

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. 95 October 2015



Foundation Editor:

The late Henry Lippmann OAM

Editorial responsibility:

The Committee of the Dunera Association

Letters and articles for publication are welcome.

Email: duneraboys@gmail.com

Cover image:

Bernard Rothschild and Werner Haarburger

75th Anniversary, Hay Dunera weekend.

Hay Railway Station. 5 Sep 2015

Story on page 4

CONTENTS

From the President	3
Dunera 75th Reunion in Hay	4
Speakers: Clive Sondheim, Elisabeth Lebensaft, Steven Guttmann	
Dunera 75th Reunion in Sydney	10
Speaker: Tom Wolf	
Why they didn't tell us?	15
From 'Aliens' to Australians	16
– Remembering Dunera 75 Years On Jewish Museum of Australia	
Notes from sculptor Karl Duldig's Tatura Diary	18
Tribute to – Ernst Wolf	20
Hay – Orange – Sydney 2015	22
Franz Beer by Christine Brown	
Seeking information	24
In Memory	25
Melbourne Reunion Lunch and AGM	26

Many thanks to all the contributors.

Conversations on facebook

We invite you to take a look at our facebook page to see news from the Dunera community around the globe.



Portrait of Julius Spier, approximately 1942.
By Theodor Engel

From: Jennifer Sanders Spier Stern

This portrait of my father hangs in the National Library of Australia in Canberra. It was sketched by Theodor Engel who was at the internment camp.

Many other drawings are on Trove, the site is maintained by the National Library of Australia.

[trove.nla.gov.au/picture/
result?q=dunera&l-australian=y&l-
format=Art+work&s=0](http://trove.nla.gov.au/picture/result?q=dunera&l-australian=y&l-format=Art+work&s=0)



Take a look at the many postings on the 75th Anniversary celebrations at the Hay Dunera weekend.

 **Friends of the Dunera Boys**



Rebecca Silk
President
Dunera Association

From the President

Welcome to our spring edition of the Dunera News for 2015.

We report on our highly successful 75th anniversary reunion events. You will see pictures and first hand reports from a wonderful weekend in Hay where 80 people attended, representing 27 internees. We were thrilled that Dunera Boys Bernard Rothschild and Werner Haarburger were there with their families. We are most grateful to our friends at the Hay Dunera Museum, led by David Houston, for organising the program. A special highlight was the cameo play performed by Hay War **memorial** High School students under the guidance of history teacher Fiona Harrison.

We also report on a lively reunion held in Sydney at the Sydney Jewish Museum, where we welcomed thirty people including Dunera Boy Henry James and his family.

Back in Melbourne, the Jewish Museum of Australia has opened the exhibition *From 'Aliens' to Australians*. We report on a successful collaboration, a wonderful opening preview, and invite anyone, resident or visiting Melbourne, to make sure to see the exhibition. Details on page 16.

The 75th celebrations were of particular significance to Dunera and internee descendants who were attending for the first time. It was especially moving to hear people sharing their stories and making connections.

You will see in this edition the booking form for our reunion Luncheon in Melbourne on 10 November 2015, and, on a separate page, your membership renewal form. This is the only application/renewal we send out, so please support us by renewing your membership so that we can continue to operate.

As usual you can keep in touch or update your details at duneraboys@gmail.com or join our Facebook group, Friends of the Dunera Boys.

I hope you enjoy Dunera News no 95.

Dunera 75th Reunion in Hay

4-6 September 2015



A wonderful reunion weekend was celebrated in Hay. We were honoured to have Dunera Boys Bernard Rothschild and Werner Haarbuerger attending with their families. It was also a delight to welcome from overseas Jonathan Borchard grandson of Ernest Borchard, Steven Guttman son of Karl Guttman, and Christine Brown daughter of Franz Beer.

We also welcomed back historians Elisabeth Lebensaft and Christoph Menschl from Vienna and Ken Inglis with his assistant, Seumas Spark, from the University of Melbourne. Carol Bunyan, principal researcher for the Dunera association and the Hay Dunera Museum, generously gave her time to attendees to show them the kind of information she has collated on Dunera and Singapore group internees.

We are extremely grateful to David Houston and the Hay Dunera Museum committee for their hard work in organising and arranging events that included the re-enactment of the arrival of the internees at the station; the visit to the campsites, obelisk and cemetery; and the screening of **relate** films. The country hospitality and refreshments were generous as always, and allowed people to share many stories and experiences over cups of tea and coffee.

An absolute highlight of the program was the cameo play, written and performed by year 10 students from the Hay War Memorial High School. They managed in the space of 30 minutes to tell the story, showcase well known internees and keep the audience laughing. It was an absolute credit to all involved.

—Rebecca Silk

Editor's note: Dunera Boy Werner Haarbuerger has been a regular attendee at the Hay reunions and this year was no exception. Back in Melbourne only days later he entertained the audience when he spoke at the opening of the exhibition From Aliens to Australians at the Jewish Museum of Australia. Sadly Werner passed away on 16 September 2015. He will be greatly missed and the Association extends sincere sympathies to his family.



