

Dunera News

Issue No. 112
June 2022

Heinz Henghes (1906-1975)



'The Long Road Back' December 6, 1940

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.

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The late Henry Lippmann OAM

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The Committee of the Dunera Association.

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

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From the President



Welcome to Issue 112 of Dunera News. I apologise for the lateness of publication.

Since our last newsletter, we

have elected a new committee for 2022, which now includes additional younger members. In addition, Dr Seumas Spark was elected Vice President. He is well known to all of us as an academic and author with a great passion for the Dunera family. These developments will help ensure the continuing work of the Dunera Association into the future.

In October, we held a successful webinar in conjunction with the Association of Jewish Refugees in the UK. Our presenters Dr Rachel Pistol and Alan Morgenroth gave us fascinating detailed information on internment and deportation of Dunera internees in the UK and their movement around Australian Internment Camps. We are very fortunate to have such qualified people in our ranks. In April we conducted the first 82nd anniversary event - in Tatura, a report of which is included in this edition.

In this issue, you will also read an interesting letter from Peter (later

Lord) Eden in our continuing 'From the Archives' column, an article on the Stirling Castle Returnees by Carol Bunyan. In addition a really interesting piece about the internees who like Eden returned to England on the Stirling Castle to join the British army Pioneer Corps. As well, there is a report of Dunera Boy Heinz Henges based on a talk by his son Ian Henges as part of the online Insiders Outsiders conference.

We also have included a list of surviving Dunera Boys, and a Save the Dates notice.

I am again eagerly looking forward to our traditional face-to-face events. The next event will be in Sydney at Jones Bay Wharf on 28th August. Please keep a look out for notifications of our annual events on our Facebook page. This page now has over 500 followers. I encourage you to participate in this page by applying to have access and answering the security questions.

Wishing you all good health.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Reichwald'.

Ron Reichwald

Poem by Saskia Fischer-Wolf (Dunera Boy great grand-daughter)

Point of View: Arthur Weisinger
Travelling on Water
Deported from Britain to Australia

I feel the cool wind push my dark hair

I hear the drip-tapping sounds of the icy water hit the side of the broad ship. And a faint sob

All I see are weak, unclean male faces and the peace in the water.

Why can't there be that much peace on land?

The faces, masculine, but able to shed a slight tear.

I ask myself over and over "Why?"

I think many of the men do.

I don't know what it's going to be like in Australia. I'm terrified.
What if it's horrible?

I liked it so much in England. I thought I was safe there.

The guards steal our belongings and we barely have any food.

I hope to make it to Melbourne, as long as it is safe, but there are no guarantees on water, especially on this ship.

It seems like Australia is on the tip of the Earth, anyway.
So far away.

Maybe being an "enemy alien" isn't too bad if you're in a wealthy country.

I will wait.

Surviving Dunera Boys

The following is information* as a result of research by Carol Bunyan, Seumas Spark, Elisabeth Lebensaft and others. It is not definitive so if anyone has more up-to-date information about these Dunera men or others who are still alive we would appreciate receiving it (duneraboys@gmail.com)

Name	Born	Last known location	Original name
Bern Brent	1922	Canberra	Bernstein
Naftali Wagschal	1922	NY	
Howard Rickenberg	1922	France	Hans Reichenberger
Wilhelm Ungar (Willi/Willy)	1921	Israel	

*Information known December 2021

SAVE THE DATES

Dunera Association Functions

Sydney, NSW on 28 August 2022

Hay, NSW on the weekend of 2-4 September 2022

Melbourne, VIC on 6 November 2022

Heinz Henghes (1906-1975)

Heinz Henghes was born Gustav Heinrich Clusman on 20 August 1906 in Hamburg. His mother was from a large and musical Jewish family, his father Lutheran. Heinz ran away from home at the age of 17 following his parents divorce to New York where he remained for 8 years, returning to Germany in 1932. Encouraged by Isamu Noguchi Heinz started sculpture while in the US. Upon his return to Europe he worked for a time with the patronage of Ezra Pound and mixed with many artists and writers in Italy and Paris. In 1937 he made his way to England where he was arrested as an enemy alien in July 1940.

