

# 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.102 February 2018



## Dunera reunion Melbourne 2017

Clockwise from top left: Bern Brent, Henry Hirsch, Rose and Bernard Rothschild, Colleen and David Houston, Eva de Jong-Duldig and Seumas Spark

### Foundation Editor:

The late Henry Lippmann OAM

### Editorial responsibility:

The Committee of the Dunera Association

The views expressed by writers of particular articles in this publication are the responsibility of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Dunera Association.

Letters and articles for publication are welcome.

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*Many thanks to all the contributors.*

### From the Editor

Happy New Year and welcome to Dunera News no.102.

In this edition you will find tributes to historian Ken Inglis who sadly passed away in December.

There are also fascinating stories about three Dunera men Ernst Winter, Gustav Lederer and Fritz Sternhell.

I hope you also enjoy the reports from our Melbourne reunion in November 2017, with speakers Seumas Spark and Eva de Jong-Duldig.

I wish you happy reading!

**Rebecca Silk**



Rebecca Silk with Bern Brent. In her hand is a copy of the book *Memoir of Bernard Rothschild*.

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

 **Friends of the Dunera Boys**



Peter Felder  
President  
Dunera Association

## From the President

We start the New Year with a refreshed and larger committee, elected at the AGM prior to the Melbourne Reunion lunch last November. A warm welcome to the new committee members – Nicholas Gruen, Anton Stampfl, and Jack Strom.

Rebecca Silk has retired as President, but she remains on the committee and will continue to produce the Dunera News. Our thanks go to Rebecca for leading the Association in such an enthusiastic and capable manner. We also would like to thank Selma Seknow for her contribution as Secretary of the Dunera Association. Our new Secretary is Ron Reichwald. We now have seven members based in Melbourne, two in Canberra, two in Sydney, and one in Shepparton, Victoria.

Recently, the Dunera Association lost a good friend in historian Professor Ken Inglis, who passed away in December 2017. Our sincere condolences to his family and friends. Ken has had a long association with the history of the Dunera and completed a tremendous amount of research on the Dunera Boys.

The nature of the Dunera Association has changed over the past few decades (I have been on the committee for about 30 years, having been asked by my late father to join so as to introduce a Dunera descendant to the group). We have evolved from being a social and support organisation to an organiser of reunions and promoter of Dunera history to descendants, family and friends of Dunera Boys. With the passing of many of the Dunera Boys, we would very much like to hear your views on the future role of the Association, and what you would like us to provide.

Contact us or update your details at [duneraboys@gmail.com](mailto:duneraboys@gmail.com) or join our Facebook group – Friends of the Dunera Boys.

I look forward to meeting with you during the year.

*Peter W. Felder*

# Dunera and Singapore Group reunion

Melbourne – 14 November 2017

A lively and well-attended reunion lunch was held at the Kimberley Gardens venue in Melbourne. Amongst the 80 attendees were three Dunera Boys – Bern Brent, Bernard Rothschild and Henry Hirsch.



## Speaker: Seumas Spark

Historian Seumas Spark presented the *Dunera Lives* project – the work undertaken by Professor Ken Inglis, Jay Winter, Carol Bunyan and Seumas on the history of internees from the Dunera and the Queen Mary.

The result of the project, *Dunera Lives: A Visual History*, will be published by Monash University Publishing in two volumes in July 2018: Volume 1 – an illustrated history, Volume 2 – the life stories.

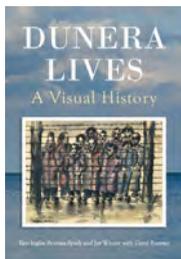
Ken Inglis started preparing the work on the project in 2008, as a new history of particular internees. He wanted, Seumas said, to expand on the post-war lives of internees as well as the internment experience. In researching the work, they had interviewed many internees and their descendants, and are grateful that the families responded in a most generous and forthcoming manner.

Seumas highlighted some elements of the story of Dunera Boy, Gerd Sostheim. Gerd was sent on a Kindertransport to England prior to internment. All his family in Germany died in the Holocaust. After the war, Gerd lived a quiet life in Melbourne, never speaking about his past. The challenge Seumas said was how to do justice to such stories of relatively uneventful lives of Dunera men and Queen Mary families, both the unremarkable as well as the more well known.

Seumas also highlighted the phenomenon of stories having multiple versions. For example, he explained that the “hold the rifle on the train” story had variations depending on who told it. This is the story recounted by many Dunera men when they were disembarked in Sydney. They encountered an attitude of friendliness from the Australian guards. The story was that one of the guards apparently asked the prisoner internee to hold their rifle whilst he went for a cigarette/toilet/meal break. Another Dunera story with variations in the telling is in regards to who claimed to be either the oldest or youngest in their camp or hut or group.