© Justin Cooper



A straw poll and count of registrations indicated that there were in attendance:

- 2:** Dunera Boys
- Related to Dunera Boys:
 - **51:** sons/daughters/partners
 - **2:** niece/nephew
 - **8:** grandchildren
 - **2:** great grandchildren
 - 7:** writers/historians
 - 7:** local Hay friends

75 YEARS
DUNERA ANNIVERSARY

Many more comments and pics can be found on Facebook – [Friends of the Dunera Boys.](#)

Speaker: Clive Sondheim

Clive's father, Mike Sondheim, is well known to the Dunera family. Mike was born in 1916 in Dusseldorf, Germany to a family of middle class liberal Jews who considered themselves to have been assimilated. He studied in mechanical engineering in Switzerland. In July 1939, Mike arrived in England to join his parents who had arrived there in March 1939.

Mike was sent on the Dunera and interned in Hay and Tatura. He was a great sportsman and played handball and table tennis in the camps. After his release from internment, he served in the 8th Employment Company, and after he was discharged, he resumed studying and gained a degree in mechanical engineering from Melbourne University.

Mike became involved in Dunera matters in 1990 when he was instrumental, along with then mayor Mick Beckwith, in organising the 50th reunion in Hay. From that time, the Dunera Association became part of Mike's life. Mike maintained contacts with fellow internees around the world as well as with key supporters in Hay and Tatura. Clive said that these contacts and links form a large part of Mike's legacy.

Another part of Mike's legacy are the meticulously kept documents, photos, diaries and correspondence that Mike left. Clive said that Mike was a person of facts and figures rather than someone who dwelt on emotions. In the last line of his memoirs, Clive quotes Mike saying how glad he was to have chosen to stay and make Australia his home. This sense of gratitude rather than resentment perhaps explains why Mike felt he did not need to tell his family the internment story. He simply got on with his new life in Australia.

Speaker: Elisabeth Lebensaft



Elisabeth Lebensaft is a historian from Vienna. She told the reunion gathering how she met Anton Freud, her first Dunera Boy, in 2002 when researching the background to the stories of eight Austrian and German refugees who volunteered to serve with the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) – which Churchill had famously ordered to 'set Europe ablaze'. The stories of the six Austrians and two Germans, including internees, were quite thrilling and led Elisabeth and colleague

Christoph Menschl to research further about the Dunera internees who had escaped from what was known as the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



In all, 719 or one third of the German speaking internees on the Dunera were from Austria. With a grant from the Austrian government, Elisabeth has created a data base on these internees in an effort to reconstruct information about their lives before escape and internment, as well as after the war. There are many difficulties in this work including changes in names, locations of records and so on, however much information has already been compiled.

Elisabeth has published short pieces on Dunera Boys Anton Freud and Fritz Sternhell, and assisted Andreas Maier on his book on Franz Stampfl. (All published in German and available on amazon.de) She expressed gratitude to the many Dunera Boys and family members she interviewed on her last visit in 2013 and especially to the late Mike Sondheim, Erwin Lamm and Walter Travers.

Elisabeth will report as time goes by on this ambitious goal of a history of the Dunera internees from Austria.

Speaker: Steven Guttman

Steven Guttman's father was Karl Guttman. Karl was born in Vienna in 1919 to Jewish parents. He had a comfortable upbringing and graduated in mechanical engineering in 1938. He escaped to London where, along with other boys from his hostel, he was arrested and sent to Australia on the Dunera. After internment in Hay and Tatura, Karl served in the 8th Employment Company and in 1947 joined his mother and sister in San Francisco, US.

Karl became sensitised to issues of racial discrimination once in America. He had some anxious times when he was almost deported by the authorities, and he remained a member of the American Civil Liberties Union who had helped him to beat the deportation in 1954 and become a US citizen.

Karl had a long and successful career in his own engineering company. When the opportunity presented itself, Karl and some colleagues established the Engineering Society Committee for Manpower Training (ESCMT). This group provided training, partly funded by the Federal government, for engineering students from minority backgrounds. Steven told the reunion gathering that it had been his privilege to work with graduates from this program and that the Guttman McIntosh engineering firm eventually included staff from at least 20 different nations.

Steven said that he believed Karl learned certain fundamental principles from his internment experience. Steven believes these included the value of true tolerance of difference as well as collective responsibility for one another. Furthermore, Steven said, Karl practised these principles all his life.



Dunera 75th Reunion in Sydney

9 September 2015

A very lively reunion gathering was held at the Sydney Jewish Museum on September 9. Thirty people attended the event including Dunera Boy Henry James, his wife Muriel and daughter Paula.

- John Ebert spoke about where the Dunera internees went after being released from the camps. He gave some interesting information including the facts that:
- 1141 internees went back to the UK on various ships. Some internees returned to Britain to and some were destined to join the British army. Thirteen internees returned on the HMT Dunera.
 - 551 internees joined the 8th Australian Employment Company.
 - 103 were transferred to other POW camps.

Sadly two returning ships were torpedoed and sank: the Wahroonga on which six Dunera internees died and the Aboosso which sank off the coast of Portugal with the loss of 43 lives, of which were crew members and Dunera internees.