Initially Heinz was interned in Huyton camp near Liverpool before being shipped to Australia on the infamous *Dunera*. Internees were treated appallingly, were overcrowded and the conditions on board were terrible. Possessions of any value were stolen by the British soldiers who made up the crew. Heinz somehow managed to hide a ring with a blue stone, only to cast it by mistake inside a bust many years later. He also managed to have enough paper to make some pen and ink drawings. There are two surviving drawings annotated to say that they were made aboard the *Dunera*. 'Le Fou', from a private collection in Australia, and 'Encounter' now in the British Museum collections.

Klaus Friedeberger was near the front of the boat in the same area

as Heinz and recalled that the men did the best they could to keep their spirits up organising talks on different subjects. Heinz had some photos of his sculptures and he used these as part of a talk. Singing was an important way to keep up morale. Someone changed the lyrics of 'My Bonnie lies over the ocean' to 'My luggage went into the ocean'!

Once in Australia Heinz was interned at Hay in Camp 7 Hut 25. This was the same hut as occupied by Hein Heckroth with whom he formed a friendship which was to endure following their return to the UK. A Camp 7 theatre was founded by Simon Hochberger also from Hut 25. Two months after their arrival in Australia they produced a play with music called *Hay-Fever*. A stage curtain was designed by Hein Heckroth and Klaus Friedeberger. A program handwritten on coloured paper was



'Encounter' drawn aboard the *Dunera*



'The Long Road Back' December 6, 1940

produced by Hochberger. Heinz, listed as 'Clusmann' was part of the entertainment singing blues. His contribution was doubtless possible due to his time in New York. In March 1941 he also took part in 'a Show Without a Name' singing folksongs.

As for his sculpture, clearly all the materials and tools he was used to were not available in Hay, but he managed to make some wood carvings in the local dark red gum wood, which are now assumed to be lost, though a drawing in the British Museum collection gives an idea of the kind of thing he may have created. Klaus Friedeberger said he remembered a lens grinder from Berlin called Hans

Meyer in the camp, who was also in Hut 25. One day Klaus was present when Meyer was walking past Heinz who was carving a sculpture. Meyer commented wryly 'doesn't it fit in the stove yet?' Klaus considered this a good example of Berlin humour.

Klaus Friedeberger was only 18 when he was at Hay, and just starting to make his way in life. Heinz was a practicing artist in his 30's who Klaus found somewhat forbidding with long dark hair, though impressive in the younger man's eyes. Klaus described him as a bit distant; absorbed in his thoughts. It seemed unlikely to Klaus that a man like Heinz would sing, but he said that he did this very well. Klaus described Hein Heckroth as very different to Heinz. A big, outgoing, 'noisy' man and a born teacher. He gave drawing classes that Klaus participated in.

The internees were notable for their organisation and efforts in setting up trainings in many different subjects from languages to sciences and arts. Heinz almost certainly did his best to teach sculpture though one can only imagine that it would have been limited to wood carving and clay modelling. Heinz made surrealist drawings in Hay and six of these all from December 1940 have survived. Surrealism was very much the Zeitgeist of the time, and Klaus and others produced works influenced by the movement. The titles and subjects of Heinz' drawings speak volumes of the state of mind of internees. 'The Long Road Back' has surreal figures in a landscape



'Larvae' December 19, 1940

with cones or spikes and a backdrop of Hepworth-like objects, somewhat reminiscent of ships. 'Monument of an Ancient Civilisation' seems to contain an obscured message as there is some writing which has been largely inked over by the dark area to the centre-left. Heinz gave this drawing in the 1950's to his friend, the painter Prunella Clough. 'Larvae' expresses something of the constriction of internment in a surreal form.

Sufficient pressure was brought to bear on the British government that in the spring of 1941 internees were being

assessed to see if they might qualify to be returned to the UK. Heinz had published articles which were clearly against Nazi Germany, including three in the anti-war magazine *Adelphi* during 1939. This combined with supportive statements notably from Herbert Read meant that he was classified as eligible for release.

