

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. 97 June 2016



75th Anniversary Tatura Reunion

Bern Brent, Bernhard Rothschild, Reinhold Eckfeld

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.

Email: duneraboys@gmail.com

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| From the President | 3 |
| 75th Anniversary Tatura Reunion 2016 | 4 |
| Tatura Camps | 7 |
| – Lurline Knee | |
| Letter from Bern Brent | 9 |
| Tatura – Experiences of two Dunera internees | 10 |
| Still sticking it to Hitler | 12 |
| – Reinhold Eckfeld, story by Riahn Smith Courtesy of <i>Country Living</i> , <i>The Weekly Times</i> | |
| Hay Camp 7 Currency | 15 |
| Dunera Hay Reunion 2016 details | 16 |
| The Bear to the Southern Cross | 18 |
| – The Memoirs of Heinz Werner Margate | |
| Messages | 23 |

Many thanks to all the contributors.

Enemies and Aliens

A war refugee, wrongly interned out of fear, faces the trauma of his incarceration while his Australian guards and the nearby country town need to learn that the real enemy is the one within and not the one imagined.

The story, inspired by real events surrounding the internment of the Dunera Boys, explores interrelations and attitudes in a social melting pot. It challenges the reader to ponder the age-old dilemma of keeping refugees in detention, to consider the issue of cultural practises born from religious beliefs and above all to understand the role we all play in making a difference in the lives of those we don't understand.

After a career as an author of tertiary and adult education textbooks, Graham Miller is trying to record the stories of our past so that future generations can be enriched by reading about them.

If you would like to contribute to the research for this fictional work, *Enemies and Aliens*, please contact Graham Miller on – 0404 350 353
Dunera.project@gmail.com



Rebecca Silk
President
Dunera Association

From the President

In this edition we report on the highly successful 75th anniversary reunion at Tatura. Over 40 people attended, many for the first time. We were privileged to have three Dunera Boys at Tatura: Bern Brent, Bernhard Rothschild and Reinhold Eckfeld. It was such a joy to see Dunera families making connections and visiting the campsites. Once again Bern Brent has penned an interesting piece (page 9), this time about Tatura and the status of the various categories of internees on HMT Dunera.

We heard from some interesting speakers at the gathering at the Tatura museum, including Christina McNab, granddaughter of the McNab family who owned the orchard where some internees worked prior to their army service.

At Tatura we announced the launch of a sculpture project. I am grateful to the Greater Shepparton Council who have given the Dunera Association a grant of \$2500 to commence the project. Our appreciation also goes to the Tatura Historical Society for making space at the museum for the finished art work. We will be keeping you informed as the project proceeds and asking you and your friends for further financial support.

On page 16 you will find the program for our annual reunion visit to Hay. If you missed out on a trip to Hay last year, you are most welcome to join us this year on 3–4 September.

Accompanying this issue is the renewal form for annual membership. Your contributions are much appreciated. This year we have the convenience of online payment through TryBooking, details are on the form. We hope that this makes things much easier, especially for our overseas members.

I am grateful to all who have contributed to this issue and encourage you to send feedback to duneraboys@gmail.com A reminder as well to keep up the conversations on our Facebook page – Friends of the Dunera Boys.

75th Anniversary Tatura Reunion 2016

Over 40 people attended the annual reunion at Tatura, which marked the 75th anniversary of the start of internment of the Dunera men who were transported from Hay to the wartime camps in Tatura in 1941.

Evert Worm, President of the Tatura and District Historical Society, welcomed attendees to the Tatura museum and reminded people that the publication *Marched In* by Lurline and Arthur Knee provides a wonderful description of the various Tatura internee groups.

Rebecca Silk welcomed the Dunera Boys and their descendants and friends, and extended a special welcome to people visiting the museum and campsites at Tatura for the first time.

Dunera Boys in attendance – Bern Brent, Bernhard Rothschild and Reinhold Eckfeld were warmly welcomed, and contributed their own reminiscences (and corrections) as the afternoon proceeded.

Janet Arndt, daughter of Kurt Arndt, provided an outline of her family's journey from escaping Europe to Singapore, then transported to Australia on the Queen Mary, and arrival at the camps at Tatura. Her parents, aunt and uncle were all in the family camp. Janet noted that internees made the best of what they had, using materials in ingenious ways to fashion shoes and tools for example.

Michelle Frenkel introduced the the Dunera Association's proposed project to reconstruct the sculpture which was a memorial to those refugees who perished with the sinking of the Arandora Star. The original monument stood in Camp 3 but disappeared after the war once the land went into private ownership.

Finally, Peter Felder encouraged all present to stay connected to others: via our facebook page – Friends of the Dunera Boys, the website – duneraassociation.com, and by becoming a member of the Association where you will receive the *Dunera News* three times a year plus other news and notification of events.