Tom Wolf spoke about his Dunera connection through his late father-in-law Alfred (Fred) Felix Katz. Tom is in the process of constructing a model of the Dunera (scale 1:350) and gave details about the status of the ship before and after WWII.

Jonathan Borchard spoke movingly about his grandfather who was 47-years-old when he was interned in England. Ernst Borchard was on the ship Arandora Star which was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland on her way to Canada. Ernst survived the sinking, but was then put on the Dunera embarked for Australia, and subsequently interned at Tatura, Victoria. Sadly, Ernst drowned on the return voyage on board the Aboosso.

The committee is most grateful to John Ebert for arranging the reunion in Sydney and maintaining the connections and camaraderie among the Sydney group.

—Rebecca Silk



All photos © Jack Strom



Speaker: Tom Wolf

HMT Dunera (1937) – British India Line Troopship



I have a special interest in HMT Dunera, as my late father-in-law, Alfred (Fred) Felix Katz, who was transported in the Dunera from the UK to Australia, arriving in Sydney on 6 September 1940 as an “enemy alien”. I set out to do my research on the Dunera out of respect my for Fred.

Firstly, a little about Fred. Alfred Felix Katz was born in 1924, in Witten-Ruhr, Germany, near Cologne. Fred was sent to the UK on the kindertransport and got caught up in the “bag’em all”

order. From his date of birth one can surmise that he was one of the youngest Dunera Boys. He was a member of the 8th Employment Company and he was discharged from the Army in 1946. By this time he was stationed in/around Melbourne where he met Annie Lemish and they married, had two children, Sandra and Alan. Sandy married me and we moved to Sydney. Alan still lives in Melbourne.

I have had to piece this together as Fred would not talk about either his family (who all perished in the Holocaust) or his Dunera experiences.



The Dunera was a special purpose troopship completed by Barclay, Curle and Co. of Glasgow in 1937, she was a sister ship of the Dilwarra which had been completed the year before.

The ship belonged to the British India Steam Navigation Co. and was fitted out to be used by its owners to carry large numbers of troops, but she was also suitable for use as a high class passenger liner and to carry cargo.

She was owned by British India but was converted to become a chartered troopship, so she was given the descriptive title “HMT” (Hired Military Transport).

The standard livery of British troopships in 1937 was a white hull with a broad blue stripe and a buff funnel and there are many photographs of the Dunera in this livery, but for some reason (possibly to avoid the ship being identified in wartime on the open seas as a troopship), by 1940 the livery was a black and white hull, white superstructure and a buff funnel and photographs taken during WWII establish this to be fact.

On 10 July 1940, 2,542 detainees, all classified as “enemy aliens”, were embarked onto Dunera at Liverpool. They included 200 Italian and 251 German prisoners of war, as well as several dozen Nazi sympathisers, along with 2,036 anti-Nazis, most



8th Employment Company

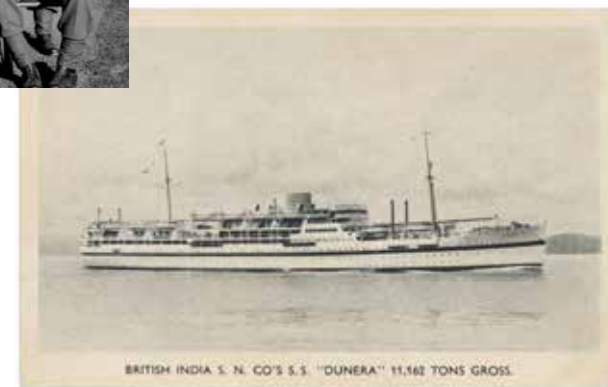
Albury 1942.

Left to right.

Back row: Strauss, Ernst Wolf, Kurt Leiser, Alfred Felix Katz

Front row: Gerald May, Walter Epstein, Gunter Hartwig, Albert Katz

Editor's note: If anyone can identify the person noted as “Strauss”, please contact us by email. duneraboys@gmail.com



of them Jewish refugees aged between 16 and 45 years. In addition to the passengers were 309 poorly trained British guards, mostly from the Pioneer Corps (mostly soldiers who were not fit for active service), as well as seven officers and the ship’s crew, creating a total complement of almost twice the Dunera’s capacity as a troop carrier of almost 1,600.

The voyage lasted 57 days. The conditions were appalling. Apart from overcrowding on the ship with the attendant problems of hygiene and harsh treatment of the passengers by the guards and the crew members, the journey was also made unpleasant by the fear of torpedo attacks, the uncertainty of the destination, and by tensions between Jewish refugees and Nazi passengers. The situation on board shocked everyone when the Dunera docked in Darling Harbour, Sydney on 6 September 1940 and the brutality and conduct of the British guards came to be the subject of a Court Martial set up to deal with the conduct of the officers and soldiers.

HMT Dunera’s next notable services were the Madagascar operations in September 1942, the Sicily landings in July 1943 and in September 1944, she carried the headquarters staff for the US 7th Army for the invasion of southern France. After the Japanese surrender in 1945, Dunera transported occupation forces to Japan. At some time between 1940 and 1946 her livery was changed once again to drab grey.

