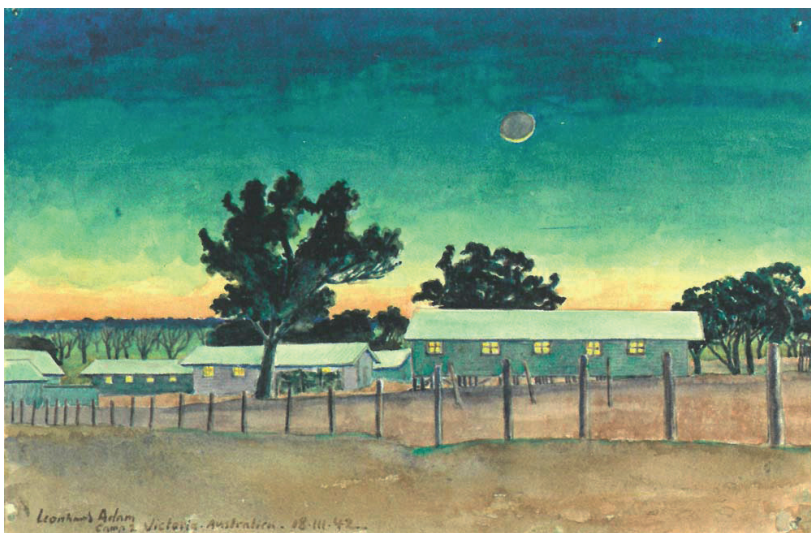


# Dunera News



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.109 January 2021



## Foundation Editor:

The late Henry Lippmann OAM

## Editorial responsibility:

The Committee of the Dunera Association

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

© Copyright Dunera Association 2021.

Unless otherwise stated.

## Cover illustrations Leonhard Adam:

Dust Storm Tatura Camp 4

December 8, 1941

Camp 2 (Tatura) March 18, 1942

## CONTENTS

From the President	3
The Art of Leonhard Adam	4
Laugh but don't forget	6
Queen Mary Internees	8
Dunera: Who, when, why?	10
Dunera Lives - Profiles	14
Dunera Torpedos	16
Fragmented Lives	18
Save the date 2021	18
The Dunera Project	19
In Memory	19
Useful Contacts	20

*Many thanks to all the contributors*

## DUNERA ASSOCIATION INC COMMITTEE 2020/2021

(All reside in Melbourne unless designated)

**Ron Reichwald** President

reichwaldddunera@gmail.com

0401 048 558

**Janet Arndt** Vice President

tonyjazzman@gmail.com 0413 390 153

**Susie Reichwald** Secretary

reichwaldsusie@gmail.com 0416 080 040

**Selma Seknow** Assistant Secretary

selma@enqyr.com.au 0412 449 655

**Geoff Winter** Treasurer (Canberra)

wintergj1948@hotmail.com 0439 796 054

**Dr Peter Felder** Immediate Past President

peter@felder.com.au 0418 382 062

### Committee Members:

**Rebecca Silk**

rebeccasilk@bigpond.com

**Jack Strom**

js@showbiz.net.au

**Dr Seumas Spark**

seumas.spark@monash.edu.au

**John Ebert** (Sydney)

lppac02@hotmail.com

**Kristin Otto**

kristinotto8@hotmail.com

**Michelle Frenkel** (Shepparton Vic)

michelle\_frenkel@yahoo.com

**Freya Brent** (Canberra)

freyabrent@gmail.com

**Aaron Reichwald**

a.r.results@gmail.com

**Alan Lion**

al.lion@btinternet.com (UK)

**Anton Stampfl** (Sydney)

anton.stampfl@gmail.com

**Dr. Karen Wayne**

drkarenwayne@gmail.com



**Ron Reichwald**

President  
Dunera Association

## From the President

Welcome to our first edition of Dunera News for 2021. We are ushering in the new year with the hope for a better, healthier year which will enable us to hold face-to-face events. In Australia and New Zealand, as I write, we have very few cases of COVID-19, but at the same time we are mindful of the northern hemisphere grappling with lockdowns, amidst increasing case numbers.

I was honoured to be re-elected as President of the Dunera Association at our recent AGM, along with an expanded committee including another 3rd generation member. We are all anticipating working together on preparations for an exciting year of events.

In 2021, we will celebrate the postponed 80th anniversary events up until September when we will incorporate the 81st anniversary. In March, we will conduct the consecration of the tombstone of Dunera Boy Kurt Kriszhaber, who died without any known surviving family in tragic circumstances in Melbourne in 1946. This will take place on the 100th anniversary of his birth and will be live streamed on Facebook. Full details will be on our Facebook page, Friends of the Dunera Boys, closer to the event.

We will be in Tatura in April to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the arrival of some Dunera Boys and the Queen Mary Singapore family group. Please refer to the Save the Dates on page 18.

We have had two virtual events held since I last reported to you; webinars on the works and lives of Leonhard Adam, and on Karl Duldig and the contribution of the Duldig Studio to the cultural life of Melbourne. 'Who, when and why?' is an insightful piece on the background to the internment of enemy aliens in the UK which puts into an historical perspective the panic measures which led to the deportations to Australia. We also report the launch of the latest Dunera book, Dunera Lives – Profiles as well as the fascinating story of the Dunera torpedo incident with drawings by Joshua Chodzeisner. There are also details of the recent establishment of our relationship with the Emanuel Synagogue's Dunera Project in Sydney. Finally, there will be a review of an article by Carol Bunyan on internees who went to Palestine.