In concluding, Seumas honoured Ken Inglis and said that thanks to this “humble and humane scholar” we know more than ever about Dunera Lives.

For more details on the publication of *Dunera Lives* – [www.publishing.monash.edu/books](http://www.publishing.monash.edu/books)



The hardworking Dunera Association Committee at the AGM held prior to the lunch.



## Dunera and Singapore Group reunion



### Speaker: Eva de Jong-Duldig

Eva presented her recently published book *Driftwood: Escape and survival through art*. The book is the story of the lives of her parents, sculptor Karl Duldig and artist Slawa Horowitz-Duldig, as they were forced to make their way with infant Eva from Vienna to Singapore, to internment in Tatura, and to later lives in Melbourne.

Eva noted that her book is the first to cover the experiences of the Queen Mary internees who were sent to Australia from Singapore. The title *Driftwood* came from the feeling that her family was floating, like driftwood.

The story spans three continents and three generations, and 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.

Eva mentioned some key moments in her family's story. One such moment was when her father felt the loss of freedom as they were removed suddenly from the comfortable life they had made in Singapore and interned on St John's Island, then later sent to Australia on the Queen Mary which was fitted out as a troop transport ship during the war.

Eva told the audience about how Karl made art works wherever he was. She recounted how, when doing the wood chopping in camp, Karl asked the authorities if he could use some of the wood for carving. In this way the iconic mother and child sculpture was first created. Karl was continually inspired by his surroundings and used the material that was available to him.



While the dislocation and sadness of leaving family behind in Vienna and then Singapore were immense, Eva explained how the fall of Singapore in 1942 affected the Queen Mary families who were interned in Tatura. They realised, she said, that internment and transportation to Australia had in fact saved their lives.

Her book ends with, "The Duldig Studio is a testimony to Australia, our adopted homeland, where my parents could re-build their shattered lives and where I could grow up in a healthy and peaceful environment."

*Driftwood*, published by Arcadia.  
It is available at – [www.duldig.org.au](http://www.duldig.org.au)

Rebecca Silk



More images from the lunch are on the Friends of the Dunera Boys Facebook page.

# Driftwood

By Eva de Jong-Duldig

Following is an extract from the book which touches upon the experience of the Dunera Boys. *Driftwood* received a Commendation in the Victorian Community History Awards 2017.

## Chapter 12

In Compound 'B' were hundreds of able-bodied single men. Like the group from Singapore, most of them were Jewish refugees who had fled from Nazi oppression in Germany and Austria. They had been detained and interned in England and then transported to Australia on a British ship, the Dunera. During this voyage, they experienced deprivation and were subjected to considerable maltreatment before eventually arriving in Australia shortly before us in September 1940. At first they were sent to a camp in Hay, New South Wales, but later they were transferred to Tatura and occupied the compound adjacent to ours. Indeed it was sometimes amusing to watch the young male internees from Compound 'B' communicate with some of the young women from the Singapore group. Separated as they were by two barbed wire fences and with soldiers marching up and down the corridor between them, it was extraordinary that one such relationship lasted well beyond Tatura and the couple later married.

Darwin had been bombed, the threat of a Japanese invasion of Australia was real, and every able-bodied Australian was needed in the consummate war effort. Australian troops who returned from deployment in the Middle East were immediately dispatched to serve in the islands bordering Australia's north and were also deployed to defend the Australian mainland, should there be an invasion. As a result there was a critical shortage of manpower on the home front to service essential local services and industries. Like the Singapore internees, the Dunera group had also constantly agitated the authorities about the injustice of their internment and their genuine desire to serve the war effort. Eventually, the Australian and British authorities realised that these able-bodied and willing 'internees' could be gainfully employed in the war effort.

**"A treasure trove."**

—Emeritus Professor Ken Inglis AO



# Fritz Sternhell

By Christine Kanzler and Elisabeth Lebensaft

*"Vienna is my home city and I have remained Viennese through and through."*

15 March 1939: a Kindertransport arrives in London's Liverpool Street Station, full of Viennese refugee children who have been classified as Jewish according to the National Socialist Nuremberg Laws. Their foster parents are already waiting to welcome their charges. But nobody is waiting there for fourteen-year-old Fritz Sternhell; teenagers, especially boys, are less popular with those willing to help.

Until a year previously, Fritz Sternhell had led the carefree life of a bourgeois middle-class child in his home city of Vienna, even though his originally wealthy family had been hard hit by the world economic crisis of the late 1920s.

Fritz attended the Gymnasium in the Wasagasse, but had no great liking for school. Most of his teachers were unable to kindle his interest, and Fritz loathed the way the authoritarian influence of the Austro-Fascist regime extended even into the educational establishments. Hence he took every chance to stay away from school, roaming through the streets of Vienna. He often visited the museums, and he was especially fond of the Technical Museum.