Dunera 75th Reunion in Sydney

Speaker: Tom Wolf

In 1950/1951, Dunera was refitted by Barclay, Curle and Co. to improve her to postwar troopship specifications, and the standard livery was reintroduced in time for her to carry troops home from the Korean conflict.

The Ministry of Defence terminated Dunera's trooping charter in 1960 and she was refitted by Palmers Shipbuilding and Iron Company at Hebburn-on-Tyne in early 1961 for her new role as an educational cruise ship. In November 1967 she was sold and scrapped at Bilbao.

I decided to make the model at the scale of 1:350, and to make the model as she was on 6 September 1940, the date when the German and Austrian internees arrived in Sydney. Fortunately both the Dunera and her sister ships the Dilwara, the Ettrick and the Devonshire are well documented in the Shipbuilding and Shipping Records for the time of their respective completion between 1936 and 1939 and detailed plans are readily available.

I must acknowledge all the research, energy, enthusiasm and effort put into this project by my friend Michael Bennett who has agreed to build a Dunera model at the scale of 1:600 as a joint project with mine. I am truly grateful to Michael for making this project something other than a pipedream.

HMT DUNERA SPECIFICATIONS

Builder: Barclay, Curle and Co. Ltd, Glasgow
Launched: 10 May 1937
In service: 25 August 1937
Out of service: 1967
Homeport: London
Fate: Scrapped – 1967, Bilbao



General characteristics

Class & type: Troopship, educational cruise ship
Tonnage: 11,161 gross; 6,634 net; 3,819 metric tons deadweight (DWT)
Length: 516 ft 10 in (157.53 m)
Beam: 63 ft 3 in (19.28 m)
Draught: 23 ft 5 in (7.14 m)
Propulsion: Two five cylinder 2SCSA Doxford-type opposed piston oil engines, 11,880 bhp, twin screws
Speed: 16 knots
Capacity: 104 First Class, 100 Second Class and 164 Third Class passengers, and 1,157 troops.

Why didn't they tell us?

Henry Lippmann – excerpt from Dunera News vol.1, no.2

While some internees spoke in passing (some wrote) about their escape and internment experiences, many did not. So the question, "why not?" is often asked by family members. Indeed some family members learn of their father, uncle or grandfather's experiences only after the Dunera or internee relative has died.

Perhaps part of the answer can be found in excerpts from a piece written by the late Henry Lippmann (founder of the Dunera News) in volume 1, edition 2, Dunera News of November 1984.

In the early days of our freedom in Australia we were regarded differently from what we are today. There was a reason for this. Although we served in the Australian army we were still classified as enemy aliens. Even after we were granted permanent residence and became naturalised we were still considered more or less bloody foreigners.

We often tried to hide our true identity, almost as if we were ashamed of what we were. Wogs, reffos, Germans and Jews were the types that were certainly not too popular. If nothing else our strong accents revealed our strangeness. So we either avoided conversation altogether or pretended to be something else – Swiss, Dutch even American.

The experience of this period may have left many of us with an identity problem as well as perhaps an inferiority complex. Even today some of us still say apologetically "I was born in Germany but ... I was interned ... I am Jewish but ... trying to appear to be more acceptable to what they believe to be the tastes and preferences of the wider community.

A new more knowledgeable generation has grown up. Today the existence of other cultures is recognised. Today, in Australia you can be your true self.

The unique thing about our group is that we did not come to Australia by choice. We were deported and it so happened that we have stayed here. As things turned out we are happy and pleased that we now live in this good country.

With our self esteem properly restored we are freely associating together. It is normal, healthy and natural to view our background with genuine pride. It pleases us all that our story has become a small but noticeable part of Australian history.

While some internees no doubt became proud of their past, others just developed a habit of silence. The intention was not to deceive, but rather to look forward, to provide family life that was integrated into the adopted country.

From 'Aliens' to Australians – Remembering Dunera 75 Years On

Jewish Museum of Australia – Opening 6 September 2015



In a collaboration with the Dunera Association and the Duldig Studio, the Jewish Museum of Australia in Melbourne has an exhibition of internment camp material. *From 'Aliens' to Australians – Remembering Dunera 75 Years On* is an exhibition recognising the anniversary of the landing of the HMT Dunera in September 1940 and the events that followed.

There will be over 80 objects on display that explore how these men continued to produce art, theatre and music. As well as set up systems of currency, practised sport and religion, maintained a camp bureaucracy, and even attended a camp university. The exhibition not only looks at their experiences while in internment, but also explores their stories after their release, including how many went on to contribute to the Allied war effort in the 8th Employment Company.

The exhibition opened on 6 September 2015 for a special preview attended by ---- might want to mention the people attending the event on the opening night?

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXX XXXXXXX XXXXXXX XXXXXXX XXXXXXX

The exhibition is curated by Ariele Hoffman from the JMA and will run until December 2015. There are some public program events in conjunction with the exhibition and Dunera Association members and friends are encouraged to attend:

Curator's Talk – Sunday 18 October 2015 at 3pm.

