



## 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Melbourne Event



From left to right: Dr Steven Cooke, Lotte Eisinger-Philipp, Edith Unger and Gary Max. Photo supplied by Anne Wolf.

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# From the D&QM News Coordinator

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Dear Dunera and Queen Mary family and friends,

Due to unfortunate circumstances, our President Simon Chodziesner, and several other committee members, have tendered their resignations. We thank Simon and those other committee members for their service and wish them and their families well for their futures.

The Association is a communal organisation, representing members who have a direct or indirect connection to the Dunera and Queen Mary internee story. The recording and re-telling of history is vital for all communities and their followers to learn the lessons of history and provide the pathway for the future of civilised society.

We as a communal organisation have recently had to grapple with the horrific attack against the Jewish Community at Bondi Beach, Sydney, which resulted in the death of 15 people. You would have received two communications from the Association, which reflected the feelings of our organisation.

Let us pray that NEVER AGAIN should such an act occur anywhere or against any part of our universal society..

**Ron Reichwald**

D&QM News Coordinator

## **SAVE THE DATES**

### **86th Anniversary Events 2026**

Tatura, VIC - Sunday 17 May 2026

Sydney, NSW - Sunday 30 August 2026

Hay, NSW - 4-6 September 2026

Melbourne, VIC - Sunday 8 November 2026

# Melbourne Event - 85th Anniversary

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## *Ron Reichwald*

Around seventy people attended the Melbourne function at Emmy Monash to celebrate our 85th anniversary. It was one of the best attendances in recent years. The programme was jam packed with quality contributions.

We were blessed to have in attendance two treasured Dunera widows, Lotte Eisinger-Philipp who is 105 and Edith Unger, 96. Both women showed that their age has not dimmed their enthusiasm for life. Lotte also spoke from the podium.

Our guest speakers included Dr Steven Cooke, former CEO of the Melbourne Holocaust Museum, Professor Tonia Eckfeld and Dr Nicole Forsyth. We were also pleased to welcome overseas visitors Ronnie Wolf and her husband Steven.

Ronnie read excerpts from her father Gerhard's diary, only discovered in 2012. He was an ORT boy who spent time in the Kitchener Camp with other ORT boys who ended up in Australia on HMT Dunera. Gerhard had attended school in Germany with Dunera Boy Harry Unger but ended up in the USA.

Steven Cooke spoke of the importance of memories and testimonies in protecting our histories from erosion because of the passage of time, particularly in this case the testimonies of those of us connected to the Dunera and Queen Mary histories.

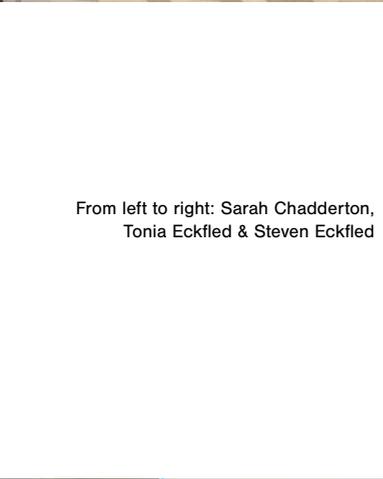
Nicole Forsyth is an old and valued friend of our Association, having presented music of Dunera composer Max-Peter Meyer several times. She spoke of the significant contribution of Dunera musicians/composers to cultural growth in Australia, a product of their cultural background in Germany and Bavaria.

Her connection to the Dunera community came through her father who was the musical director at her local church. One of the parishioners was a Dunera Boy, Ozzy Wolkenstien, who entrusted Nicole's father with the music manuscripts of Max-Peter Meyer, which included the Piano Quartet that Nicole's superb musicians performed at this event. What a wonderful story!

Tonia Eckfeld is the daughter Reinhold Eckfeld and niece of Waldemar Eckfeld, both Dunera Boys. For many years she has been a supporter of the Dunera & Queen Mary Association, and for the last few years a committee member. She recently published the book *No One Knows Their Destiny - The Eckfeld Records: Inside the Dunera Story* and on this occasion Tonia presented excerpts of her recently completed eBook version.