Heinz left Australia on the 4th June 1941 aboard the *Themostocles*, the second ship to depart, carrying initially small numbers of internees back to the UK. One of the 57 others returning with him on the ship was Hein Heckroth. No longer were they treated as prisoners, instead mixing freely with the crew and joining with them in talks and performances. One such was 'South Sea Sappers Serenade'. The program for this shows that Heinz gave a 'recitation' and was also responsible for 'Doubtful Ditties, Illustrated Sketches' along with Hein Heckroth.

Postwar, Heinz became a sculpture tutor at the Royal College of Art and took part in a range of exhibitions including sculpture in the home, the Battersea Park exhibitions and the Festival of Britain. Later he became head of Fine Art at Winchester College of Art. He lived for periods of time in France finally retiring there in 1973. He died in 1975. Among an significant body of work encompassing a variety of materials, styles and techniques Heinz is particularly noted for his finely polished works in marble.



'Construction' December 27, 1940

Find out more at www.henghes.org

This article is based on a talk given by the artist's son, Ian Henghes as part of the Insiders Outsiders festival in October 2021. A recording is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfD4k9Owids&t=215s> (First 20 minutes)



'Untitled' (Dedicated to Roland Penrose) December 20, 1940

From the Archives

Dunera News No 23, February 1992

Coulton House
37Coulton Hill
London NW8 OJX

Dunera News
Hay-Tatura Association,
c/o 87 Clow Street,
Dandenong, Vic, 3175

Gentlemen:

Great - finally somebody has started to sing the song of the Stirling Castle and her passengers who joined the British forces and fought in the European and African battlefields of World War II.

Having watched the phosphorous light drawn by the ship's propellers lighting up our path during the blackouts as we crossed the oceans on the return journey to UK, completed by the grace of God, we were all recruited (to the British Army) on arrival.

Having joined, in the first instance the Pioneer Corps with our initial training at Ilfracombe, we gradually transferred to British fighting units i.e. Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers. Commando and airborne units. My path took me from Muirhead near Glasgow to Shrewsbury for battle training with an explosives company of the Royal Engineers. From there to a short spell on the Orkney Islands, then to the Depot Battalion Royal Engineers in Halifax and on to Algiers with an anti-tank/mine company, Royal Engineers.

Next through Africa and by way of Egypt to Palestine for quite a considerable period of time. Finally returning to England on the troop ship Gladisca which went down somewhere in the Mediterranean, being picked up by the Liberty Carrier Trumpeter and returning to these shores with, once again, absolutely nothing to my name.

Then followed several months of courses brushing up German and memory training, and service with 246 Field Security in Germany - Cologne, Essen, Munsterlagen etc until finally discharged rather late in the day in May 1947.

There it is - we have read much, time and again about the 8th Australian Employment Company - now let's start talking about real action and hopefully many more of the Stirling Castle volunteers will write.

Best wishes to you all

Peter Eden (Engel)

4.th June. 1941.

After 26 years,
It now appears,
That of all careers,
You chose pioneers;
So three hearty cheers,
As liberty nears,
No doubt destiny deers,
Towards many beers,
Times without fears,
And never tears,
In your future years.

Werner Goldschmidt.

Stirling Castle Returners

Carol Bunyan

The *Stirling Castle*, referred to in one account as the *Starving Castle*, sailed from Sydney on 13 October 1941 with 338 internees on board; another 50 transferred from the *Ceramic* in New Zealand. Pioneer volunteers made up 80 per cent of the 388, 15 per cent were returning for release, and three per cent to have their application for release considered. The remaining two per cent were Italians returning for case consideration by the Italian Advisory Committee. Hay had been the first camp for 92.5 per cent and Loveday, near Barmera in South Australia, was the last permanent camp for about 300. Kurt Regner, the first non-Italian Arandora Star survivor to leave camp, returned for release. At least eight of those on board died before the war ended.

On arrival in Britain on 28 November, immediate release was restricted to men with prior approval such as Peter Stadlen and Helmut Gernsheim (read about his encounter with Winston Churchill in DN 26, p. 14). All others were re-interned.