Melinda Mockridge from the Duldig Studio will speak about the Duldig's **story. The** internment experience and artwork of Karl Duldig.

Historians Panel – Thursday 12 November 2015 at 7.30pm

Australian historians Ken Inglis, Seumas Spark and American historian Jay Winter will speak about Dunera internees Mike Sondheim, Erwin Lamm and Gary Sostheim.

For more information: www.jewishmuseum.com.au/education/whatson



All photos © Jeremy Blode



Members of the 8th Employment Company

From left to right:

Fred Broch, Walter Morstaedter, Altschol, Gussman and G Sonneald.

Australia, c.1940s

Donated by Jimmy King (Leopold Kohn) 4436



DULDIG STUDIO

Notes from sculptor Karl Duldig's Tatura Diary

The experience of internment for many of the Jewish families in Singapore started the day before they left the island forever. For some of these families this place had been their home for years. While there for only a comparatively short while, it had been a time of great success for the Duldig family. All were told by authorities that internment in Australia would, in all probability, be brief.

The Duldigs, Karl, wife Slawa and small daughter Eva, along with approximately 60 other refugee families were deported from Singapore and brought to Australia as enemy aliens in September 1940. On 30 December 1941, while interned in Tatura and with the prospect of the start of another year in captivity, Karl Duldig recalled and described the day 'we lost our freedom'.

We arrived here on 28 September and already one year has gone since we lost our freedom. Perhaps it will be of interest to hear the history of this time from one who is not a writer and only writes what is clear and obvious to his eyes. As I have already tried so many occupations here I also want to try and write a diary, but I do not intend to keep to this mode as I will write whatever comes into my head.

One incident remains indelibly in my mind and made a deep impression on me. It is so deep it is almost as if it has a form. By 'form' I mean the experience is so strong that it becomes figurative. It is very difficult to explain this experience, the experience of the loss of freedom. This loss of freedom became clear to me when after our assembly on St John's Island we were marched one behind the other to fetch something for the night from our luggage. When I look up I still see clearly in front of me the feet of the man in front of me. We go downhill towards the sea on a narrow path on a hot tropical day. All round a tropical landscape with rich vegetation, everything in strong colours. Soon we reach the object of our walk. The cases are piled up near the sea. I find our luggage and take out the most important items. The sun is shining down in blinding beams and soon we go back to the camp.

That was the first day of my imprisonment. I visited my wife and child who was with other women at another still higher location, the highest place on this beautiful small island, housed in a place put at their disposal by an English lady. For the first time I saw people and faces that I would see daily from this day on. Those that were then new are now only too familiar. I know exactly when I leave the hut I will meet one or the other. In the evening light we went for a walk with the child and for a moment enjoyed the beautiful panorama.



Karl Duldig
Self-portrait 1941
Pen and ink
© Duldig Studio.

But soon I and the others had to leave the women and children and go back to the camp of the men.

The day of departure came, the day of the END ... as we gathered below I see before my eyes the beautiful sight of the sea and Singapore, Singapore which in such a short time left the deepest impressions on me.

—Eva de Jong-Duldig and Melinda Mockridge, Duldig Studio

Duldig Studio's current exhibition, *Art Behind the Wire* – the untold story of refugee families interned in Australia during the Second World War, tells the story of these families using the artwork Karl Duldig created while interned at Tatura during this time.

Duldig Studio
92 Burke Road, East Malvern
Open Tuesdays and Thursdays
1pm – 3pm
Phone: 9885 3358
Email: enquiries@duldig.org.au

Ernst Wolf

30 December 1921 – 30 July 2015

Ernst Wolf was born in Bickenbach, Germany, on 30 December 1921, to Settchen and Benno Wolf. He had an older brother, Ludwig, and a younger sister, Rosel.

The family was Jewish but also proudly German – Benno Wolf had two Iron Crosses from WWI. Sadly, this did not stop Ernst's parents and sister from being deported from Frankfurt on 11-12 November, 1941, to Minsk, Russia, where they were murdered.

At fourteen Ernst had started a cabinetmaking apprenticeship so that he could learn a trade. He was taught for two and a half years – further training was curtailed.

Ernst had been Bar Mitzvahed but later admitted he neither remembered nor understood much of it so, after leaving home, his religious belief abated.

Ernst was quite adept at English when young. He was 17 when he left Frankfurt on 1 September, 1939, and travelled to London, one of a group of five young men. On their arrival at the boarding house, the landlady, after hearing Ernst speak, thought there were only four German lads, mistaking him for a local boy. This would have pleased Ernst as he was quietly competitive. He also quickly realised that the English traits of understatement, irony and self-deprecation were more appealing to him than the prevailing German ones of exaggeration, nationalism and aggression.

In the UK, Ernst had hoped to get a ship to Canada or the US and be reunited with his brother, Lou, who had left Germany in May, 1938, but his life changed direction in June, 1940 when he was interned as an alien of enemy origin.