Nicole Forsyth (viola)  
 Anna McMichael (violin)  
 Jem Harding (piano) and  
 Stephanie Li (cello)



From left to right: Sarah Chadderton,  
 Tonia Eckfeld & Steven Eckfeld



From left to right: George Fink, Jan Arndt,  
 Eva de Jong-Duldig

# Giovanni Baldelli - A Dunera Italian

## An Anti-fascist Interned as a Fascist

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### *Joanne Tapiolas*

A 'Dunera Italian', Giovanni Baldelli's situation was a conundrum. *Although Baldelli claims anti-fascist views, this seems strange in view of his father's high position in Fascist Italy*<sup>1</sup> so reported Commandant, No. 2 Internment Camp Tatura to Major Julian Layton on 26 August 1943. Baldelli's father, Major Luigi Baldelli, was an Italian Censor in Bolgona, Italy, but although serving within the Italian Fascist Government had always supported his son's political views.

Baldelli's interest in politics began at a young age. Journalist Alfio Bernabei explained that Baldelli *...was only fifteen when under the influence of a few drinks, as he put it, he began to sing Bandiera Rossa at a wedding reception. Bandiera Rossa or Red Flag was the Communist hymn. On hearing that he might be arrested as an antifascist his father, a hotel manager near Bellagio, speedily arranged for his departure to France where the Baldellis had relatives.*<sup>2</sup>

He returned to Italy, and at 18 years old, on 19 March 1933 was arrested in Milan along with other members of *Giustizia e Libera* and imprisoned in Rome's Regina Coelia which was well known as the anti-fascist, fascist traitors and partisan's prison. Bernabei explained that Baldelli, *undertook to return to Italy and distribute antifascist leaflets, including some in the Duomo in Milan, for which he was arrested and had to spend nine months in prison, five of which in total isolation. He suspected that he had been set up by a fascist secret agent. Once out of prison his father, whom he described as a fascist "only because of interest", managed to get him a new passport and this time Baldelli chose to go to England.*<sup>3</sup> It was at this time that he began writing under a pseudonym for *Solidarite Internationale Antifasciste* and served on several committees to help Republican Spain.

Despite his commitment against fascism, on 13 June 1940, schoolmaster Giovanni Baldelli was arrested in England as a 'fascist.'

Of his arrest Baldelli reflected, *"Such was the fate of a proven anti-fascist in the so called war against Fascism!"*<sup>4</sup>

Survivor of the sinking of the *Arandora Star* in the Irish Sea on 2 July 1940, Baldelli, along with 199 other British Italian internees, was then boarded on the *Dunera* on 10 July 1940 and arrived at Tatura Camp 2, Victoria on 3 September 1940.

During internment in Australia he dedicated most of his spare time to the community. Baldelli gave lessons in French, English, Spanish and Italian and there is mention of him giving a lecture on *Christianity*. He established a theatre community and he kept busy writing plays, ensuring their staging, costuming and reserving for himself, often, the female role which others were reluctant to play.

In 1985, Giovanni Baldelli worked with Alfio Bernabei on the documentary *Dangerous Characters, The Arandora Star Tragedy* and shared his memories of camp performances.

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1 Baldelli Giovanni, 1941-1942, NAA:A367 C76010, National Archives of Australia, Canberra.

2 Alfio Bernabei, "A Song about the Arandora Star", in Italian Scottish Identities and Connections 15, eds. Margaret Rose & Emanuela Rossini, (Italian Cultural Institute, 2000), 62.