Austria's Anschluss to Nazi Germany in March 1938 radically changed the lives of Fritz and his family. Until then, they had not attached any importance to their Jewish background and had not been religiously active, but suddenly they found themselves excluded from society. As a result, Fritz hardly went to school. He continued his rambles through Vienna and witnessed the reprisals against the city's Jewish population, observing how people threw themselves out of windows in despair. He himself was more or less spared. He was only apprehended during the November pogrom along with other Jews, and forced to wash dishes in a barracks, but afterwards they were released. The most painful fact for him was, however, that Vienna was no longer "his" city; as a Jew, he was not even permitted to sit on public benches in the parks.

Fritz's brothers had fled to Switzerland immediately after the Anschluss. Writing from there, the elder brother begged his father to send Fritz abroad. With a heavy heart, Bernhard Sternhell finally agreed, and organised a place on a Kindertransport to England for his youngest son. On the evening of 13 March 1939 he took him to the Westbahnhof, where they were to see each other for the last time.

After arriving in London, Fritz was first taken to the reception centre in Dovercourt Bay; after this, having been taught some English, the boy – who was still a minor – was sent into employment. He worked in a sweatshop in Wellingborough,

providing unskilled labour for a low wage. When he encouraged his fellow factory workers to organise themselves into a union, he was fired – which he did not regret.

Soon afterwards, his life was to change drastically yet again; following the decision to intern enemy aliens, on 12 May 1940, he and the other refugees were taken from their hostel to the police station in Ipswich. Fritz had only just turned 16. Assertions that they would be back home in a few hours proved false; he was interned first in Liverpool, then in Huyton and finally on the Isle of Man. When the rumour came up that transports of internees to Canada were being put together, Fritz was eager to join; after all, his brothers were now living in the USA. On the night of 10 July 1940, he was bundled onto the *Dunera*, along with about 2000 other refugees from the Third Reich as well as German and Italian civilian internees and prisoners of war.

The *Dunera* was more than 50 percent over capacity, and conditions on board begged description. There was a severe lack of space as well as catastrophic sanitary and hygienic conditions. In addition, the refugees also had to put up with the abuse and repeated lootings of the British guards. However, many of them still believed they were on their way to Canada, but the rising temperatures eventually led them to realise that the ship was on a completely different course; its destination was the British Dominion of Australia.

Fritz resigned himself to the unfortunate situation with the carefree attitude of a 16-year-old; furthermore, an older fellow internee, the German pediatrician Ernst Wasser, took him under his wing. For the boy, the doctor became something like a substitute father, while for Dr. Wasser, Fritz became a replacement for his daughter of the same age, whom he missed badly. The friendship between the two was to continue in the refugee camp.

After a voyage of almost two months, the *Dunera* finally reached the Australian continent. The majority of the refugees, including Fritz Sternhell, were transported from Sydney to the internment camp at Hay in the Australian outback; their journey ended on 7 September 1940.

In fact two camps awaited the men, surrounded by triple barbed wire and fortified with searchlights and machine guns, all in extreme climate conditions. Despite this, Fritz mainly remembers the positive aspects of life in the camp. He liked the food, there was enough of everything, and the cooks – most of them Austrian – were excellent. What is more, he had a proper bed again at last, even though it had a sack of straw instead of a mattress. He carried out various tasks, in the laundry or gardening, for example. Besides a camp school and other opportunities for further education in a great range of subjects, there was also entertainment, music and sports, all organised by the internees themselves.

In May 1941, Fritz and the other refugees were moved to the camp in Tatura, and in July 1942 he was released and allowed to return to Britain on the *Themistocles*.

Back in England, he was eager to contribute to the fight against National Socialist Germany, but because he was too young for the army, he first worked for the Ministry of Agriculture, digging drainage ditches around airfields. In 1943 he was assigned to the Royal Armoured Corps. He spent the last years of the Second World War and the first postwar years in the Middle East, Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon, finally returning to England. Before being demobbed in 1947, he was an interpreter in a POW camp in the Cotswolds.

During his time in the military he met Lore Zimmermann, six years his junior and from a Communist German family. Lore had fled to Prague and managed to get from there to Britain on a Kindertransport, too. In 1948 the two were married.

Fritz Sternhell quickly established himself in civilian life. More by coincidence than design, he landed in a factory producing wooden toys and later, furniture. Even though he did not have any regular qualifications, he was soon able to rise to a management position thanks to his powers of observation and organisational talent. He retired from business at the age of sixty.

He never saw his parents again. They had tried to get to Budapest using forged papers but they never arrived. It is believed that they were attacked and murdered on the way.