The attendees then drove off in convoy to the "Dunera" property – former site of Camp 2, now owned by Geoff Reed. We wandered past the ruins of the camp kitchens, up the hill past the mound of rusting barbed wire and on to the vista of the Waranga Basin.

We are most grateful to the Tatura and District Historical Society for their wonderful hospitality and to Geoff Reed for allowing us once again onto his property.

Rebecca Silk
April 2016





Tatura Camps

This is a short overview of the Tatura group of seven camps: four of them were each to hold 1,000 civilian internees, the other three held prisoners of war (PoWs).

From 3 September 1940, Camp 2 held 250 “Dunera” men, and Camp 3 held 165 Jewish men, women, and children, who had sought refuge in Singapore, a British colony, after the Anschluss in 1938. They were all sent to Australia by the British in August 1940, when Britain feared invasion after the fall of France. The internees and PoWs were in the camps for up to eighteen months, until early 1942, when Japan joined the Axis Powers against the Allies.

From March through to June 1941, the 1,800 “Dunera” men and boys who had been sent to the Hay Camps in NSW on 6 Sept 1940, were transferred in batches from Hay to Tatura Camps 2, 3, and 4 – “to a more salubrious climate”!

In all the camps, the internees tried to make the best of their circumstances by conducting school classes, organising theatre groups, sports groups, and electing their own compound leaders to liaise with the Australian Army commandants. These soldiers had served in Gallipoli and France and had experienced the full horrors of the first World War. The soldiers tried to make life behind the barbed wire as civilised as possible for the internees. Many of the people interned in the camps have told us the Army “treated us with respect, as fellow human beings”.

In early 1941, the British Government sent an officer, Major Julian Layton, who was of the Jewish faith, to assist with the repatriation process and interview the internees who claimed to be refugees from Nazism. Many of the Dunera men took up the offer to return by ship to Britain, some to join in the fight against the German Army. Three boats took them back but sadly, one was lost at sea with all on board. German U-boats had command of the Atlantic.

The British troop ship, the SS Arandora Star, which departed from Liverpool to transport 2,500 German and Italian internees to Canada, was sunk by a U-boat on 2 July 1940. A few weeks later, HMT Dunera left Liverpool, and survivors from the Arandora Star tragedy were amongst those on board.

In the summer of 1942, the Dunera men were given the choice to serve in the Australian Army. Whilst waiting for the Army to prepare to accept them, many were sent to pick fruit in the Goulburn Valley orchards. After a few months, they joined the Australian Army 8th Employment Company, working on essential war work at the wharves, railways, and road making.

Lurline Knee

Tatura and District Historical Society



Dear Dunera News Reader,

I enjoyed my recent Tatura visit. The museum has certainly become a focal point of research for descendants of those who spent a period behind barbed wire in one of the seven camps. In particular, I came away with the latest book about the camps by Lurline and Arthur which illustrates the array of people imprisoned there.

I was pleased to hear that the Arandora Star memorial, destroyed mistakenly after the war, will be reconstructed to commemorate those hundreds who drowned when the ship was torpedoed en route to Canada. My Tatura diary records the inauguration of the memorial at the anniversary of their deaths. I also noted the name of someone I remembered from my stay in Dovercourt Camp. He too was a Kindertransport child.

It occurs to me that we would not go amiss creating a memorial to also commemorate those who were torpedoed upon returning to Britain in wartime.

I do not know where such a memorial should be located. Hay? Tatura? Melbourne? Such a memorial should incorporate the nominal roll of all those forty-odd one-time Dunera internees who drowned. Perhaps our committee could decide on the principle of the memorial and also perhaps on its shape. If the creation of such a memorial is agreed, the next step would presumably be to call for donations. In my view, these 'Dunera Boys' were really the only ones who drew the short straw.

There is a second minor matter that came to my attention during our Tatura get-together: After 75 years, many of us still believe that the Dunera also carried prisoners of war. That is not so. The only people aboard who had not been residents in Britain or British-controlled territories, were the German merchant marine sailors.

We on the foreship of the Dunera, where most of us C and B class internees were, saw the A class Arandora Star survivors on the rear deck. We were separated from them by two wire fences. We saw the Arandora Star people from a distance wearing burgundy-coloured British army uniforms or khaki uniforms with big red oil-painted crosses front and back. They looked to us like prisoners of war. But they were all internees like us, including the merchant seamen. To be a prisoner of war one has to be captured as a member of the enemy's armed forces. The merchant marine sailors were civilians.