3 Alfio Bernabei, Italian Scottish Identities and Connections 15, 62.

4 "Obituary Giovanni Baldelli," Freedom News, Volume 47, Number 10 (November – December 1986): 19, [https://freedomnews.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Freedom-1986\\_10.pdf](https://freedomnews.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Freedom-1986_10.pdf)

Bernabei wrote, *The title of one of his plays was 'June 10' and dramatized the arrests of Italians in Britain. Another was called 'Canzone dei 200' and it was for this one that he wrote the words for the tune. "I don't remember if the song was at the beginning or at the end of the play" Baldelli told me, "but I remember that in the audience there was a fascistone who on hearing the tune exclaimed "but this is Caserio's aria!" Sante Caserio was an anarchist who made an attempt on the life of the president of the French Republic Sadi Carnot." The song was performed by an internee who had a very good voice, Baldelli remembered, and the "special effects" were done quite professionally because among the internees there was "a certain Montagna who used to work for Gaumont.*"<sup>5</sup>

*Canzone dei 200* is an elegiac song eloquently narrating the tragedy of the *Arandora Star* as it unfolded. The second part of the song reflects on the *Dunera* voyage and arrival in Tatura.

## Canzone dei 200 (Translated by Wilma Stark)<sup>6</sup>

*Early that July morning  
Before e'en the break of day  
On still dark waves swiftly onwards  
She silently stole us away*

*Away from the firesides  
All we Italian men  
Heading for who know where  
Torn from our kith and kin.*

*Each man was cold and trembling  
Unable to understand  
As the 'Arandora' sped onwards  
Toward some far off land*

*Then an almighty explosion  
Suddenly blew us away  
Sounding the knell for many  
On that cold and terrible day.*

*Up top and down below  
Each man, 'alien' or 'friend'  
With stricken hearts and trembling limbs  
Knew the 'Star' was near her end.*

*The lifeboats were lowered  
Too few for so many men  
The Captain's words to all  
'Save yourselves – all who can'.*

*Down, down she went to the bottom  
Our brothers down, down to the deep  
Some praying, some cursing the Gods above  
All bound for a cold, cold sleep*

*And we still above on the water  
Tears falling down on the waves  
And the bodies of our Brothers  
Whom no-one now could save.*

*We prayed to the Good Lord above us  
Each man, friend or foe  
And out of the skies came an angel  
A reward for our Faith there below.*

*Gathered up by the warm hands  
Of Torpedo-Boat H83  
An Act of Brotherhood  
Snatched us from the sea.*

*(Dedicated to all who died, and survived. Including Family and friends left behind, and those transported in the 'Ettrick', to Canada)*

Another of his projects was the camp newspaper. Within two weeks of the group's arrival in Australia, Baldelli had suggested a 'camp paper' and a committee of six was formed from the younger internees to write and publish *Gioventù*. Giorgio Scola, a student of architecture, was a committee member who wrote in his diary: *Monday 23 September*

*At the Assembly, our Camp Leader commends the Youth of the Camp for its initiative in producing a camp paper and hands back the first copy of "Gioventù" duly passed by the Military Authorities. The editorial staff including myself are quite elated to find that our paper is in great demand within the camp.*<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Alfio Bernabei, *Italian Scottish Identities and Connections* 5, 63.

<sup>6</sup> Alfio Bernabei, *Italian Scottish Identities and Connections* 15, 67.

<sup>7</sup> Giorgio Enrico Scola, 12,000 miles behind barbed wire, ed. Julian Scola (2024), 27.

The only known surviving copy of *Gioventù* is Issue No. 14 25 December 1940. This Christmas Edition was beautifully decorated with articles written in Italian and English on a range of subjects: *L'Industria delle Paste Alimentari* (GVL), *Un Brutto Natale* (G. Cocozza), *La Riviere* (E Bianchi), *Christmas Wedding* (L Beschizza), *Due Natali* (P Beshizza), *Sports News* (PV Tolaini), and *Port of Call* (G scola).