Besides business trips to Central Europe, Fritz Sternhell also repeatedly visited his home city of Vienna from the mid-1950s onwards. The alleys and streets he roamed as a schoolchild are still as familiar to him now as they were when he was fourteen; perhaps he would have liked to live there again, had he not been rooted in England with Lore and his two daughters. His German has kept its Viennese ring; he now has Austrian citizenship once more as well as British. He revisited his old school, the Wasagymnasium, where a plaque commemorates the expelled pupils. There he spoke with the students and tried to convey to them what it was like back then.

He acknowledges “his” city time and again: “The Viennese language, Viennese manners, that is something that means home to me.”

**Translated by Margaret Hiley and Marion Trestler**

This is an extract from the article *Vienna – London: Passage to Safety. Emigré portraits in photographs and words*, Vienna 2017. Edited by Marion Trestler. Many thanks to Marion for the permission to use the article.



Fritz and Lore Sternell.

# Gustav Lederer

23 April 1878 – 28 October 1951

By grandson Eytan Lederer

Gustav Lederer (Hebrew name: David), was born on 23 April 1878 in Zwittau (Svitavy) Moravia, now in the Czech Republic and at the time within the Austro-Hungarian Empire. His parents were the merchant and businessman Julius (Yehuda) Lederer and Sophie (born Janovski).

When Gustav was 2 years old, the family moved to Vienna. He studied Chemistry at the Technologisches Gewerbemuseum. He graduated in 1895 and was awarded a silver-medal as the outstanding student.

Following graduation and until 1903 Gustav worked at the Jungbunzlauer Spiritusfabrik, a big factory in Jungbunzlau (Mlada Boleslav), Bohemia. The factory was owned by the family of August and Emil Lederer (no family relation to our Lederer family). He started as a chemist, and was then promoted to "Betriebsleiter" (Superintendent).

During this period he also served as an officer in the Austro-Hungarian army for a cumulative period of 14 months until the end of 1903.

In about 1903 Gustav went to the USA, where he worked first as a chemist and then as superintendent of the beet-sugar factory at Owosso, Michigan. Gustav was very happy in the USA, but returned to Vienna about 1908 in order to be near his aging parents. He had visited Vienna a few times during his years in the USA.



Gustav Lederer, 1929.

On 11 February 1909, Gustav married Erna Mendel (Mendl), daughter of Siegmund and Therese Mendel (Mendl), a young successful graphic artist. Their two children, Fritz Siegmund (Fred) and Karl Theodor were born on 12 January 1910 and 15 July 1912, respectively. About 1911 the family acquired and moved into the house in Lannerstrasse 12 in Döbling, Vienna.

Gustav was a director in factories producing starch, syrup and beet-sugar in Slovakia, Hungary and Austria. The biggest enterprise was the construction and the running of the beet-sugar factory in Nitra (Slovakia). He was the director of the Chynoranyer Kartoffel- und Flachs-Aufbereitungs AG in Chynorany by Neutra (Nitra).

During World War I, Gustav was called up to the Austrian army and served as an officer with the rank of Oberleutnant at Knittelfeld, Styria, a huge area of Russian POW camps. His family joined him there for a holiday during the summer of 1915.

During or shortly after the war, his company rented the agricultural farm of Furst Odelschani in Slovakia.

In 1928 the family bought and moved into a big villa at Scheibengasse 12 at Hohe Warte, Döbling. Gustav visited Palestine for the first time in 1932, accompanied by his son Karl (who had been there already the year before), and there he met well-known figures of Zionist history, such as Yehoshua Hankin and Colonel Kish.

Gustav was a member of the Zionist Herzl-Klub in Vienna. He was among the supporters of the "General Zionists" party in elections for the Zionist congress in 1935, together with his brother Heinrich. Both brothers were among contributors to Keren Kajemet.

Having divorced from Erna, Gustav married Nora Anna Josefine Maria Tobisch von Labotyn (born Krassel von Traissenberg) on 8 September 1934. They had no children together. Nora had a daughter from a previous marriage, Lotte. Lotte wrote very fondly about her stepfather, Gustav.

In 1935–36 Gustav initiated and built a starch production factory in Aschach.

It took Gustav a long time before he realised the danger of staying in Vienna, even after the Anschluss. But eventually, on 26 May 1938, Gustav and Nora divorced and he left Austria. This arrangement was done partially to save their assets from Aryanisation. Nora and Gustav still met a few times in Europe, at great risk for Nora, until World War II broke out.

Gustav visited Karl in Palestine, but did not stay there. In years to come, during the war, Gustav greatly regretted not staying with Karl. From Palestine, Gustav



Gustav in uniform, World War I.

continued to Prague. Following a friend's warning, they left Prague just in time, a few hours before the German invasion. Via Strasbourg, Gustav reached England where his brothers Heinrich and Robert were already staying.