Though he was displaced from his homeland, Ernst said his boyhood was a happy one. Ironically his displacement meant that he survived what many did not, so he decided to not burden himself with bitterness. He had an ability to see a funny or irreverent side, and understood that the right words could help ease a situation.

Ernst enjoyed his second language, English. Later in life, his love of words gave him skills to solve crosswords (normal and cryptic) and the daily Age target word. He believed that as he aged and became less active physically he had no excuse to become less active mentally, so word exercises became part of his daily ritual.

His memory for stories and jokes was also impressive; this was echoed in his ability to recite lines from opera or poetry he had learnt as a boy. He said it was his excellent memory and not any special ability that got him through his school exams.

Ernst always spoke about his time in Hay and Tatura positively – compared to what was happening in Europe and elsewhere he thought he was relatively lucky. While there he also made some lifelong friends, and found he could apply his newly acquired skills as a cabinetmaker to produce some items for the camp.



Ernst's preference to laugh at things might have been his way of coping with the results of losing most of his family and his childhood home. Still, he had a soft spot for his country of birth, taking an interest in its progress, but he took to his adoptive country, Australia. He liked its relaxed attitudes, its climate, and its beer.

After his release in early 1942 he, like many other Dunera Boys, did some fruit picking around Shepparton before being accepted into the Australian Military Forces, joining the 8th Employment Company where he became part of a work group that loaded supplies on the Melbourne docks and at Albury. The group wanted to show they were doing their utmost so they worked as hard as they could. The regular workers complained about them because they made the wharfies look lazy!

After release from the army in 1945 he shared a room in a Parkville house with his good friend, Albert (Fred) Katz, another Dunera Boy. Ernst enjoyed his freedom and had a good time. He tried quite a few jobs but eventually found the right one. He also met the right girl and they married on 24 December, 1953. She was Letty Hicks, and was the cousin of the girl that his best friend, Fred, had married.

In terms of travel, Ernst and Letty saw much of Victoria and coastal NSW during family holidays. Their first overseas trip was not until September, 1991, when they went to the US to see Ernst's brother, Lou. The brothers had only met each other once since they'd left Germany – during the war Lou was stationed in New Guinea and came to Melbourne for a week of leave. Even though they were raised in a Jewish family and similar in many respects, they had become different in their religious beliefs – Lou had embraced his religion, whereas Ernst had not.

In November, 1995, my wife and I organised a trip to Europe with Ernst and Letty. We planned to visit Bickenbach for the first time since Ernst had left. Even though he wanted to make a low-key return, he was treated to a civic reception by the mayor and greeted warmly by old school friends and neighbours.

In April, 2012, my sister and I accompanied dad to Germany to attend a ceremony that commemorated his sister and parents with the placing of three Stolpersteine (brass plaques) in front of what was formerly their family home. The fact that Ernst's grandsons, Daniel and Lewis, could accompany us was a bonus for him, and hearing their grandfather converse fluently in German was a revelation for them.

In March, 2014, Letty, who had been in aged-care since July, 2012, passed away. Ernst had expressed a not unreasonable preference for avoiding aged-care, as he treasured his independence and was mentally sharp. He never complained about his increasing ailments but was very grateful for the help he received at home from a bevy of aged-care experts, as well as from kind neighbours who came to his aid.

But finally, Ernst had to be admitted to Cabrini Hospital for a short stay and passed away peacefully on 30 July, 2015. He would have turned 94 this December. He was a delightful man who left us with many wonderful memories. These shall be treasured with all the love and affection they deserve.

— Andrew Wolf

Hay – Orange – Sydney 2015 Dunera 75 – a wonderful weekend!

It really began in August 2013. My ambition had been to go to Hay and Tatura to see for myself the places where my father, Franz Beer, had been interned.

With the support of my partner, Bill Willard, we came to Hay in 2013 and were warmly welcomed by David and Colleen Houston, and Carol Bunyan and her mother Laura. We were shown around the town of Hay and entertained at the Houston home. From this meeting came the conviction that we had to attend Dunera 75.

From the moment we went into the Jolly Jumbuck on the Friday evening my rather great apprehension vanished. Everybody welcomed us, asked who we were, and told us their stories. It was lovely to see David, Colleen, Carol and Laura again and to be greeted as old friends, and then to meet Rebecca and the other organisers. We also met Jonathan and Helen Borchard, who had, like us, travelled from Britain. And there was Werner Haarberger, who had sung for Peter Stadlen, along with my father.



Seeing the railway station, and hearing the sounds of the re-enactment, brought on emotions, and I needed a little time to myself, but the warmth of the other people reassured me.

The rest of the weekend was equally heart-warming. People were pleased that we had come so far to be with them, told us

their stories and heard ours – a great thank-you to everyone.

After we left Hay, we went to Orange; the librarian was so helpful, directing us to the showground – nothing to see but it was good to be there and appreciate the change in landscape and climate.

And then we went to the Jewish Museum in Sydney, met Rebecca and Ron again, and John Ebert – again a warm welcome, more fascinating stories – thank you, everyone!

It is wonderful that the stories of the lives of these men are remembered and celebrated – my warmest thanks to everyone in the Dunera Association.