Front Cover *Gioventù* Numero di Natale No. 14 (December 1940)

Outside of these more cultural pursuits, Giovanni was involved with sports playing football, and in the wood cutting and farm parties. On 16 May 1944, Giovanni was 'released on parole' becoming a wood cutter in the Victorian bush working for the Forestry Commission. Baldelli would write to his friend Dino Accini about the freedoms of being outside the barbed wire. He wrote, *The other day I was taken by car to Wangaratta where they were holding a discussion in English on the Italian people and their conditions under the fascist regime. There were not many people there, but they were well chosen and intelligent. One of the listeners invited me to dinner at his home the next day together with Pietro Beschizza. There we found ourselves for the first time in a warm family atmosphere engendered by the kindness and charming simplicity of the wife and by the Italian music...*<sup>8</sup>

On return to England in August 1945, Baldelli returned to teaching and then completed his B.A. Honours at the University of London in 1948. Outside of his teaching career, he involved himself in literary and political pursuits. He became involved with the social anarchist movement by writing articles during the 1950s and 1960s for *Freedom: Anarchist*

<sup>8</sup> Dino Accini, 1943-1945, NAA:A367, C74676, National Archives of Australia, Canberra.

*Monthly*. He was also actively involved in the Anarchist Commission for International Relations and from 1968 onwards, he wrote regular articles for the Italian Anarchist Journal *L'Internazionale*.

Additionally, he authored several literary works including collections of poems in Italian, French and English. Some the poems he wrote during internment are included in *All'Ombra del Gufo*.

But his crowning work was his Social Anarchism which defined social anarchism and provided a framework for its introduction. This treatise remains a major contributor to anarchist literature. Baldelli believed in an anarchist society based on ethical values: without laws, without political authority, without concentrations of power.

In 1963, Henry de Madaillan wrote of Baldelli in the preface for *Chair à Étoiles: Baldelli, French poet. Certainly. And, sometimes, a great poet. A mocking and painful poet, comical and melancholic, dreamy and realistic, barbaric and refined, a virtuoso, from subtle irony to black humor, constantly contrasting, unexpected, surprising, ranging from the most transparent tenderness to the darkest brutality, fierce and abandoned, bloody and easy, prophetic and helpless, a poet without end and without limits, who speaks an original language, made for him alone, in which he does not hesitate to create the neologisms necessary for his expression in a style that is abrupt, complex and simple, heavy and light, perpetually back on the loom, of sovereign clumsiness and skill. Giovanni Baldelli, idealistic and willful, a perpetual contradiction within the unity of his innermost being, this Italian who teaches Spanish and Russian to the English, this French poet.*<sup>9</sup>

A teacher, a writer, a poet, an anti-fascist and anarchist theorist, Giovanni Baldelli died in 1986.



Giovanni Baldelli 1985, Alfio Bernabei

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9 Giovanni Baldelli, *Chair à Étoiles* (Ateliers de la Licore, 1963), 13.



## Giovanni Baldelli's works:

### Poetry

- 1953 *All'Ombra del Gufo*
- 1956 *Seven Fugues*
- 1963 *Proses et Poèmes*
- 1963 *Chair à Étoiles*
- 1965 *Quand L'Aube Se Survit*
- 1969 *Le Pied à L'Etrier*
- 1973 *Itinerario*

### Philosophy and Politics

- 1971 and republished 2009 *Social Anarchism*

### Plays

- 1955 *The Comedy of Death* (a seriously psychological study on death)
- 1963 *Triangle in Red* (cruelties of communism)

# Biography of Heinz Dehn - Part 4

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*Heinz Dehn was father and grandfather of the operators of dunera.de Peter and Paul Dehn. Like many other Nazi victims, he told little about this time and about his family at all. It was only long after his and his wife Ida's death that the two began intensive research into the stories of their ancestors, their relatives, and some of the people around the family. Thus, and including Peter Dehn's memories of his parents, a relatively comprehensive picture of Heinz Dehn's life emerged.*

**Peter Dehn, January 2024**

## **Against immigration of Nazis to Australia**

As early as 1947, anti-Semitic attacks were reported from Australian camps for Displaced Persons.<sup>1</sup> Remains of SS blood group<sup>2</sup> had been found on some perpetrators. In the early 1950s, the Australian government under the Prime Minister Robert Menzies agrees on a campaign with the Federal Republic of Germany to recruit up to 10,000 preferably young Germans<sup>3</sup>. Jewish circles in particular protest against such uncontrolled immigration from Germany to Australia. It is feared that Menzies is bringing people into the country who will have a negative impact on Australian society due to their anti-democratic and racist upbringing by the Nazis.