Following the retreat of the British Expeditionary force from Dunkirk, and as a result of fear of German spies in England, thousands of Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria were rounded up and interned in camps. Among them was Gustav, who was arrested on 25 June 1940. Many of the detainees, among them was Gustav and his young nephew Georg Lederer, were deported under terrible conditions on the infamous transport ship, the "Dunera" which took them to POW camps in Australia. He was told the ship was destined for Canada.

Gustav was interned in Australia until November 1941. He was one of the oldest detainees and his health deteriorated during his internment. Georg, who was interned with him, and the Lederers who were living in Australia, did their best to help Gustav.

Gustav, his son Fred in the USA, and his younger brother Wilhelm in Australia, all tried to obtain his release. Finally, at the end of November 1941, Gustav was released. He left Australia and travelled to Havana, Cuba, where he waited for a visa to the USA. He joined Fred and his family in New York, and there he worked as a chemist and consultant at a syrup and candy factory. In 1946 Gustav was employed as plant superintendent and production manager at the Cereal Products Company.

On 11 September 1946, Gustav and Nora remarried in Nitra, they met Karl in Prague. Later, Nora joined Gustav in New York.

Having lost his job in New York in 1947, they went to Puerto Rico where Gustav worked as a consultant to a project to build a coconut factory near San Juan.

In 1949 Gustav and Nora returned to Vienna to their old house in Lannerstrasse 12. Gustav took over and directed the starch factory at Aschach. Later, as his health deteriorated, he sold the factory.

On 28 October 1951, Gustav died of a heart attack in Vienna. His ashes were buried in the family grave in the Döbling cemetery.



Gustav Lederer. Signature looks like "Robert Hofmann, December 1940".

## Ernst Winter – Portrait of a Dunera Boy

By Elisabeth Lebensaft and Antonia Lehn

### Early Years in Vienna

Ernst Winter was born in Vienna on 7 November 1904 into a well-to-do secularised Jewish family. His father, Julius Winter, was also born there, in 1867, son to Jakob and Johanna (née Kann) Winter. Julius was a salesman, later becoming an umbrella sales representative and Vice-President of the Wiener Kaufmännischer Verein (Vienna Commercial Society). In 1929, he was given the well-respected title of "Kommerzialrat" (Commercial Councillor).

On 14 May 1903, Julius married Stefanie Aufricht from Silesia. Ernst, their only child, was born the following year. The marriage ended after only 10 years with Stefanie's death from diabetes at the age of 30. Insulin was not to be discovered for another decade. Soon afterwards, Julius married again. His new wife, Luise Steiner, became a caring stepmother to Ernst.

Ernst was born with a withered right arm and a webbed right hand. He was operated on when he was aged about 10, which meant he had fingers but the whole hand and arm were still quite useless. A natural right-hander, he had to learn to write, eat and perform other functions with his left hand. Fortunately, this did not prevent him from achieving academic and professional success.

From 1915 to 1923, Ernst attended Vienna's oldest gymnasium (secondary school), the renowned Akademische Gymnasium in the first district of Vienna, and afterwards he studied engineering at the Technische Hochschule (the present-day TUW – Technical University of Vienna). He took his final exams there in 1926 and 1930. After that he was entitled to call himself "Ingenieur" (later "Diplom-Ingenieur").

Following graduation, he continued to attend lectures to further his education. He was employed in a research laboratory from November 1931 until August 1933. In September 1933, he decided to seek work in Palestine, presumably because of the poor economic and tense political situation in Austria at that time.

### Interlude in Palestine

In Palestine, then a British protectorate, he met up with his friend Gertrude (Trude) Adler who came from a respectable Jewish family. Her father, Dr Emil Adler, was Director of the Jewish Community of Vienna. Born in 1905, Trude was a graduate of the Jewish Religious Teachers Seminary and had also completed courses in Individual Psychology with the renowned psychotherapist Alfred Adler. Prior to her



Stefanie Winter (nee Aufricht).

## Ernst Winter – Portrait of a Dunera Boy

emigration to Palestine, she had taught Jewish Religious Studies at Viennese secondary schools. Following their marriage in Jerusalem in August 1934, Ernst and Trude lived with friends in Tel Aviv. Ernst was also able to obtain employment, including as a technical expert for machinery and electronics, as well as for assessing cases of fire and theft. He was one of the founding associates of Migdal Insurance Co. Ltd in 1935 (still in existence although now merged with another insurance company) as their representative for such cases.

He was also a member of the Zionist Organisation in Tel Aviv. In Austria, he had supported the Social Democrats and the socialist labour leader Koloman Wallisch.

### Things are becoming critical

Ernst returned to Vienna with his wife in September 1936 and tried to establish himself professionally. In March 1937 he found a position as an inspector with the Anglo-Elementar Versicherungs-AG (an Austrian insurance company), with responsibility for various insurance sectors. However, the annexation (“Anschluss”) of Austria to the German Empire in March 1938 also proved a turning point in his life. He was dismissed from Anglo-Elementar at the end of June 1938, albeit with good employment references.