And you never know – we might make Dunera 80!

– **Christine Brown**
September 2015

Franz Beer

Vienna, Austria, 1908 – Leicester, UK, 1979

My father, Franz Beer, was born into an intellectual Viennese family. His father, Fritz Beer, was Jewish/Lutheran. He was a mathematician. His mother, Berta Jahn-Beer, was non-Jewish, she was a concert pianist and teacher with an international clientele. His older brother, Gustl, was also gifted in mathematics, his younger sister, Maria, died of peritonitis, aged 14.

From letters, it is evident that family discussions were wide-ranging – science, philosophy, politics, world literature, music – and analytical. Holidays and free time were spent in the Austrian Alps.

Franz studied at the Technische Hochschule and gained a Dipl. Ing. (equivalent to a degree in engineering).

The story goes that Franz first met my mother, Lizzi Freyberger, either at a quartet recital or a political meeting. Lizzi was Jewish. Her then boyfriend asked Franz to accompany Lizzie home – the rest is history!

Lizzi went to work in a Leicestershire household in 1937, sponsored by the Quakers. After the Anschluss Franz joined her in Leicester, where they married in October 1938. He found work at the Imperial Typewriter Company, helped again by the Quakers.

I was born in May 1940. In June 1940, Franz was taken and interned on the Isle of Man, and later he was transported to Australia. He would have preferred to have been transported to Canada; his mother, Berta, had managed to get to the US, and found a position teaching piano at the Longy School of Music in Massachusetts. During his internment he made efforts to be allowed to go to the US, but without success. He asked my mother, Lizzi, to join him in Australia, but the journey was impossible at the time.

As for everyone transported on the Dunera, the experience was appalling, but my father made good friends, the Stadlen brothers and Stefan Peto, with whom he remained in contact all his life – I still know some of the family.

During the internment, my father lost both his parents; Fritz Beer, still in Vienna, committed suicide when he heard that he was to be taken, and Berta Jahn-Beer died of heart failure in late 1941. From her letters she seemed very loving, caring and encouraging, and Franz worshipped her. His brother died in Vienna in 1945, in a bombing raid, leaving a wife and baby daughter, the last of the family in Vienna.

Franz was released in October 1941 and returned to Leicester in early 1942, and



Franz Beer. Photo taken at Orange.

soon after moved the family to London where he worked with other refugees in a munitions factory. Then came a series of jobs, until in 1954 he obtained a post with the English Electric Company, near Leicester, researching metal fatigue, which he felt stretched him adequately. By this stage, I had two younger siblings – Elizabeth, born in 1943, and Martin, born 1947.

Money was easier, he felt at home in Leicester, and my parents started travelling. In 1959, my father went back to Vienna for the first time, an emotional upheaval, but later they had holidays in Austria, and travelled to the US and Brazil to visit my mother's siblings. He longed to see the Himalayas, and actually saw Mount Everest – a long-held ambition.

My father was a critical but proud parent, he loved and respected Lizzi, and was a wonderful grandfather, taking the grandchildren very seriously. For me, he was very Viennese, flirting with my friends and teachers. The memories of the time in internment remained with him all his life – he never forgave the British government of the time for what he regarded as betrayal, but on the other hand he cherished the friendships he had made.

—Christine Brown

Seeking information

Enemies and Aliens – A Dunera Boys research project

An exciting research project on the Dunera Boys is now underway and you can be part of it. A new book – the project is currently called *Enemies and Aliens* – will focus on the social history of the Jewish refugees and their time in Hay NSW in 1940 and 1941.

The internment and the related political issues of the “Dunera affair” have been well documented in the past and much is known of the facts and the figures. However, much of the story – the anecdotes, the attitudes, the impact on the Jewish internees and the impact on the town of Hay – lies hidden in diaries, fading memories and oral family histories. The real richness of the fabric of the stories is gradually dying with the passing of each of the Dunera Boys and their hosts in the town of Hay. The stories of heartache, of revelry, of joy, of pain, need to be re-told and re-lived so that future generations can be enriched by reading them.

After a career as an author of tertiary and adult education textbooks, Graham Miller is trying to dig up as much as possible of that part of our past.



Seeking information

Graham would love to meet with you if you are a Dunera Boy or if you have access to family papers, stories or other materials that would help in the research. He was at the 75th reunion in Hay and **will be** will be at the reunion lunch in Melbourne in November. He can be contacted on 0404 350 353 or by email at dunera.project@gmail.com.

Information request from historian and writer Ken Inglis

Ken Inglis and colleagues are searching for images (photographs, artworks, etc) for potential reproduction in a book about the Dunera and Queen Mary internees. They are looking for images that relate to the pre-war, wartime and post-war experiences of these internees. Anyone interested in sharing such images is asked to contact Seumas Spark on 9905 2899 (work) or email seumas.spark@monash.edu

IN MEMORY

Ann Margaret Gruen

4 November 1922 – 7 June 2015

Beloved wife of the late Fred Gruen.
Loving mother of David and Nicholas.
The Canberra Times – 10 June 2015.