At 47a Henry Street the initiative "Victorian Council Against Nazi Immigration" was founded, whose appeal<sup>4</sup> Heinz Dehn signed as spokesman in early 1951. Denazification in Germany had proved a failure, says the appeal, which is sent to numerous politicians, trade unionists, etc., among others. Heinz Dehn fears that "no amount of political screening could deter former Nazis from immigrating to Australia"<sup>5</sup>. Immigration Minister Holt, on the other hand, believes that the screening of candidates will already separate the wheat from the chaff.

In April 1951, the Melbourne newspaper "The Age" let a Polish immigrant<sup>6</sup> have his say: "It was an unhappy journey. We cannot live and travel with men who fought for Hitler." Another daily newspaper quotes Heinz Dehn in January 1952 as saying that a Reichswehr colonel, "one of Hitler's personal bodyguards"<sup>7</sup>, among others, had arrived with a group of immigrants. The newspaper "Herald" quotes an emigrant at the end of January 1952 under the headline "Nazis

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1 Displaced Persons (DPs) were people who were stranded as a result of the war.

2 Philip Mendes, The Jewish Council to Combat Fascism and Anti-Semitism in the Campaign Against Nazi War Criminals, Australian Historical Studies 2008. With thanks to Mr Mendes.

3 The contract was signed in Bonn on Aug 28, 1952. Text: NAA\_ItemNumber30156359.

4 „Protest Against Mass-Immigration of Pro-Nazi Germans“, 1951, Dehn family Archive.

5 „Says Screening is Ineffective“, „The Age“, Jan 9, 1951, page 4; National Library of Australia (NLA), Trove.

6 „Tension on ship Over German Migrant Party“, „The Age“ April 25, 1951, page 4. Ibid.

7 „Hitler Men Let in“, „The Argus“ Jan 29, 1952, page 8. Ibid.

Not Wanted”: One must prevent the entry - of people “with tattoos under their armpits, who were guards in concentration camps, not the inmates”.<sup>8</sup>

Later Heinz Dehn is honorary secretary of the party group of the Communist Party of Australia for the Melbourne district of St. Kilda. He is monitored by the Australian domestic intelligence service ASIO<sup>9</sup>.

## **Return to Germany**

Heinz, Ida and Peter return to Germany<sup>10</sup> in July 1957 and settle in West Berlin. Sensibly they spend the first days in the “Hotel Traber”<sup>11</sup> in Charlottenburg at Stuttgarter Platz 9, the house where Heinz was born. At the end of 1957 they are officially assigned an apartment in Steglitz<sup>12</sup>. In 1963 their daughter is born and they are looking for a larger apartment. When a man’s voice on the phone introduces himself as “Mr. Niemand” (Nobody) and offers an apartment, Heinz initially wants to hang up. In the Friedenau district, the Niemand and Dehn families soon become neighbors.

The family’s livelihood is the rented house from the estate of Heinz’s father Leberecht Dehn, which was reclaimed after years of disputes with the authorities and courts and which his mother Clara had been forced to sell in 1940. Heinz Dehn manages it himself. From 1951 to 1976, Heinz and Ida Dehn also fight for financial compensation or reparations from authorities and courts for the property of their 14 family members murdered by the Nazis and for their own claims arising from the Federal German laws on “Wiedergutmachung” and “Entschädigung”<sup>13</sup> of Nazi victims.

In Westberlin, Heinz Dehn became politically active again, among other things in the Steglitz group of the “Campaign against Nuclear Death”. It had come into being after the CDU (Christian Democrat Party) majority in the Bundestag had voted for the stationing of nuclear weapons in the Federal Republic under German control.

After the campaign was dissolved, Heinz Dehn became honorary managing director of the “Ständiger Arbeitsausschuß für Frieden, nationale und internationale Verständigung West-Berlin” (Standing Working Committee for National and International Understanding, West Berlin) from around 1961. Co-founder and chairman until his death is the film director Erich Engel (1891 to 1966). This association goes public for the first time in 1961 with a “Declaration of West Berlin Opponents of Nuclear Weapons” to continue the tasks of the campaign.