The situation reached a crisis point when he was forced to leave his apartment and all furnishings in Vienna’s 9th district at short notice as part of the November Pogrom; he had to live with his father for the rest of his stay in Austria.

During these months he put all his efforts into organising for his wife and himself to leave the country. He obtained an affidavit for the USA from a cousin who had emigrated there, but it was insufficient for the American authorities. His physical disability was a further reason; however, this did not prevent the British from interning him and deporting him to Australia at a later date.

### Flight and Internment

Only at the end of June 1939 did he manage to get to Great Britain on a permit as a trainee draughtsman and initially lived in Enfield and then in West Bromwich. However, all attempts to have his wife join him from Austria failed, as well as his continued attempts to gain entry to the USA.



Gertrude Winter  
(nee Adler).

Ernst Winter, 1936.  
Photo taken in Palestine.

Like all the other refugees, the outbreak of the war caught up with Ernst in England. Based on his interrogation before a tribunal he was allocated to Category C, which initially allowed him freedom of movement. However, fuelled by a fear of a fifth column, mass internment commenced in May 1940, with Ernst as one of the victims. He was detained in West Bromwich at the end of June 1940 and interned under deplorable conditions in Camp Huyton near Liverpool, prior to being transported to Australia via the infamous Dunera.



Ernst Winter, c.1943.  
After his release.

### To Australia never to return

On 10 July 1940, Ernst Winter, together with over 2000 refugees mostly from Germany and the former Austria, forcibly embarked in Liverpool, initially to an unknown destination. Following a two-month journey on the Dunera under catastrophic conditions, he disembarked in Sydney with the majority of his fellow travellers who shared his fate. He was subsequently sent by rail to the newly-established internment camp at Hay, in the outback of New South Wales. He remained in Camp 8 until May 1941 before being moved to Camp 2 at Tatura, in Victoria.

As had already been the case on the Dunera, the camp administration quickly facilitated self-management among the refugees who established an active cultural and intellectual life. Especially important were the camp schools which offered scientific as well as practical courses, these were of particular benefit to the younger refugees whose education had been disrupted. Ernst not only attended some functions, but also gave presentations and taught courses on technical subjects. Furthermore, he was an active participant in the organisation of the Camp School University, in Hay as well as in Tatura, where he was the Secretary of the Camp School for several months.

He was permitted to leave Tatura on parole in August 1942 to take up a position as mechanical engineer with Red Point Tool Company in Melbourne, having been denied a position with the 8th Employment Company due to his physical disability. He left the following year to work as a senior draughtsman with John Buncle & Son prior to moving to the CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, now the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, CSIRO) at the University of Melbourne.

After the war Ernst decided to remain in Australia, where he was naturalised in 1946. He had desperately sought the whereabouts of his wife Gertrude, for whom



Ernst Winter and Edna Evelyn Johnson, c.1945.



Ernst Winter at 74. Canberra 1978.

he had also applied for Australian citizenship, without knowing that she had died some time before. She had been deported to the concentration camp Theresienstadt from Vienna, together with her parents-in-law Julius and Luise, on 24 September 1942, and from there to the extermination camp Auschwitz on 23 October 1944. Julius Winter died of starvation in Theresienstadt in 1943, aged 76. His widow, Ernst's stepmother Luise, was moved to Auschwitz in the following year. She and other relatives were all murdered during the Holocaust.

After leaving the CSIR in 1947, Ernst worked for Melbourne Harbour Trust until 1953. He subsequently joined the Commonwealth Government's Patents Office until 1955 prior to moving to the Commonwealth Department of Supply, the national government department whose functions included organising and planning equipment and machinery for the military and some civil works. He retired on 6 November 1969, at the compulsory retirement age of 65.



Ernst Winter second from right. Melbourne 1951.

Ernst Winter married again in 1947. With Edna Evelyn Johnson he had two children, a son Geoffrey Julian and a daughter Joan Gertrude. In recent years, Geoff has taken a leading role, including as treasurer, on the committee of the Dunera Association which is dedicated to the memory of the Dunera Boys.

Ernst died in Melbourne on 24 January 1984. Driven from his hometown of Vienna, he had found a second, final home in Australia. He never returned to Austria.

## VALE – Ken Inglis 1929–2017



*Extract from a talk given by Ken Inglis, Historian, at the State Library of Victoria on 14 April 2011*

When the Hay internees reached the greener landscape of Tatura in May 1941 they found a similar range of cultural activities well established. Here they could enrol in the so called Collegium Tatutense – the Latin title affirming a mission to transplant the culture of Berlin and Vienna, the “Bildung”, that sense of values and a cultural ethos to the Australian bush.