Wishing all members good health  
and a safe, happy 2021.

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

# Dunera, Tatura and The Art of Leonhard Adam

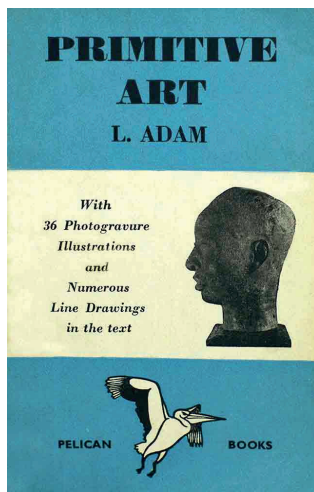
A major online event of the Dunera Association with the Emanuel Synagogue was held on 30 August 2020. Moderated by Marina Capponi with participants Ron Reichwald and Michelle Frenkel from the Dunera association with George Ferguson and Lurline Knee from the Tatura Wartime Camps Museum.



Self Portraits at Tatura and  
post internment

The main feature was an enthralling presentation by Mary-Clare Adam on the artwork of her father, Dunera internee Leonhard Adam.

## Reflections on the event by Mary-Clare Adam.



My father, Berlin-born Leonhard Adam was a Dunera Boy. He, like many other Dunera Boys had found refuge in England where, for two years he felt quite safe. There he re-established himself as an anthropologist and expert in comparative law and gave lectures in his field at many respected institutions, including The Royal Society of Arts and Oxford University. He also spent many hours in The British Museum doing research for his book *Primitive Art* which was published in 1940, exactly at the time the Dunera was on the high seas and my father and his brother Manfred were on their way to internment in Australia.

My father was a trained artist, having studied in Berlin with the teacher of the great German-American Expressionist painter Lionel Feininger and during the year and a half he spent interned in Tatura he painted many pictures showing life in the camp. It was mainly these paintings which I spoke about at the event.

Despite being interned, my father was able to capture the sunshine of Australia in his paintings. There is an optimism which comes through which was entirely missing from the pictures he painted while interned on the Isle of Man. Lurline Knee has noted that some of his Tatura paintings do not even show the barbed wire!

In fact, it was in Tatura that he became impressed by the light of Australia, which is reflected in many of his subsequent paintings, whether 'By the Sea at Beaumaris', in the Dandenongs, or 'On the Road to Undoolya', in Central Australia. One such example is 'Camp 2 in Tatura', painted on the evening of 18th March 1942. The lights inside the huts glow brightly, while the setting sun sets the sky ablaze with colour and there is already a sliver of silver around the moon. (Illustrated on the cover.)

After his release from internment my father went on to found a museum of indigenous art at The University of Melbourne, (today located inside the Ian Potter Museum), as well as to lecture on comparative law, Asiatic art, and world indigenous art in the Departments of Law, Fine Arts and History. He was also the first person to teach Mandarin Chinese at The University of Melbourne.



Preparing for the Zoom event brought me in contact with Ron Reichwald and Michelle Frenkel, herself a third generation Dunera descendant, as well as with Marina Capponi and Robert Klein of Emanuel Synagogue Sydney. This was a very positive experience for me as I was in Israel and the other contributors in Australia.



The event can be viewed on catch up:  
<https://emanuelsynagoguesydney.shulcloud.com/dunera-video>

The Dunera Association is most grateful to Emanuel Synagogue for collaboration and technical support in running this online event.

Above: Tatura Camp 3 Victoria 1941

Right: Arandora Star Monument, Tatura Victoria  
(Camp 3 1941)



# Duldig Studio Event

## “Laugh but don’t forget”

On the 24th September 2020 the Duldig Studio, museum + sculpture garden hosted a public event to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the Queen Mary in Australia with internees from Singapore.



*This was an absolutely brilliant, insightful and informative commemoration of an interesting event in history - thank you all for your stories and memories shared to all.*

Matt Siddall

On the 18th of September, 1940, a converted troopship, formerly the luxury passenger liner, the Queen Mary, departed Singapore bound for Australia. On board were 266 people, ranging in age from a few months to 80 years old. Many families had fled Nazi persecution in Germany and Austria. Nevertheless, at the outbreak of war, the British government classified them as ‘enemy aliens’ and after arriving in Sydney, on the 25th September 1940, the passengers were transported to an internment camp in Tatura, Victoria. Less than two years later Singapore fell and their enforced deportation and internment had more than likely saved their lives.

In 1942, along with refugees from the Dunera, many of the Queen Mary internees enlisted in the Australian army and more than 75% remained in Australia after the war. These families and their descendants have enriched Australian society in many fields, including the arts, medicine, education and sport.

Eighty years later ten ‘enemy alien’ Queen Mary refugees and their descendants have shared their personal family stories in the form of an online Webinar. This celebratory event was moderated by Dr Seumas Spark, Monash University and co-author of the acclaimed publication ‘Dunera Lives: Profiles’. This book lists 221 men, women and children sent to Australia on the Queen Mary as well as ten children who were born in internment. 198 people from across the world participated in the webinar which also generated considerable media interest.

**THE WEBINAR CAN BE VIEWED ON YOUTUBE**

**<https://youtu.be/LCBy4ghP6co>**

## Laugh and Forget

From Lynda Wischer Director of the Duldig Studio, museum + sculpture garden. This is an extract from her introduction to the event describing artwork by Ludwig Meilich.

