winter – Treasurer
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