Cultural life in the camps is among the aspects of the internees story recorded in three valuable books: the *Dunera Internees* (1979) by Benzion Patkin, *The Dunera Scandal* (1983) by Cyril Pearl, and *The Dunera Affair A Resource Book* (1990) by Paul Bartrop and Gabrielle Eisen.

Why have I decided to write another book on the subject? A lot of new material has come to light in the last two decades including diaries, letters, memoirs and testimonies.

And I have a more personal reason for wanting to take up the story. Returning to Melbourne after 50 years away and remembering my childhood and youth in this city, I have found myself thinking of the Dunera Boys I knew. Of all the marvels awaiting a 17-year-old lad from the suburbs at the University of Melbourne in 1947 none has stayed more vividly in my mind than the presence of these exotic Europeans. Queen’s College where I lived had three of them and it was probably there that I first heard the word Dunera.



Ken Inglis, c.1960s.

With the death on 1 December 2017 of Ken Inglis, Australia lost one of its most original historians and our profession one of its most admired members.

On 12 December a large gathering of family and friends celebrated his life in tributes, memories, poetry and song at Queen’s College, University of Melbourne, where he began his academic life as student and tutor in the 1940s. The November issue of *History Australia* carried articles reviewing aspects of his remarkable career, and his own last article. A book based on contributions to the colloquium held in his honour in December 2016 will appear in 2018. Much more will be said about his life and influence; here I offer a summary of his most significant contributions.

Kenneth Stanley Inglis was born in Melbourne in 1929 and, after education in

state schools, he joined the remarkable cohort of history students at the University of Melbourne – it included Geoffrey Blainey, John Mulvaney and Michael Roe – who would transform the writing of Australian history over the following five decades. From his teachers – Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Max Crawford and Manning Clark – he absorbed a sense of history as a high moral, scientific and literary endeavour. As a boy, he fell in love with the written word and resolved to master it; his mature writing was simple, musical and eloquent. With his first wife, anthropologist Judy (Betheras), he was drawn towards the study of religion, in both its Christian and more secular modes. His Oxford doctoral thesis, later published as *Churches and the Working Classes* (1963) was among the first sociologically-informed histories of English religion.

Inglis’s 1964 paper *The Anzac Tradition* (‘the first serious modern study of Anzac’, according to Geoffrey Serle) inspired a generation of historians and began a personal journey that concluded 35 years later in his masterly book *Sacred Places: War Memorials in the Australian Landscape* (1998). His interest in the history of the press and broadcasting, evident in two volumes on the history of the ABC, a book on the history of the journal *Nation*, hundreds of contributions to the press, and his seemingly insatiable appetite for print and broadcast sound, grew from a deep commitment to public values and democratic politics.

As notable as Inglis’s writing, however, was his influence, as teacher, colleague and friend. His imagination, modesty, humour and sincere interest in his fellow human beings were inspiring. Born into a Presbyterian family, he shed Christian orthodoxy but retained a sense of altruistic service that led him to write in defence of Aboriginal man Max Stuart, in his 1958 book *The Stuart Case*, become the first professor of history, and vice-chancellor, in the University of Papua New Guinea, inspire his colleagues to join the Australian Bicentennial History Project – the largest such collaborative history project attempted in Australia – and appeal for the history of Australia’s frontier wars to be included in the Australian War Memorial.

Inglis’s commitment to history as a craft, and as a way of viewing the world, was life-long and complete. Even when frailty and weakness finally overtook him, he persevered with his last project, a history of the Dunera Boys, the boatload of mainly Jewish refugees interned by the Australian government in 1940 from which emerged many of Australia’s postwar intellectual elite. Perhaps he saw it as a lesson for an Australia closing its borders and sympathies, although, as always with Ken, the moral was gently made. To the end, he remained curious, reflective, droll and keenly interested in the lives and thoughts of everyone around him. He was, quite simply, a wise and good man who chose to be a historian.

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Life got poorer on 1 December 2017. A giant of mind and humanity died. We mourn a father, friend, colleague, and take comfort from a momentous legacy. You heard Jay thank Ken. A life less without him, a shadow. That speaks for us all. I took no academic step without Ken's help, neither personally with references, nor mentally as Ken enriched my Australia. I am honoured to thank him here.

I first heard Ken use words at the ANU in 1963, when he taught American History. The words came from documents, from running amok with a book, and from exploring Mother's Day or Thanksgiving or some other curious US innovation. Always afterwards a trickle of students headed for the Library to get more on what he'd been talking about.

He would quote a phrase, show what mattered in it, then leave a question about it hanging in the mind. After observing that Melbourne's Shrine is the world's biggest war memorial, he asked, "Why, I wonder, is Melbourne's monument so much grander and more visible than Sydney's?", then added two more questions [Wilcox 174]. A reader must pause at a question mark; Ken speaking would make that pause, a slight twist of mouth suggesting that here his listeners might wonder.