*I would like to draw your attention to the image "Laugh and Forget". Drawn by engineer Ludwig Meilich in 1941, this poster promoted a concert held in the Camp at Tatura. It depicts a Singapore Whale bearing the internees onto Australian shores, where angel nurses and laughing soldiers live.*

*A wonderful statement of positivity and resilience. Sadly Ludwig died in captivity later that year.*

Picture Miriam Gould Collection



**The participants who told their stories were;**

**Former internees:**

**Eva de Jong-Duldig**

Queen Mary passenger with her parents Karl Duldig and Slawa Horowitz-Duldig.

Eva is Founder and Patron of the Duldig Studio, museum + sculpture garden.

**Professor George Fink**

Queen Mary passenger with his parents Hans and Therese Funk and grandparents Emanuel and Malvina Weiss.

**Miriam Gould**

Queen Mary Passenger with her parents Werner and Ilse Baer.

**Ruth Simon**

Queen Mary Passenger with her parents Otto and Johanna Gottlieb.

**1st generation descendants**

**Janet Arndt**

Daughter of Queen Mary passengers Kurt and Wally Arndt.

Jayne Josem

Daughter of Queen Mary passenger Edith Gruenbaum and grand-daughter of passengers Ludwig and Tilly

**2nd generation descendants**

**Rabbi Ronnie Figdor OAM**

Grandson of Queen Mary passengers Alfred and Valerie Figdor,

**Marita Seefeld**

The following passengers on the Queen Mary were related to Marita: Prof Arthur Seefeld and Sophie Seefeld, Gerhard and Rosie Seefeld, Helmut and Edith Seefeld, Doris, Loretta, Gerald and Valerie Seefeld.

**3rd generation descendants:**

**Joannah Huntley-Commère**

Great grand-daughter of Queen Mary passengers Gertrude and Paul Schlesinger.

**Introduction:**

**Lynda Wischer**

Director of the Duldig Studio, museum + sculpture garden

**Moderation and Talk on the Queen Mary Internees:**

**Dr Seumus Spark**

Adjunct Fellow in History Monash University


The article which follows on pages 10/11 is based on the talk presented by Dr Spark.

# The Queen Mary Internees by Dr Seumas Spark




Duldig Studio Webinar: The Queen Mary 80th Anniversary of arrival in Australia  
Introduction by Dr Seumas Spark.

The Queen Mary 80th Anniversary of arrival in Australia - webinar recording

## Arrival of the *Queen Mary* internees 25<sup>th</sup> September, 1940



Sydney Morning Herald, September 28, 1940



German Fifth-Columnists Arrive in Sydney for Internment  
*New Zealand Free Lance*,  
October 16, 1940

Seumas began by thanking the Duldig Studio for inviting him to moderate the event and expressed his admiration to Eva de Jong-Duldig, the Duldig Studio, her staff and the many people he now counts as friends among the Queen Mary internees and descendants.

Referencing an Australian newsreel from September 1940, Seumas noted the clear note of prejudice towards refugees who came from a country that was suspicious of foreigners and at war at the time. He also noted, nevertheless that the Queen Mary internees were taken in by Australia and, over the years, their story shows the long and protracted triumph of humanity over prejudice.

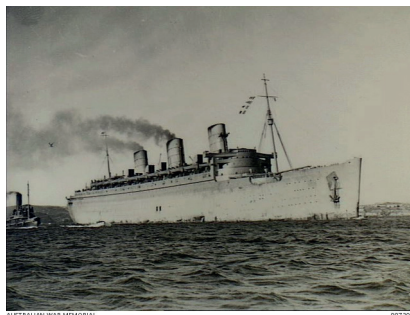
The Queen Mary story, he said is often the poor cousin to the story of the Dunera internees. Seumas suggested that the reason may simply have been numbers - 266 on the Queen Mary and around 2000 on the Dunera, yet this should not be an excuse for scholarly neglect. Seumas moved on to relate his discovery of some interesting documents in the National Archives in London. The documents contain correspondence from 1940 between government house in Singapore and the Colonial Office in London. The context related to the Governor of Singapore seeking to justify his decisions to intern the Singapore refugee enemy aliens and subsequently to deport them to Australia.



Officials from the Colonial Office considered short term internment was in the spirit of British government policy but wondered why deportation to an indefinite future in Australia rather than continued internment in Malaya was the option chosen. Moreover the Colonial Office expressed sympathy for the plight of the refugees from Nazi oppression in Europe.

Approval by the Colonial Office for the Singapore refugees' deportation to Australia was therefore given only hesitatingly and the Governor told to act as he saw fit.

Illiberalism held sway, deportation proceeded and, by a twist of fate the Queen Mary internees were saved from invasion by the Japanese. The ironies of history are many.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

007200

## The Queen Mary Internees - Facts and Figures

Research by Alan Morgenroth and Dr Rachel Pistol

The Queen Mary left Singapore on 18th September 1940 arriving in Sydney on the 25th September. Unlike the Dunera internees the 266 Queen Mary internees included women and children.

The German and Austrian Family Groups and single women were housed in Tatura Camp 3 Compound D and the single men were initially interned at Tatura Camp 3 Compound C.

There were 45 Italians including 7 children and a further 3 were born to these families during internment.

There were 221 mainly German and Austrians including 29 children with a further 9 born to these families during internment.

There were 3 men over 70 including Joseph Rein who was 77. Alf Knudsen, who was Danish, was 71 when interned and 77 when he was released in 1946.

Of the 221 German and Austrians 208 were Jewish including 67 Family Men, 75 Women, 24 children and 42 single men.