It is true that some months after imprisonment in one of the Tatura camps, they were reclassified as prisoners of war for administrative reasons by the German authorities. This enabled them to be paid while in captivity and of course resulted them being under control of 'real' German prisoners of war. However, as soon as the war ended, the Australian government treated the German merchant marine sailors as internees again and allowed them to remain in Australia if this was what they wanted. It was not so for the prisoners of war, German or Italian. None were permitted to stay here after the war – though some eventually returned, having duly applied to do so once they had been repatriated.

Bern Brent

Tatura – Experiences of two Dunera internees

Early in 1941, Dunera internees from Hay were progressively moved to the camps at Tatura, where the Singapore group of Jewish families and the Dunera men who were disembarked in Melbourne were already interned.

The diaries, memoirs and biographies of internees give us some idea of daily life in the camps. Here are some glimpses from the written records of two internees.

Lutz Eichbaum's (later changed to Ernie Everett) experiences are recorded by his daughter-in-law Sue Everett, in her book *Not Welcome*. Bern Brent kept a diary which he later translated into English. Bern spent his entire internment at Tatura and Lutz was first sent to Hay and then to Tatura.

Lutz: On arrival at Camp 2

To our delight we found bath tubs and hot water in the wash rooms and cubicle showers. The toilets too had doors, this new found privacy was a real luxury.

You could even call it cosy compared to the dormitory style accommodation we had endured in Hay. The routine was similar to Hay with reveille at 6.30am followed by breakfast at 7.10. Four roll calls each day in mess huts. The only heartening sign in camp was the improved scenery with grass, shrubs and flowers in the compound, and a specially designed green sports ground. Also it was not nearly as hot as in Hay. The other cheering feature was the coffee house where I could at least buy coffee, cakes and pastries.

Bern: Easter Sunday 1941 Camp 3
Tonight I went to a talk on Dostoevsky. No newspapers on Monday and the wildest rumours surfacing again. The day before yesterday we heard that Greece had capitulated and that the Germans are at the gates of Suez and Gibraltar. Later ... Let's hope for good weather tomorrow and that they will allow us to swim in the weir.

Bern: Easter Monday 1941

Tonight we saw a Jackie Coogan film and even though 16mm films are 20 years old it is quite a nice diversion, one can have a good laugh.

Lutz adds of the cinema performances: *... the picture and sound would frequently break down but we eventually got things going again.*

By late April 1941 it was known in the Tatura camps that Major Layton had been to Hay and some internees had already volunteered to join Pioneer Corps.

Bern: 21 April 1941

Major Layton is expected to arrive here within the next few days and the whole camp hums with excitement.

Bern: 27 April 1941

The so-called school holidays are over and I have commenced photography and Esperanto classes. Bern went on to study subjects for the Leaving Certificate.

Bern: 18 May 1941

This morning our musicians Fleischer, Holzbauer and Würzburger played pieces of music for the inmates of all our 3 compounds in turn. In half an hour we have a soccer match – Austria versus the "Piefkes".

Bern and Lutz allude to their worries about family back in Europe and how the war was going.

Bern: 21 May 1941

If Britain survives this year she will be out of danger, but it will take years, with the help of the USA until Germany is wrestled to the ground.

What did internees do to pass the time?

Lutz:

Meanwhile I had managed to secure for myself some useful and time absorbing work in the Quarter Masters Store.

I unpack supplies, check them before stacking items neatly on floor-to-ceiling shelving. I usually worked alone as the QM was rarely there. I felt like I was my own boss in this small domain.

Bern: 7 June 1941

The day before yesterday some of us were taken for a walk. It is like being on a vacation to escape the confinement of the barbed wire and have some other vista before one's eyes.

Bern: 2 July 1941

It seems the Germans have broken through at Minsk. Today we had an Arandora Star Memorial Service. Three of those who perished had been with me at Dovercourt Camp.

Lutz (Ernie) at centre, 1963 Melbourne reunion.



Bern at centre, at the 1990 Melbourne reunion.



By this time many internees had made agonised decisions about Major Layton's offer. Bern decided to put his name on the list of those who wanted to return to Britain, but other events intervened. Lutz decided to wait.

Bern: 9 August 1941

On Friday we moved to Camp 4 and for the time being everyone is busy getting organised and everywhere people scrub, polish and throughout the campsite one hears hammers banging away. I am in a shady hut, my window faces south-east, but this may well be an advantage if, God forbid, I'll still be here in summer.

Bern: 19 August 1941

The regulations are not as strict as in Camp 3 ... we can visit the other compounds at certain times and there is a decent soccer ground.

Lutz remembered:

7 September 1941 marked the anniversary of our arrival on Australian soil.

On 7 December 1941 Japan bombed Pearl Harbour and on 25 January 1942 remaining internees were told that they could join 8th Employment Company of the Australian Army.