Early in 1965 I learnt that Ken was going on the jubilee return to Gallipoli – a "pilgrimage" to a "Holy Land", he called it in the *Canberra Times*. Until then I had met no academic interested in the First AIF. My Australian History course had omitted 1914–18 and 1939–45, and Manning Clark had accepted a First AIF topic for my honours thesis only tolerantly, and got me a supervisor from RMC Duntroon (whom I didn't meet until 2002). Ken gave me an immeasurable boost. Here was someone who thought my subject important, and who spoke of it in ways I had not imagined. This was life-changing for me, and pretty soon for Australia.

In 1966 Ken became UPNG's first history professor, but couldn't go, so got me as a one-year stand-in. Life-changing again. He came to look round, and we were refused entry to the Boroko Hotel dining room because we wore sandals or thongs and shorts, so our legs weren't covered enough. Could we wear shorts, shoes and long socks?, Ken asked. Yes. So *this* part of the legs (above the socks) is acceptable, but *this* part (below) is not? It was the only time I saw Ken angry.

Why did he go to PNG? Manning Clark worked hard to secure his ANU professorship, and was miffed by his defection. PNG was wonderful: a beautiful country, the people of 900 languages on the cusp of political change, each day stimulating, but none of us knew that in 1965. "[F]or the education of a historian", Ken later remarked, "the gains of living on the edge of such a different world, at such a time, were large" [Wilcox 115]. But he didn't know that beforehand either, as anthropologists or geographers might have.

In 1972 Ken followed John Gunther as UPNG Vice-Chancellor. Why? It was no

pleasure. Did the man who wrote so well on Britain's churches and working classes, I wonder, feel a duty, a Christian duty, or rather a duty at the point where religion and humanism touch? I doubt he liked the job, and coming to see him was like waiting at the doctor's: you never knew how long you might be outside, or inside. That doesn't sound like Ken does it? Yet he was a popular VC, successfully fending off staff, student and politician Vikings.

Still he explored Anzac's feeling and import. "Glad we are to be back with the boys", wrote a soldier back from hospital in 1915. Apart from anticipating *Star Wars*, that sentence couldn't be more straightforward. Ken ran with it: from the soldiers' steady shift from civilian norms towards the battalion as home, to the havoc of war even among those who survived it, to the great post-war divide world-wide between those who fought in the war and those who did not. Never again will we think of Australia as we did before Ken; never again will world scholars ignore the rituals of war, death, and memory.

Ken also liked that soldier's sentence because it put first the key word "glad". There it catches the eye much more than the conventional "we are glad to be back with the boys." Ken often put his key word first. "Australians was our title", he recalled of the Bicentennial History [Wilcox 174]. His writing skills included those of a good journalist. He thought of being one, and with *The Stuart Case* and his ABC books he was one, except that he wrote more words on each than any media editor could allow. He wrote with economy, clarity and beauty, and remarkably, he spoke that way, off the cuff.

Ken had his faults: he preferred Aussie Rules to Rugby, and, usually, wine to beer. Both declared him a Victorian, the first because Victoria is the heart of the Australian game, the second because Victorian beer is enough to turn anyone off. He was a city man who encompassed the world in things great and small. Who can forget his poems, limericks and singalong ditties, his kindly readiness to help so many who sought his time, his joy in Amirah and their six kids, and their kids, and their kids, his friendships across the world, his brilliance, wit, grace, generosity, empathy and democratic humility. You meet only one Ken in a lifetime, if you're lucky. He is a man to remember for the legacy and inspiration he left, and for the person he was.



Ken Inglis, front row, second from right, at Queen's College. Photo: Ken Inglis

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by Bill Gammage**

## SAVE THE DATES 2018

Tatura Reunion – 15 April

Dunera Hay Reunion – 1–2 September

Dunera Sydney Reunion – 5 September

Melbourne Lunch Reunion – 13 November

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### Dunera Museum at Hay

Carol Bunyan – Volunteer Researcher  
lcb5@bigpond.com

### Dunera Hay tours

David Houston – davidhouston23@bigpond.com

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## IN MEMORY



### Bernard Rothschild

13 Apr 1923 – 30 Jan 2018  
An “amazing father, grandfather, and great grandfather”. His motto was ‘Just Keep Going’, and he did just that.



### Paul Hofman

4 Apr 1924 – 28 Sep 2017  
He was 93, and one of the youngest Dunera boys. He was in Camp 8, Hut 2 at Hay.



### Professor Ken Inglis

7 Oct 1929 – 1 Dec 2017  
An esteemed historian, valued member of and significant contributor to the Dunera community.



### Harry Unger

9 Dec 1921 – 30 Dec 2017  
A true gentleman. We will miss his happy smile at the Dunera reunions.

## Dunera Association Committee 2017–18

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