There were 2 further small deportations from Singapore to Australia including 4 Italians and 2 Germans on the MS Boissevain arriving in Brisbane on 8th February 1941 and 12 Italians on the SS Rangitiki arriving 24th November 1941.

# The Dunera Boys... Who, when and why?

by Alan Morgenroth and Dr Rachel Pistol

As we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the sailing of the HMT Dunera, Alan Morgenroth (son of Dunera Boy Kurt Morgenroth) and his historian wife, Dr Rachel Pistol examine the circumstances which led to the deportation of 2,546 internees from Britain to Australia on the 10th July 1940 and summarise who was aboard.

Until April 1940, internment of enemy aliens in Britain had been restricted to those who had been placed in Category A, either on the recommendation of MI5 or the 120 tribunals set up to assess all enemy aliens. Category A aliens were interned immediately however, Sir John Anderson the Secretary of State at the Home Office, was happy for the B and C category aliens, predominately refugees from Nazi oppression, to remain at liberty.

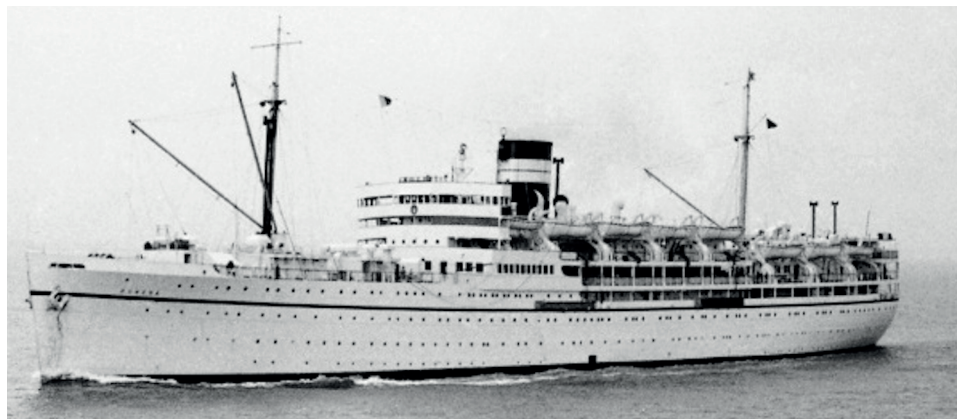
From April to June 1940, circumstances changed due to the adverse situation in the theatres of war which resulted in public opinion turning against the 60,000 Germans and Austrians still at liberty. On April 9, Nazi Germany occupied Denmark and invaded Norway, which was overrun within a month. The German success in Norway was in part blamed on a Fifth Column of Nazi sympathisers. When France was invaded on May 10, coinciding with Winston Churchill becoming Prime Minister, the threat of invasion was very real, as was the perception of a British Fifth Column. On May 11, the internment of up to 5,000 male B and C category enemy aliens living in coastal areas at risk of invasion was ordered. Four days later the remaining B category men were interned followed by about 4,000 Category B women and dependent children on May 24. By June 4, British forces had been evacuated from Dunkirk and on June 10, Italy entered the war precipitating the internment of 3,700 Italian men.

Within a month the internee population had increased from around 2,000 to nearly 17,000. Housing and feeding these internees became an immediate problem and the British Government approached Canada and Australia requesting that they should take the most dangerous. Both Canada and Australia agreed to take 6,000 each. By June 21, invasion seemed almost inevitable and the decision was made to intern a further 25,000 Category C enemy aliens aged between 16 and 69.

In the meantime, four transports left the UK with internees and POWs bound for Canada. The Duchess of York on June 2, the Arandora Star on June 30, SS Sobieski July 2 and SS Ettrick on July 4. The Arandora Star was torpedoed 2 days out of Liverpool on July 2 with the loss of up to 175 German and 456 Italian internees.

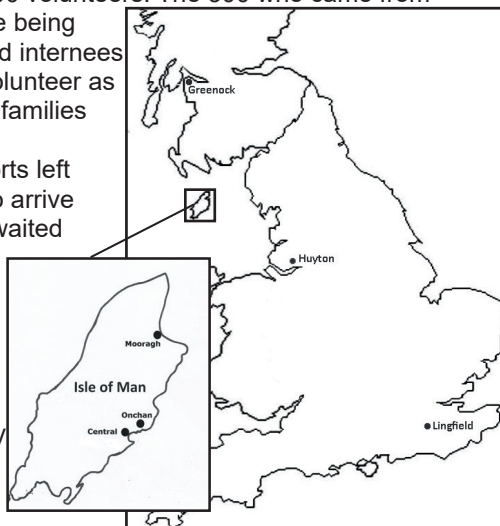
This sets the scene for the departure of the Dunera for Australia. Almost all the Category A internees had already been deported to Canada or had been lost on the Arandora Star, however the fit survivors of the Arandora Star sinking were sent to Liverpool from Greenock to board the Dunera. These included 251 Category A Germans and Austrians and 200 Italians. The former group are often inaccurately described as Nazis; however, the reality was this was a very mixed group including merchant seamen, pro-Nazi aliens, together with political and racial refugees some of whom were Jewish. The Italians were all supposed to be members of Mussolini's Fascist party but once again this was a politically mixed group however, generally, they were not refugees; rather they were Italians living in Britain, some for up to 20 years, many with divided loyalties.