By way of summing up

Lutz on walking out of the camp into army life writes:

What a marvellous feeling.

Bern in the Dunera News no. 27 in 1993: *I would be happy to argue that I may have learnt more about life and people in one year behind barbed wire – when I was then 17 and 18 – than in any other year of my life.*

Still sticking it to Hitler

By Riahn Smith

Courtesy of *Country Living*, *The Weekly Times*

Austrian Reinhold Eckfeld is one of the last surviving Dunera Boys, wrongly deported to Australia and imprisoned for most of World War II. 75 years later, he holds no grudges and still calls Australia home.



Ripped from your family at 18, imprisoned for nothing other than your religious background and then sent halfway around the world, never knowing if you would ever see your loved ones again. It's a life few of us could imagine, but it's a story not uncommon among those who lived through the tragic years of World War II. It's also the story of Reinhold Eckfeld, an Austrian man of Jewish heritage who was interned for more than four years in prison camps in country Victoria and NSW, while deadly battles were waged thousands of kilometres away.

"It was hot, it was probably up to 120F (49C) in the old measure," Reinhold says from his suburban Melbourne home, describing an environment far removed from his childhood in the cultured European city of Vienna. "They took us down to the Murrumbidgee River for a swim one day, but that was only the once."

Daughter Erica chips in: "Dad likes to tell us how they would pass the time by counting the number of flies on each of their backs," she says.

"It was a life of confinement and routine."

Reinhold, 94, spent eight months imprisoned at Hay, in NSW's western Riverina with more than 2000 other Jewish refugees of war deported by the British. That was followed by 3 years at Tatura, near Shepparton, in central Victoria. He's one of the Dunera Boys — a group of deportees shipped to Australia on HMT Dunera during the war.

This month, Reinhold returned to Tatura and reunited with two of the few remaining internees to mark the 75th anniversary of their arrival at the camp. In a touching tribute to history, the farmer who now owns the land that once housed the camp has named his property Dunera in their honour.

"I have visited a few times and it's always interesting going back," Reinhold says thoughtfully. "There's not much there now, but I can still make out where things once were."

His presence in Australia was part of a British plan to rid the United Kingdom of all men associated with the expanding German empire. Jew, Nazi, or neither, any man aged 16 to 60 with links to Germany was imprisoned, many then shipped to Canada and Australia — alongside several hundred Italian fascists and other genuine

prisoners of war — in a mass deportation of so-called "enemy aliens". It did not seem to matter that Reinhold and brother Waldemar, who was also sent to Australia, were refugees from Jewish persecution.

Austria had fallen to Adolf Hitler's German forces in March 1938 and life was untenable for Reinhold's Jewish- Roman Catholic family with war brewing on the horizon. "When the Germans took over Austria they separated all the Aryan pupils from the Jewish or half-Jewish pupils," Reinhold says.

"I was able to finish the equivalent of Year 11 at a different school where the so-called 'racially impure' were congregated, but I wasn't able to do Year 12 because they then closed the school." His sister, Judith, was the first of the family to leave Vienna, finding work in Scotland as a housemaid. There she found work for their mother, Eugenie, as a cook and several months later permits were granted for Reinhold and Waldemar to join them.

Just days after Reinhold and his brother fled the country, hopping a train to Holland, war was declared and the borders closed. "The timing was very fortunate," he says. "If we had left a week later, we probably wouldn't have survived."

Erica tells of her family's close escape. "It's worthy of a Hollywood movie," she says with a rueful smile. "They were on one of the last trains to leave Vienna and it was stopped by the Nazis. Dad said a couple of men were removed from the train and they were worried the Nazis would discover their German passports and remove them too. Thankfully they didn't and the train kept going."

The story sparks a memory of another chilling run-in with the Nazis, filed carefully away in Reinhold's mind. It happened in November 1938 following the attempted assassination of the German ambassador in Paris by a Polish Jew.

"I was walking to visit my aunt but I was stopped and was arrested," he recalls. "After quite a few hours of being held by the German police with a group of other Jewish men, we were transported to a police riding school. We were offloaded there and I got hit right in the middle of my face. I couldn't see. I finished up with two handkerchiefs full of blood. They just bashed everyone who got off the lorry. After a long time standing there they said anyone under 18 could go. I had no papers but they took my word for it. I was lucky, some people had a heart attack there and died."

After reuniting with Judith and Eugenie, the family ventured north to Derry in Northern Ireland, where Reinhold found work accompanying the local "bread man" on his daily deliveries.

Having been recognised as genuine refugees they were largely left to their own devices, but after France fell to the Germans in June 1940, any man with a German passport was rounded up and imprisoned as a potential threat.