Werner Haarbuerger

22 December 1922 – 16 September 2015



Dearly loved
Husband of
Elaine (dec),
Father and
Father-in-law to
Paul and Julie,
Dean, Simon and
Julie. Opa of
Emma, Clea,

Kara, Amy and Ellie. A true gentleman and a gentle man. Reunited with his beloved Ellaine to whom he was married for 60 years. A great loss sorely felt by many.
Dunera Boy.

The Age – 21 Sept 2015

Vivienne Jean King

9 May 1936 – 16 July 2015

Beloved wife of Jimmy King (dec.), mother of Alan, Michael, Anthony and Steven (dec.). Mother-in-law of Anne, Denise and Annie. Adored grandmother of Ben, Luke, Jenna, Charlotte, Jordan, Bonita and Adam. Finally at Peace.
Herald Sun – 20 July 2015

Ernst Wolf

30 December 1921 – 30 July 2015

Beloved husband of Letty, father of Lisette and Andrew, father-in-law of Anna. Grandfather of Daniel and Lewis Fisher. Born in Bickenbach, Germany. Son of Benno and Settchen Wolf, brother of Lou and Rosel.
Dunera Boy.



Melbourne Reunion Lunch – 10 November 2015



DUNERA ASSOCIATION INC. ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND AGM CELEBRATING 75 YEARS 1940–2015

We are pleased to invite all Dunera Boys, Descendants and Friends to our annual luncheon.

VENUE: Quest Kimberley Function Centre
441 Inkerman Street, East St. Kilda.

Free parking available on the premises and on the street.

WHEN: Tuesday, 10 November 2015.
12 noon (for 12.30pm lunch) – 3.30pm

Preceded by the Annual General Meeting at 10.45am sharp. Financial members are invited to attend.

COST: \$70 non-member / \$65 member
This covers an excellent two course kosher meal with two mains and desserts served alternately, with rolls, salads, soft drink, tea and coffee. Alcoholic drinks are available at the bar, to be paid separately.

We would be happy to discuss concessions for pensioners.
Contact Ron Reichwald: 0401 048 558.

PLEASE NOTE:
PRE-BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

Annual General Meeting 2015

The AGM for Dunera Association Inc. (A0018624W) Election of Office Bearers Committee of Management for 2015-16 will be held at:
Quest Kimberley Function Centre, 441 Inkerman Street, East St. Kilda on Tuesday, 10 November at 10.45am. All financial members are invited to attend and participate.

At the Annual general Meeting the minutes of the previous AGM will be confirmed; the financial report and annual report of the committee for 2014-15 will be received; officers bearers and committee members will be elected.

Any financial member in Australia is entitled to be nominated as an office bearer or committee member by one financial member, and seconded by another. Nominee, nominator and seconder should fill out and sign the form and return it to the Secretary by 2 November 2015.

Melbourne Reunion Lunch Booking Form

Please fill in the booking form and return by Monday, 2 November 2015.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Cost: \$70 non-member / \$65 member

Number of people:
Non-member _____ Member _____

Total payment: \$ _____

Names of all attending

Payment options:

1. Direct payment
Westpac North Melbourne branch
Account name: Dunera Association
BSB 033-132 Account No. 229051
Please make sure your sender details are shown on deposit slip or in the internet banking details.

2. Cheque payable to:
Dunera Association
Send to:
The Treasurer – Dunera Association
4 Callantina Crt, Frankston, VIC 3199

Pensioners may pay by donation.
Please indicate if any special dietary needs:

Dunera Association Inc – Election of Office Bearers

I am a financial member of the Association and wish to stand for election to the Committee of **management for 2015-16.**

NAME OF NOMINATOR

Signature _____

Address _____

NAME OF NOMINEE

Signature _____

Address _____

Position proposed _____

NAME OF SECONDER

Signature _____

Address _____

Date _____

Please complete this form and post to: The Secretary
Dunera Association. PO Box 72, South Melbourne Delivery Centre, VIC 3205
Or email: duneraboys@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES 2015

Melbourne Reunion Luncheon and AGM:

10 November 2015

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

Friends of the Dunera Boys

Dunera Museum at Hay

Carol Bunyan – Volunteer Researcher
lcb5@bigpond.com

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

Dunera Hay tours

David Houston
davidhouston23@bigpond.com

Committee members 2014–15

Rebecca Silk – President
rebeccasilk@bigpond.com

Peter Felder – Vice President
peter@felder.com.au

Selma Seknow – Secretary
duneraboys@gmail.com

Ron Reichwald – Treasurer
reichwald1@optusnet.com.au

Michelle Frenkel – Member
michelle_frenkel@yahoo.com

Janet Arndt – Member
tonyjazzman@gmail.com

Geoff Winter – Member
gjw396@hotmail.com

Carol Bunyan – Member
lcb5@bigpond.com

Peter Arnott – Sydney contact
peter@arnotts.net.au

John Ebert – Sydney contact
lppac1@hotmail.com

All correspondence to:

The Secretary
– Dunera Association
PO Box 72
South Melbourne Delivery Centre
VIC 3205

Email: duneraboys@gmail.com