By the beginning of July, the UK internment Camps were overwhelmed with B and C Category internees including the aliens living in coastal areas, category B men, and the new influx of category C internees. At this time only four of the seven male camps on the Isle of Man had opened and many internees were accommodated in the temporary tented camps at Sutton Coldfield and Prees Heath not to mention the wholly unsuitable conditions of Warth Mills, the disused cotton mill in Bury. All the camps were massively overcrowded and still many thousands of B and C category aliens had not been arrested due to the lack of accommodation. Filling the transports for overseas was considered an urgent priority and despite the sinking of the Arandora Star, the Sobieski and Ettrick sailed for Canada and urgent instructions were sent to the camps to select around 2,000 of these internees to fill the new transport to Australia.



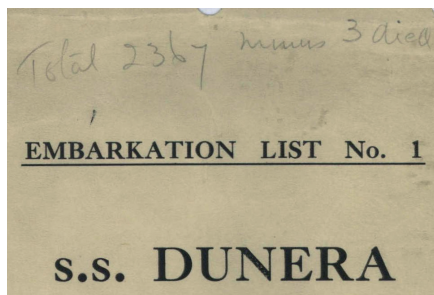
Huyton, near Liverpool, was the largest Camp at the time and the commandant selected nearly 1000, including about 800 volunteers. The 300 who came from Lingfield Racecourse believed they were being sent to the Isle of Man and many married internees on the Isle of Man were persuaded to volunteer as they were led to believe their wives and families would be allowed to join them later.

On the 10th July 1940 various transports left the various camps around the country to arrive at Liverpool Docks where the Dunera awaited them. They came from three camps on the Isle of Man, Mooragh, Onchan, and Douglas Central another from Lingfield Racecourse Camp in Surrey with several transports making the relatively short journey from Huyton. The Arandora Star survivors had already been transported from Greenock to temporary camps in Liverpool.



## Discrepancies on the Dunera Embarkation Lists

Such was the confusion within the camps, both with respect to the administration but also amongst the internees themselves who often tried to swap onto or off the overseas lists, that the final embarkation lists which accompanied the transports to Liverpool were full of inaccuracies.



Picture: NAA A2908 P22

There were 12 of these embarkation lists which detail some 2,367 internees who were believed to be onboard. However, on arrival in Australia Captain A R Heighway, who boarded the Dunera in Fremantle, registered some 2,542 internees; a difference of 175. The Home Office File HO215/260 in the UK National Archives at Kew is titled **“Voyage of HMT Dunera: discrepancies in embarkation list”**. The file reports that on 19th November 1940, over 4 months after the Dunera had sailed, they were still unsure exactly who was in Australia as they had found a thirteenth list of 224 individuals who had come from Mooragh Camp on the Isle of Man who had not been listed. This had changed the discrepancy from a shortfall of 175 to a surplus of 45!

Analysing these lists and reconciling the differences was fraught with problems, as many names were similar and often names were altered either to account for the Germanic alphabet with its myriad of accents. For example Löwen might be spelt Lowen or Loewen, ‘ß’ became “ss”, “s” or sometimes ‘sz’, and that was exacerbated by transcription and typing errors, of which there were a great many on the embarkation lists making the task nigh on impossible. This helps to explain why the authorities seem to have given up on trying to explain the differences and by early 1941 the Home Office in the UK accepted the records created by the Australian authorities and updated their records accordingly!

Eighty years on the authors’ analysis of the Australian records and the UK embarkation lists is as follows.

Reconciliation of Dunera Embarkation	Embarkation Lists	Not Listed	Duplicated Not Sent	Embarked Liverpool	Disembarked Died Enroute	Australian Records
German Survivors of the Arandora Star	251	1	-1	251	1	250
Italian Survivors of the Arandora Star	200			200		200
Category B & C German/Austrain	1,916	247	-68	2,095	3	2,092
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>-69</b>	<b>2,546</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,542</b>

With so many discrepancies one might think these lists are not worth academic study or analysis, however they do provide information as to which UK camp they were selected from which in turns provides the opportunity to answer many questions of why they were selected, why others in that camp were not picked, and why there was such a high proportion of young internees included.

These lists, along with the alphabetical lists totalling 2,542 of internees disembarked at Sydney and Melbourne created by the Australian Authorities are available to view on line through the National Archives of Australia. To locate them use their advanced search and enter series number **A2908** and control symbol **P22**.



Dunera Internees - UK Camps from which they were deported to Australia	Dunera Lists	List Totals	Duplication Not Sent	Returned Died	Not Listed	Totals in Australia
German Ex Arandora Star (Greenock)	List 1	251	-1	-1	1	250
Italians Ex Arandora Star (Greenock)	List 2	200				200
Huyton Camp	List 3	359	-4			355
Huyton Camp	List 4	48	-4			47
Huyton Camp	List 5	210	-28			182
Huyton Camp	List 6	26				26
Lingfield Racecourse	List 7	300				300
Huyton Camp	List 8	116	-1			209
Huyton Camp	List 9	94	-2			92
Huyton Camp	List 10	174	-18			156
Central Camp, Douglas	List 11	320	-1			319
Onchan Camp	List 12	269	-12	-3		254
Mooragh Camp Ramsey 'Missing List 13'	List 13				224	224
Original Camp not identified	Not listed				22	22
<b>Totals</b>		<b>2,367</b>	<b>-71</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>2,542</b>
<b>Huyton Camp Totals</b>		<b>1,027</b>	<b>-57</b>			<b>970</b>



The table above summarises the internment camps from which the Dunera Internees were selected. The three camps on the Isle of Man, Mooragh, Onchan and Central Promenade were hotels and holiday boarding houses which had been surrounded by barbed wire. The Mooragh Camp was the first to open in the last week of May with 820+ refugees who had been living at the Kitchener Refugee Camp in Kent, who were interned on the 12th May 1940 as they were living in a protected coastal region. The internees in Onchan and Central Promenade were either aliens living in the coastal regions or category B.