Reinhold and his brother were jailed in Belfast and then Liverpool before being loaded on to HMT Dunera, bound for Australia.

"We didn't know where we were going when we got on the ship," Reinhold recalls.

Still sticking it to Hitler

“We thought we were going to Canada, but then we changed course and were told we were going to Australia.”

After two months at sea under the care of a brutal crew in overcrowded conditions — and having survived a torpedo attack — they arrived in Australia to a surprising welcome. Erica recalls her father’s tales of friendly Aussie soldiers, offering them sandwiches and something to drink.

“They were greeted with a ‘g’day mate’ and their welfare was asked after,” she says. “The moment they left the English thugs on the boat they were treated with respect.” In camp life was grim but the internees took it upon themselves to run education classes to pass the time.

With his natural artistic ability, Reinhold sketched portraits of his peers and vignettes of camp life. Under the tutelage of an architect also interned, he also drew plans of the camp, his first foray into the profession he would pursue in Melbourne at the end of the war.

When the difference between the imprisoned Jewish refugees and German Nazis became apparent, the refugees were offered the opportunity to join the Australian armed forces and help with the war effort. “A major came out from the UK to investigate the internees who claimed they were anti-Nazi,” Reinhold says.

“They organised a boat to go back to England where they would continue to be imprisoned as internees, but I chose to stay and joined the army as a private. That was in 1943.” The remainder of the war was spent loading and unloading cargo on to trains at the border of Victoria and NSW.

“It was hard work but at least we weren’t risking our lives.”

When the war ended, Reinhold found work with an architect in Melbourne, studying architecture at night — it took him about 14 years to complete his degree — and visiting his ailing brother in hospital where he would meet the Australian woman that would become his wife.

A career, a marriage, three children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren later, and Reinhold continues to live in the Ivanhoe home he shared with his wife, Beryl, until her death two years ago, and is as independent as a 94-year-old could expect to be.

Just last month, one of his granddaughters was married, a date he marked firmly on his calendar and did not intend to miss. While he has never been back to the city or country of his birth, with the memories there too painful to tackle, he says he has come to terms with the past.

Erica puts it most succinctly: “He’s happy every day to still be here.

“Every day he’s on this Earth, he feels like he’s sticking it to Hitler.”



Hay Camp 7 Currency

The initial currency in the Hay camps was cigarettes. What money the men had brought with them was confiscated. Later on as internees received funds from outside they opened bank accounts which were managed by other internees.

When a civilian run camp canteen was installed, providing some essential goods for sale, the internees in Camp 7 produced camp money for use in the confines of the internment camp. The notes were designed by George Teltscher and signed by internees E. Mendel, W. Epstein (Eppenstein), H.M. Robinow and R. Stahl. The notes were printed in Hay by the late Harry Byers in the Riverine Grazier’s printshop.

The Hay Camp 7 notes were in three denominations, sixpence, one shilling and two shillings. Estimates of the numbers printed range from 2,000 of the two shillings to 3,000 each of the others.

There are some hidden messages and cryptic commentary embedded in the designs of the notes. The most obvious is the cursive message on the barbed wire outer border on the front of the notes which reads ‘we are here because we are here’. The heraldic shield with a kangaroo on one side and an emu on the other has a merino sheep in between with the name of the camp leader W. Eppenstein hidden in the fleece. At the centre of the front of the notes in the tangled barbed wire is the wording “HMT Dunera Liverpool to Hay”.

Although the notes say “Legal Australian Currency” three months after the notes were made the Australian treasury, having been alerted, decided that they were not legal bank notes and ordered the camp guards to search and confiscate the notes. Camp currency reverted to copper alloy tokens that were issued by the authorities to all internment camps in Australia. Despite the official attitude, some internees kept the notes as souvenirs and their value has been steadily increasing.

It was therefore interesting to Dunera descendants and collectors alike when a complete set of the banknotes, covering all denominations and combinations of signatures, was offered as part of Mossgreen Auctions coins and banknotes sale. To their knowledge it was the first complete set to be offered at a public auction. Some notes sold for prices from \$9300 for a blue sixpence note to \$11,780 for a green one shilling note. The banknotes episode is yet another example of the creativity, talent and spirit of the Dunera internees.

Sources: Mossgreen Auctions Coins and Banknotes Catalogue, Melbourne. 3 March 2015
Vort Ronald, M.P. Hay Internment Camp Notes and War Savings Certificates. September 2014
In World War II, refugees in Australia had their own currency, by James Cockington, Sydney Morning Herald. 2 March 2016





Dunera Association Hay Reunion

3–4 September 2016

In recognition of the 76th 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, South Hay. A la carte menu.