Many Pioneer applicants were released the next day and, when allowed, some transferred to army support or operational units. For the majority, the details of their military service or the locations they served is known only by their family or outlined in official records difficult to access in Australia. Barney Barnett (Horst Blumenthal)¹ and Walter Bennett (Berger)² were serving in tank units when they became POWs of the Germans. The third POW, Stephen Dale (Spanglet),³ was with Special Operations Executive (SOE) when captured in northeast Italy. Willy Field (Hirschfeld),⁴ Fredy Fisher (Max Henry Fischer),⁵ and Dennis Goodman (Hermann Guttman)⁶ were in the same tank unit as Barnett, along with others. Walter Fletcher (Fleisch)⁷ switched to the Royal Engineers and led an underwater demolition team of 25 men on D-Day. Others from this ship are known to have served in various Pioneers companies, both in Britain and in Europe, including 8th Parachute Regiment and as RAF ground crew.

1. DN 69, 70, 72 & 93

2. DN 24

3. DN 30 & 31

4. DN 71 & 85 and Helen Fry's *From Dachau to D-Day*

5. DL Vol 2

6. DN 71 and Dunera Tapes interview in *Haywire*. NB unit mentioned in DN 71 wrong hence reference to serving in same unit to Barnett.

7. DN 60

Of the five posted to No. 3 Troop of No. 10 (Inter-Allied) Commando ("X Troop"), two were among the four from the Stirling Castle who were killed on active service. Max Laddy (Lewinsky), a medical orderly, died in a landing craft at Sword Beach on D-Day, while Richard Arlen (Abrahamowicz) was killed the next day in a coastal battery assault. He had been attached to 45 Royal Marine Commando.

Peter Weisz disappeared without a trace in April 1945 while on a SOE operation in The Netherlands. He was awarded the King's Commendation for Brave Conduct. Michael Lewis (Max Lewinsohn), of 1st Special Air Service Regiment, was killed in northern Germany on 10 April 1945. Five days later two members of his unit on a reconnaissance patrol discovered Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. British forces entered the camp, the first liberated by non-Russian troops, later that day.

German language skills were in high demand within the British forces in Europe. The need existed at all levels from units to higher headquarters. Thus, some Stirling Castle returnees, irrespective of what type of unit they served in, became translators. General translation tasks included speaking with captured prisoners, reading,

sorting and transcribing documents. And as the military occupation continued, they liaised with and helped in the management of German civilians. Intelligence gathering and war crimes investigations also required translators. Ronnie Gilbert (Hans-Julius Guttman)⁸ transferred to the Intelligence Corps after VE Day. He had a lengthy career in British intelligence, mostly in Germany, after his demobilisation from the army. Bernard Berger arrived at Bergen-Belsen one month after liberation, spending four months there helping to prepare for the British military trials of camp personnel.⁹ Others did work associated with the Nuremberg Trials.

Some Pioneer applicants found their status had changed on arrival in Britain and remained interned until their case was resolved. Eric Forester (Erdös), a Pioneer volunteer accepted by the army, was not released until 1944 due to security concerns. Simon Guttman, one of a four Pioneer applicants who left Australia prior to notification of their rejection, died in September 1942 while still interned.

While not all archival records are open and available, the information we have indicates that most releases after case consideration seem to have occurred in early 1942. Release often meant

8. DN 92

9. AJN, Melbourne, 26 May 95, p. 19

enlistment in the Pioneers or work. Released internees, whether on landing in Britain or later, were bound by the same regulations regarding acceptable work as the wider British population. Some of those approved for outright release later enlisted. Of the ten Italians on the ship, seven applied for and six were released under the White Paper category that required at least 20 years residence in Britain. They also had to have long severed ties with Italy, British associations and interests, and show they were friendly to Britain.

Of the non-Italian former internees traced to date, about 50 per cent remained in Britain. Others left at various times for other countries including the USA, Canada, Austria, and East and West Germany. Barney Barnett, Walter Bennett, Peter Huppert and Bernard Berger were among the sixteen who returned to Australia between 1945 and the early 1990s.

Editor's Note

For anyone seeking further information on the fascinating stories of the Dunera men who returned and joined the Pioneers more can be found in back issues of the Dunera News including:

- Dunera News no 54 for some details on Peter Eden's life
- Dunera News nos 30 and 31 re Stephan Dale (Spanglet) army and POW experiences
- Dunera News no 71 re Dennis Goodman (Hermann Guttmann) and Willy Field (Hirschfeld)
- Dunera News nos 69, 70 and 72 contain Barney Barnett's story



TO THOSE ONE HUNDRED

Having learnt - within the last year - that the life of such as we is full of chance happenings, unforeseen changes and vicissitudes ; having also acquired a certain degree of resignation in the face of circumstance, it is yet with regret and with renewed sorrow at the helplessness of our situation, that we witness the departure of one hundred friends from our accidental, but non the less fraternal community.