Left: Onchan Camp Isle of Man (TNA Kew)

Huyton internment camp was the largest on the UK mainland and had been created from a newly built but unoccupied housing estate in the suburbs of Liverpool. This was initially a transit camp where the internees in May and June 1940 were sent before being sent to camps on the Isle of Man or deported on the ships to Canada and Australia. There were seven lists of internees drawn up for the Dunera at Huyton and the 970 internees were selected from both B and C categories. Further study is required of these lists to establish if the individual lists were specific to the type or group of internee.

Lingfield racecourse was a temporary transit camp for internees in London and the South East. The 300 internees sent on the Dunera appear to have been predominately category C young men and boys.



Lingfield Racecourse pre-war. Pistol-Morgenroth Collection

**Dunera Lives:**  
**Volume 2 - Profiles**  
by Ken Inglis, Bill Gammage, Seumas Spark  
and Jay Winter with Carol Bunyan

**Dunera Lives:**  
**Volume 1 Visual History**

The writers chronicle in photographs and documents the stories of the cohorts of Dunera and Queen Mary refugees who were displaced, interned and then released during and after WWII. The first volume shows the reader spaces, locations and times – snapshots.

**Volume 2 - Profiles**

‘Profiles’ features 18 Dunera and Queen Mary internees as well as a chapter each on Edward Broughton, and Julian Layton. The writers used the extensive research by the late Ken Inglis, and the individuals whose stories he found compelling as starting points for the profiles which were then completed by the other authors.

*‘In the way it traces the lives of “Dunera boys” before, during and after internment, Dunera Lives: Profiles is narrative history in one of its most engaging and moving forms.’*

RAIMOND GAITA

**DUNERA**  
**LIVES**  
**Profiles**



Ken Inglis, Bill Gammage, Seumas Spark and Jay Winter  
with Carol Bunyan

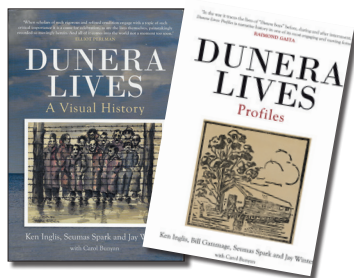
The profiles are as interesting for the elements that the men had in common; fleeing persecution in Europe, starting lives in England or Singapore, only to be shipped to Australia, interned, released to army service and then civilian life. The profiles are even more fascinating for the differences- some retained a strong sense of Jewish heritage and connection to Judaism, others did not, some internees became prominent and acclaimed in their fields, others did not. The profiles do not claim to be representative of the Dunera and Queen Mary cohorts, but each one, including Broughton and Layton was certainly shaped by their experience of exile and internment.

Dunera Lives - Profiles was launched at an online event, hosted by the Jewish Museum of Australia on 3 September 2020. One of the authors, Professor Jay Winter, spoke about the stories as being at an intersection of Jewish history, family history and world history. He also spoke of the theme of “refugeedom” that runs through the stories - the notion of renewal, of recreating a life post internment. The arc of these lives, he said includes both heroic outcomes as well as human frailty.

There is now an enormously rich archive in the Inglis papers that are now housed at the National Library of Australia. Yet Professor Winter encouraged families to continue to write the stories of their Dunera and Queen Mary family members.

As a contribution to the ‘memory boom’ this extraordinarily well researched work is significant. Raimond Gaita says in a foreword “In the way it traces their lives before, during and after internment, Dunera Lives: Profiles is a narrative history in one of its most engaging and moving forms.”

The book is available from  
Monash University Publishing.  
[www.publishing.monash.edu](http://www.publishing.monash.edu)



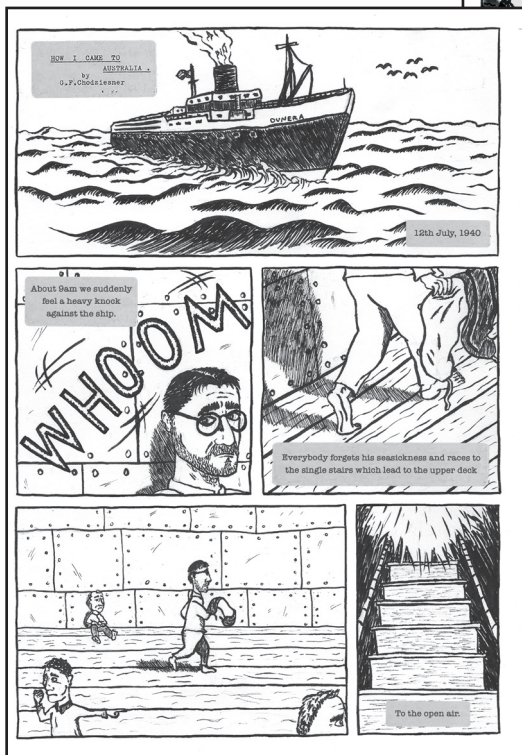
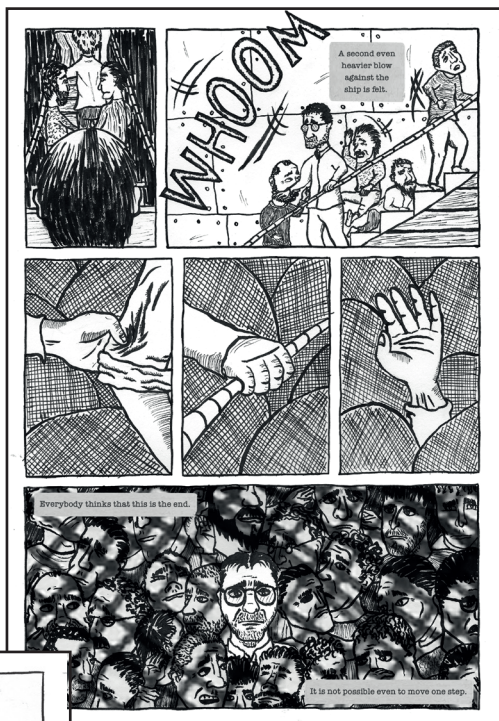
### Dunera Stories Website