Sunday 4 September

- 9.30am **MORNING TEA** FREE
With David and Coleen Houston at their property Budgewah. 21km from Hay, along Maude Road. Look out for a white mailbox and flag. Drive 4km in and meet David at his Budgewah woolshed.

EVENTS REGISTRATION

Please register before 20 August 2016

FRIDAY: Dinner at JJ Bistro

SATURDAY: Morning tea / Lunch / Dinner

SUNDAY: Morning tea at Budgewah

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

The Bear to the Southern Cross

The Memoirs of Heinz Werner Margate

Heinz Werner Margate (Margulies) was a Dunera Boy. He was not Jewish but his step-father was. Werner is 94 and lives in Melbourne. This is an extract from his biography, written by his daughter Sandi Margate for family and friends, and published by his daughter-in-law Lisa Margate and her daughter Zoe. A great family effort.

Chapter 11: 1940 – Internment in England

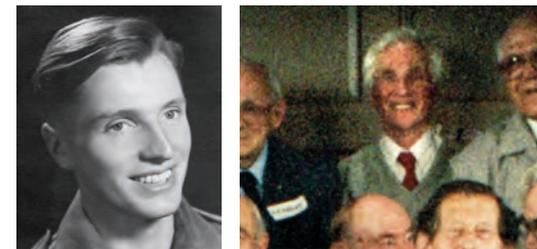
It was exactly one year after my arrival in England, during Easter of 1940, that police came to my lodgings and asked me very politely, to please pack a suitcase, for I was to be interned. Before this, England had looked at all the foreigners in England and divided us into 3 groups, those who were high risk and immediately interned, those who were borderline cases who were supervised, and finally those who were no security risk as they were refugees from Nazi oppression and thus left at liberty. I was in the third group but apparently following the fall of France and the evacuation of Dunkirk in early 1940, a wave of fear gripped Britain; they were suddenly scared all foreigners were spies, or would aid the enemy if England fell too. The British Government responded to public panic by temporarily interning thousands of foreigners and I was one of them.

The internment camp was at the local football ground; they had erected barbed wire around it, but nothing much else. We lived there for only a short period of time before we were gradually transferred north via different temporary camps along the way. All the while I carried my little suitcase with all the belongings I had brought from Germany in it. We eventually arrived at Huyton, just outside Liverpool, which was our final camp, to be greeted by people throwing stones at us, because we were Germans, the enemy!

Our internment camps were entirely made up of tents; there were no huts or houses or power at any time. I suppose this helped keep us safe from bombings. In internment camp, because my English had become quite fluent, I was used to help English officers translate and was soon brought to the camp commandant who asked me to assist him with other internees who had to be interviewed. The commandant turned out to be a good man and he was really kind and helpful to me; he told me that I should work in the kitchen, because that would be considered to be an essential duty, and the essential staff wouldn't be sent away as the others were. Working in the kitchen meant that I could stay at this camp for the duration of internment or the whole war if I wanted to.

England was in a difficult situation. They believed that there would be an invasion by Germany at any time. ... Some people amongst our group thought it was terrible that England was doing this to us, but it really wasn't. Canada and Australia had

| SOLDIER'S NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF ENLISTMENT | |
|--|----------------|
| Army Number | Y377958 |
| Surname (in capital letters) | MARGULIES |
| Other Names (in full) | Heinz Werner |
| Date of Birth | 10.9.1921 |
| Place of Birth | Germany |
| Trade or Calling | Student |
| Religion | Protestant |
| Enlisted on | 2/9/42 |
| Signature of Soldier | R.W. Margulies |



The young Werner, and at the 1990 Melbourne Reunion.

agreed to assist England by taking some of us aliens and interning us in their countries. The commandant even asked me where I would prefer to go, and I told him I had always had an ambition to go to Australia. He told me to stay working in the kitchen and bide my time.

One day he quietly approached me and told me to get out of the kitchen and get ready to leave as soon as possible. He didn't say anything other than that. There had already been two transports of internees to Canada but unfortunately the second one was torpedoed and sank. It was decided the third one would go to Australia instead, but very few people knew anything about this until after the ship had already left port. I believe even the crew only found out after the ship changed course a couple of days after setting sail.

Chapter 12: 1940 – Transport to Australia aboard the HMT Dunera

Following the commandant's advice, on 10 July 1940, I boarded HMT Dunera carrying 2,542 people on a ship designed to carry only 1600 and set sail from Liverpool headed for Australia. The vast majority of us were Jewish refugees like myself (about 1500 of us), yet on the same boat they put 250 German Nazis and 200 Italian Fascists, actual prisoners of war, and on top of that we got a group of really cruel British military as guards, most of whom were later court martialled for their treatment of us.