Profoundly conscious of the uncertainty of our lot, we therefore take the opportunity of extending towards those who leave us the only help we can give:

OUR SINCEREST WISHES
FOR A BETTER FUTURE

HAY, Camp Seven,
MAY 5th, 1941

THE EDITOR.

Tatura Event – April 2022

Kristin Otto

Photos by Kaye Watson

Highlights of the Sunday 10 April 2022 Dunera Association annual event at Tatura were – as usual – a delicious afternoon tea; a preview of the Jewish Museum of Australia’s Helmut Newton exhibition by Curator, Cathy Prior; and a guided visit to the site of Camp One with the new owner of the property.

About 35 attendees were welcomed to Tatura Irrigation & Wartime Camps Museum by Sue Schmitke, President of Tatura & District Historical Society.

All attendees received a souvenir 80th Anniversary bag (delayed from 2020) printed with images of a 1940 Emil Wittenberg drawing of an HMT Dunera interior, and a photograph of the HMS Queen Mary in Sydney. Dunera Association Treasurer Geoff Winter manned the information table.

Cathy Prior gave a wonderful illustrated overview of former Tatura Camp 3 internee, and internationally famous photographer, Helmut Newton’s life and work.

Born Helmut Neustaedter in Berlin, in Melbourne he had a photography studio with Dunera internee Henry Tischauer / Talbot, before returning to Europe.

The exhibition runs April 2022 to January 2023 at the Jewish Museum of Australia.

After enjoying Tatura Museum’s wonderful hospitality a convoy set off for Camp One. Perfect weather, a schematic map of Camp One and contemporaneous photographs made for fascinating comparisons with what remains today.

David, the owner, guiding visitors over Camp Site 1





Cathy Prior from JMA





Kristin Otto, Cathy Prior and Kate Garrett



Ron Reichwald, Cathy Prior, Sue Smitke and Seumas Spark



Attendees at the museum



Attendees at site of Camp Site 1



The owner showing surviving infrastructure at Camp Site 1

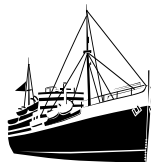
IN MEMORY

George Lederer - Dunera Boy

We were saddened by news of the passing of George Lederer on 28 May 2022 at the age of 102 Years.

George was born in Vienna and was in camp in Hut 26 at Hay along with Andrew Eppenstein, Mike Sondheim and Georg and Henry Teltscher. While interned he completed high school education. He returned to the UK on the Themistocles and later joined his brother in the USA where he remained for the rest of his life. George studied civil engineering and went on to a career in his field.

We send condolences to his family in the USA and his friends around the world.



Dunera News

First published in 1984 this is a unique resource of information relating to the internment of refugees from Nazi oppression deported to Australia from Britain and Singapore in 1940.

PDFs of all back issues can be found on the Dunera Association website.

The association welcomes contributions of letters or articles for future issues of Dunera News: Please email duneraboys@gmail.com or visit www.duneraassociation.com

Find us on 

Friends of the Dunera Boys Public Group

Admin and Moderators:
Nathan Oppy & Michelle Frenkel

This group is an international forum for discussing all things Dunera. The group would love to hear your stories or associations with the Dunera or Queen Mary internees.

If you have any questions about your families' connections to this subject then this is the place to post your query; the group members have an unequalled knowledge between them.

Useful contact and links

Dunera Museum at Hay

Carol Bunyan (Canberra)
Volunteer Researcher
lcb@bigpond.com

Dunera Hay Tours

David Houston (Hay)
davidhouston23@bigpond.com

Duldig Studio

www.duldig.org.au

Tatura Irrigation & Wartime Camps Museum

www.taturamuseum.com
taturamuseum@gmail.com

Dunera Stories

Online resource for stories and artwork of Dunera and Queen Mary Internees
www.dunerastories.monash.edu

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