During the writing of Dunera Lives it was realised that, while a selection of stories have come into the public domain, thousands remain untold. A new site, Dunera Stories - stories from the Dunera and Queen Mary, has been established to tell these internee stories, to capture the wonderful words and images of individual lives and to build a fuller picture. The site is supported by Gandel Philanthropy, the Besen Family Foundation and Monash University.

To view this amazing and growing work in progress visit  
[www.dunerastories.monash.edu](http://www.dunerastories.monash.edu)  
or to share your family story contact Seumas Spark  
[seumas.spark@monash.edu.au](mailto:seumas.spark@monash.edu.au)

## HMT Dunera Torpedo Incident

Naval historians record that the Dunera was attacked by torpedoes on 12 July 1940 (two days after leaving Liverpool) by a German submarine. According to many accounts, including those of Dunera internees, one torpedo missed and the second caused some very slight damage. Malfunctions of German torpedoes were not at all unusual at that time.



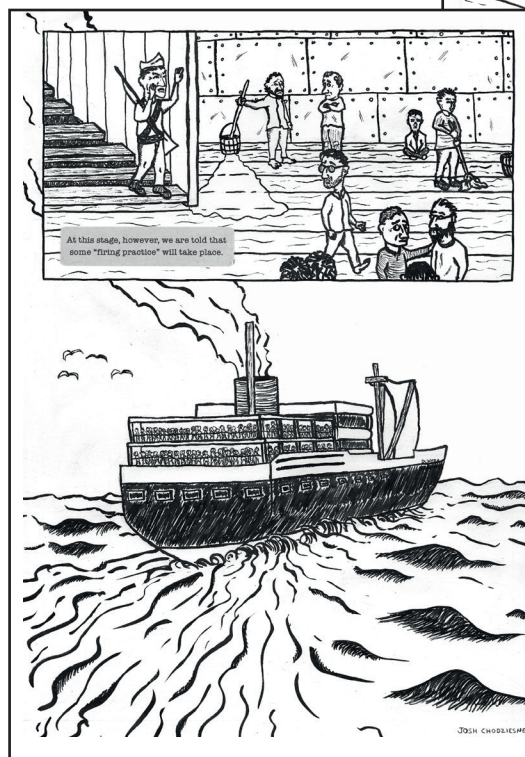
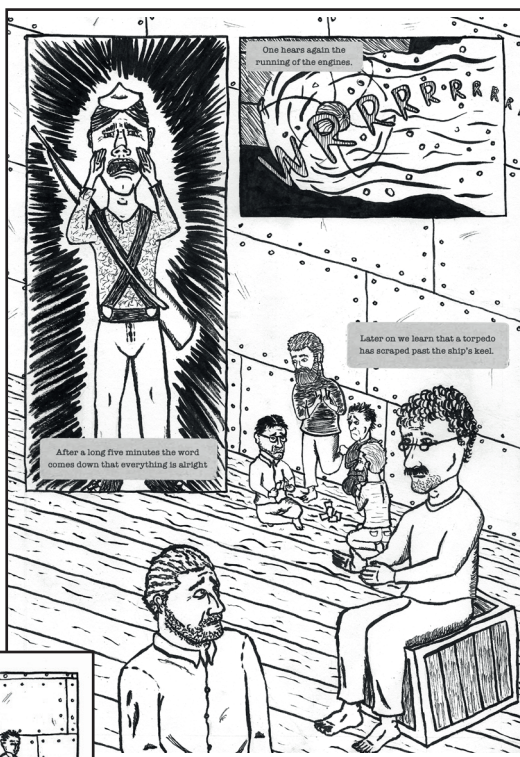
Like many Dunera internees, Georg Chodzeisner documented his account of the trip to Australia on board the Dunera - an account which includes the torpedo attack. Using Georg's manuscript, Georg's great grandson Joshua has drawn the incident when the ship was fired upon.

Joshua's delightful drawings are illustrated here.



## Torpedo Incident: Dunera Miracle Story

A more fanciful version of the torpedo incident has been circulating on the internet and in some religious Jewish writings. According to this version, the Dunera was miraculously saved because the captain of the submarine saw German language papers floating in the water, wrongly inferred that the ship was full of German POW's and called off the attack. The hand of God, rather than a faulty torpedo is interpreted by the miracle story proponents.



In an article in the Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal, (Vol 24 part 4) historian Daniel R Schwartz writes about the difference between historically recorded events and a type of truth that is religious rather than historical.