I would have to say this 2 month voyage was the worst time of my life. My luggage was thrown overboard and all my personal possessions were taken from me. Even my pants were taken! We were kept down below except for an hour or so a day in overcrowded, rank, fetid conditions. Our night toilets were cans amongst us. We got fresh water only 2 or 3 times a week but no razors. Some of us were lucky enough to have hammocks or benches to sleep on. I of course offered to take the floor as I was a young able-bodied man (some were as old as 60). The conditions were so cramped that if someone wanted to go to the toilet at night they would have to walk on top of our bodies. In rough weather I would wake up to find my face and body swimming in the contents of the spilt toilet cans, as well as vomit. When I arrived in Australia I was in a sorry state, covered in impetigo; itchy, weeping sores.

The conditions were so bad that some men even threw themselves overboard rather than continue with the journey.

We finally got to Australia, stopping at Fremantle in WA first (which I only saw from a porthole). From Fremantle we sailed around the bottom of Australia eastward and then up to Sydney.

We would become known as the Dunera boys; and even though I am ancient, and there are not many of us left, I still consider myself a Dunera boy. One of my dear life-long friends, another Dunera boy, Robert Kahn wrote memoirs too ... he said it was quite an ordeal recalling all the things that had happened, trying to make some sense of it all, but he said writing everything down helped him to put his life into perspective. He had more reason to be upset than me because he was 100% Jewish and he and his family had a far more difficult time of it than my family did. Nonetheless, recalling a lot of these times and events has been an incredibly emotional experience for me too.

Chapter 13: 1940 – Internment Camp at Hay

On arrival in Sydney, they continued to treat us badly. The press in Sydney said we were German paratroopers even though the prisoners of war had already disembarked in Melbourne.

After the Dunera landed in Sydney we were put directly onto trains and taken to our internment camp in Hay. On Saturday 7 September 1940, four steam train loads of internees, filling 48 carriages, arrived at Hay Railway Station. The camp was located in central New South Wales. Even today, it is a very remote and out of the way place. The geographical isolation of the camp made it an ideal location for internment. As we were marched into the camp I saw the watchtowers at each corner with guards carrying machine guns manning each one ... not a great welcome to this new chapter in my life. But otherwise there were no locks; there wasn't really anywhere to escape to as we were in the middle of nowhere.

Our accommodation was in long huts with 28 beds, fourteen bunks on each side. We were told to stuff our mattresses with straw. On 10 September I suddenly realised the date. It was my birthday and I was now 19. I will admit I felt a little emotional, brought on I suspect by the isolation, the separation from my family, the unfriendly guards, and the uncertainty about my future. No-one knew exactly when there would be an end to this war; no-one had any certainty about the future at all. So much for temporary internment in England!

Two long years were to pass in this place, two years in which I did form some very close bonds, not only with other internees, but with our gaolers as well.

We gradually broke them down by our good behaviour, hard work (we even had to grow our own food), and by putting on plays and concerts for them. Some of the orthodox Jews were even allowed to set up kosher butcheries. Most of my friends were Jews, but even though I had some Jewish blood, I never felt Jewish at all. I was a Christian. Services were offered at internee camp and I would always go to the Christian one. Despite having Jewish friends, I never really felt as though we were in the same community.

In 1942, a Major Julian Layton of the English Home Office arrived. Most of the internees back in England had been released by now, some as early as August 1940 ... Major Layton came over to release us and offer to take us back to England explaining that now they would accept us into the British army. He told our commandant that we were actually refugees ... The commandant cried, feeling very upset over the previous misinformation he had received and how we had thus been treated. He did admit to being very confused by obviously Jewish people including a Jewish rabbi being German paratroopers, and perhaps this helped him treat us more humanely than he otherwise might have.

Major Layton came to assist with our repatriation and also ensured we all left Hay. He was present for one of Hay's dust storms, willy-willy's as they were called. Everything got covered in sand and dust from the desert around us ... even our mouths if we didn't keep them tightly shut.

We were moved to another internment camp in the Goulburn Valley before finally all being released. ... My name was on a list saying I wanted to join the British army but now I told the Major I didn't want to go back anymore. I had wanted to come to Australia, and now that I was here I didn't want to go all the way back to Europe again; I would fight Hitler from here. ... Some 900 of us elected to remain in Australia, with many of us choosing to serve in Australia's army. I was one of these people and most of us, including myself, joined the 8th Employment Company.

Later on, there was an international scandal about our 2 year internment and many apologies were offered. ... I want to say for the record and speaking only for myself, Australia had nothing to be ashamed of. I thank God that firstly I got out of Germany at all, secondly that I arrived safely in England, and thirdly that I came to Australia, my new home.