To view journal AJHS  
abstracts see:

[www.ajhs.com.au/journal/](http://www.ajhs.com.au/journal/)

# Fragmented Lives

by Carol Bunyan

One hundred and twenty-one men and youths, nearly nine per cent of the Dunera internees who left Australia during the war, went to Palestine. Carol Bunyan's paper, 'Fragments of Fragmented Lives: Dunera Internees in Palestine and Israel', published in the latest issue of the Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal (Volume 25 2020, Part 1), outlines this aspect of the Dunera story. It provides details of the composition of all seven groups to leave Australia for Palestine, and of the lives of one or two men from each ship. Some names and stories, such as those of Alfred Brunner, Emil Hochester or Alfred Wachs, may be familiar. Other names, such as the Freier brothers, Ludwig Hemmerdinger or Alfred Weinberg, are largely unknown. Familiar or not, the paper covers aspects of their pre-war and internment lives, and their time in Palestine and Israel. In doing so the paper reveals that some had connections to major Orthodox groups in Germany, the origins of Youth Aliyah, and historical events and figures.

When the men arrived in Palestine they scattered, disrupting associations formed in internment. Some men left Palestine when the war ended. Later, efforts were made to re-establish connections. A 1979 reunion was attended by about 100 people, including family members and later arrivals. Others reconnected by chance.

Much remains unknown about the 121 and other Dunera men who settled in Palestine and Israel. Carol hopes that others will help add to our knowledge of them. The information she has uncovered thus far demonstrates a Dunera truth: the inherently individual nature of each Dunera story.

To purchase a copy of the Australian Jewish Historical Society journal or receive future copies or access older articles including this one go to:

<https://www.ajhs.com.au/journal/>

**Dunera Association Inc**

**2021 Save the Dates**

**Melbourne 21 March 2021**

Consecration of the tombstone of Dunera Boy Kurt Kriszhaber

**2021 ANNUAL EVENTS**

Tatura - Sunday 18 April

Sydney - Sunday 29 August

Hay - Friday to Sunday 3-5 September

Melbourne - Sunday 7 November

# THE DUNERA PROJECT

## Emanuel Synagogue Sydney

Earlier this year we became aware of an online virtual arts program created by Emanuel Synagogue Sydney. They named it The Dunera Project to honour Dunera Boys who were creative, such as artists and writers. Following discussion by our committee and positive communication with Emanuel Synagogue, a collaborative and mutually beneficial working relationship has been established.

As a result, we have co-hosted two webinars with Emanuel Synagogue and our relationship has borne cultural, outreach and financial benefits for the community, our members and the Dunera Association. Emanuel Synagogue has over 3,500 members, many of whom have no previous knowledge of the Dunera story. They have now joined our members in participating in our webinars.

As traditional face to face events were not possible in 2020 such webinars enabled our members to commemorate the 80th anniversary via online events. The reach of the Dunera Project has meant both our members and many other viewers have gained access via digital technology. Financially, we have received the benefit of sharing fees charged to Dunera Project participants in the webinars.

I realise that some members may have become confused with advertising by Emanuel Synagogue of the Dunera Project. To be clear, this arts project is not conducted by the Dunera Association, however certain events are co-hosted for the benefit of members of both organisations. I encourage your participation in these events.

It is hoped to hold future functions collaboratively with Emanuel Synagogue and I thank them for the spirit of their involvement with us in continuing to perpetuate the Dunera and Queen Mary internee stories.

Ron Reichwald (President)

## In Memory

### **Loretta Forsey - Queen Mary Internee**

26 September 1933 to 26 September 2020

Beloved wife of Sidney David Forsey, together for 67 years. Loved mother of daughters Karen and Christine, and sons-in-laws Keith and Grant. Loving and loved Omi to grandchildren Zoe, Ella, Sebastian and Maia. Over the course of her life, many were touched by her compassion and love.

### **Max Victor Arnott (Arnsdorf) – Dunera Boy**

6 May 1921 Friedland East Prussia to 31 August 2020 Melbourne

Beloved and devoted husband to Margot (deceased) for 68 years, Brother to Miriam, Ali and Steve (all deceased). Loved and adored father to Leslie and Evan. Adored and loved Opa to grandchildren Zoe, Jade and Hugo and to great grandchildren Lazar, Sol, Flora, Pavlo, Silvia and Mira. Cherished by Ricky, Andrew, Barbara and Annie. Missed and remembered fondly by family and friends in Melbourne and around the world.

**The Dunera Association Inc**  
**Visit our website**  
**duneraassociation.com**

All correspondence to: The secretary - Dunera Association  
PO Box 72 South Melbourne Delivery Centre VICTORIA 3205 AUSTRALIA

**Email: [duneraboys@gmail.com](mailto:duneraboys@gmail.com)**



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 108 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](mailto:duneraboys@gmail.com)



**Facebook**  
**Friends of the Dunera Boys**  
**Public group · 437 members**

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 CONTACTS/LINKS**

**Dunera Museum at Hay**  
Carol Bunyan (Canberra)  
Volunteer Researcher  
[lcb5@bigpond.com](mailto:lcb5@bigpond.com)

**Duldig Studio**  
[www.duldig.org.au](http://www.duldig.org.au)

**TATURA IRRIGATION & WARTIME CAMPS MUSEUM**  
[www.taturamuseum.com](http://www.taturamuseum.com)  
[Taturamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:Taturamuseum@gmail.com)

**Dunera Hay Tours**  
David Houston (Hay)  
[davidhouston23@bigpond.com](mailto:davidhouston23@bigpond.com)

**Dunera Stories**  
Online resource for stories and artwork of the Dunera and Queen Mary Internees  
[www.dunerastories.monash.edu](http://www.dunerastories.monash.edu)