Many of my Dunera friends agreed. Our ordeal forged strong bonds amongst people who would ordinarily have remained strangers. I ended up having many full-blooded Jewish friends and despite me not following the Jewish faith, we always maintained the strong bonds we created in those early years in Australia. ... In 1990 many of us former internees travelled to Hay to mark the 50th anniversary of our internment. We came from all corners of the world.

To borrow some words from one of the internees "we came to Australia as children and we stayed as men". We certainly grew up quickly.

Chapter 14: Freedom to Australian Army Service

I was finally free; well for a couple of months anyway. Straight after freeing us, those who wanted to join the Australian Army were sent to Shepparton to pick fruit. It was thought inappropriate for prisoners of war (as we had been) to immediately enlist in the Australian Army so we were given a couple of months grace, to be free men for a while and earn some money to buy some civilian clothes, as all we had was the



Werner inside the hut at Ardmona Orchards.

clothing we had been given in internment camp.

Finally we were taken down to Caulfield Racecourse to enlist. The few hundred who had decided that they would go back to England's army, only went back gradually because the shipping position was still precarious. Ships were still being attacked and sunk. They didn't want to put too many resources into one ship.

By this time, the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbour. Singapore had fallen into enemy hands, as had Malaysia and Burma; the Australian Army was going to be heavily involved in the Pacific war. Although they had allowed me to enlist in the Australian Army, they wouldn't permit me to join a fighting unit, for my own good they said. I had wanted to go up north to Papua New Guinea, but they believed that as a German, I might find I was not completely trusted by my unit, which would affect the cohesiveness of the unit, and possibly my safety too. If something happened to me, no one would know whether it was by a bullet from the enemy or one from my own unit! Even though this meant I had to stay in the army for longer (you were only discharged after you accumulated enough points), I was probably lucky they put me into a labour battalion, where I didn't have to perform 'active duty'.

I began to understand that the world was in such turmoil, that normal rules of behaviour no longer applied and for me, no race, not the Australians, the English, or the Germans really trusted me. I learned to always look beyond the obvious, in order to envision what the possible ramifications might be; I learned to protect myself.

Story extract reproduced here by kind permission of the Margate family.

MESSAGES

Dunera and Queen Mary Musicians

Dear Dunera Association

My name is Joseph Toltz. I am a Research Fellow at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney.

I'm part of a 3-year large grant funded by the British Arts & Humanities Research Council, a project that traces Jewish composers and musicians who were dispersed by political events in the 20th century, fleeing pogroms and persecution in Europe, settling in Australia and the USA.

The project is called "Performing the Jewish Archive" – we find cultural items deposited for safekeeping in archives, take them out and perform them, and discuss how they give a different, personal perspective on these larger narratives. You can read in more detail about the project here: <http://ptja.leeds.ac.uk/>

The first of five performance festivals linked to the project just took place in Madison, Wisconsin. The fourth festival will take place in Sydney, and I will be programming some of the music written by Werner Baer, Walter Würzburger, Boaz Bischofswerder and Felix Werder (and any other music that I can obtain from that time). I know that Werner wrote a lot of choral music that doesn't appear to be available. I will be presenting a section of his choral music in a special concert next August 2017, sung by the VOX choir of the Sydney Philharmonia.

My goals in writing to the association are as follows:

To inform you of these events and invite any surviving Dunera Boys as my guests to the concert(s).

To ask if there is any information that Dunera Boys might like to share beyond that which is already known.

To see if there is any existing music for *Sergeant Snow White*.

To publish an article on the influence of Dunera Boys on the cultural life of Australia (particularly music – bearing in mind that much excellent work has already been completed by other historians and the musicologist Albrecht Dümmling).

I hope to hear from the Association and any interested members. I am currently in Helsinki, presenting initial findings about Baer and Würzburger for a conference entitled "Music History and Cosmopolitanism".

I wish you all the very best.

Regards,

Joseph

joseph.toltz@sydney.edu.au

SAVE THE DATES 2016

Dunera Hay Reunion:

3–4 September 2016

Dunera Sydney Reunion:

7 September 2016

Melbourne Reunion Lunch:

8 November 2016

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

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

Committee members 2015–16

Rebecca Silk – President
rebeccasilk@bigpond.com

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

Selma Seknow – Secretary
duneraboys@gmail.com

Geoff Winter – Treasurer
gju396@hotmail.com

Ron Reichwald – Member
reichwald1@optusnet.com.au

Michelle Frenkel – Member
michelle_frenkel@yahoo.com

Janet Arndt – Member
tonyjazzman@gmail.com

Carol Bunyan – Member
lcb5@bigpond.com

John Ebert – Member
lppac1@hotmail.com

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

All correspondence to:

The Secretary

– Dunera Association

PO Box 72

South Melbourne Delivery Centre
VIC 3205

Email: duneraboys@gmail.com