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8 „Nazis Not Wanted“, „The Age“ Jan 28, 1952, page 7. *ibid*.

9 Files on this will not be released. According to ASIO files from Walter Kaufmann (NAA\_ItemNumber8334494) and Salomea Genin (NAA\_ItemNumber3249567) Heinz Dehn is filed unter no. VPF 1708.

10 Ticket of the shipping company Sitmar for the Fairsea to Plymouth, leaving Melbourne May 10, 1957, Dehn family archive.

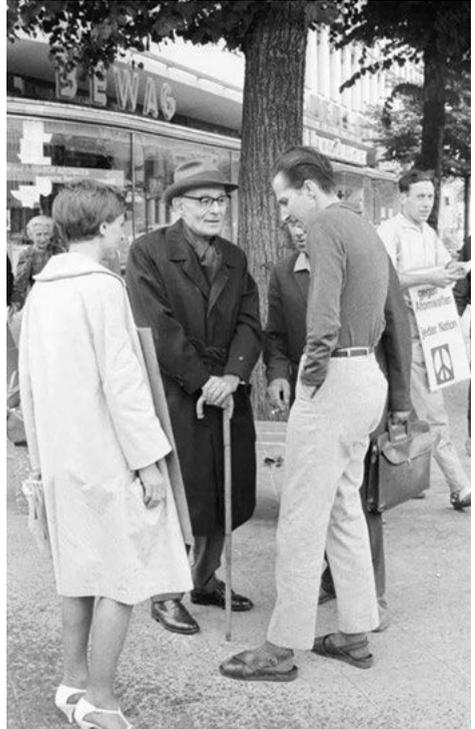
11 Hotel Traber, Receipt from July 1, 1957, Dehn family archive.

12 District administration Steglitz, „Allocation by Permission of Use“, Ovt 28, 1957, Dehn family archive.

13 Extensive documentation on that in Dehn family archive.



The Dehn family in Berlin at the end of 1963. Photos: Jürgen Henschel, Dehn family archive.



Erich Engel in conversation with passers-by on the anniversary of the A-bombing of Hiroshima on the Kudamm in Berlin.

## “Entry Permits” for West Berliners into the GDR

After the construction of the Berlin Wall on August 13, 1961, the topic of the nuclear threat due to the Cold War is expanded by an important aspect. The Arbeitsausschuß shakes the foundations of the Cold War and demands negotiations with the GDR. The Federal Republic and Westberlin do not want to recognize the GDR’s state existence and refuse to negotiate in order to avoid even the appearance of diplomatic recognition of the GDR.

At the end of 1962, social democrat and Kreuzberg Mayor Willy Kressmann advocates negotiations with the GDR in a Danish newspaper. The “Informationsdienst” (Information Service) of the Arbeitsausschuß is, as far as known, the only medium in Western Germany to document the entire text<sup>14</sup> of the article. In a short statement, it is suggested that Kressmann is facing “consequences regarding his position in the party”. Willy Brandt, since 1957 governing mayor and SPD (Social Democratic Party) chairman in West Berlin the frontline city of the Cold War, declared in the city parliament that Kressmann’s

<sup>14</sup> Special edition of „Informationsdienst“ with a copy of the front page and translation of the Kressmann interview to „Aktuell“ of Nov 6, Dehn family archive.

statement<sup>15</sup> is “not in line with our policy”. Kressmann is indeed forced to resign as a district mayor a short time later and leaves the SPD in 1963.

It takes until the end of 1963 for the West Berlin Senate and the GDR to reach a first visitation agreement after long negotiations. For the first time since August 13, 1961, West Berliners can visit relatives in Berlin/GDR at Christmas 1963<sup>16</sup>.

With the collection of signatures for the “Appell zur Passierscheinfrage” (Appeal on the Entry Permit Question)<sup>17</sup>, the Arbeitsausschuß promoted the continuation of this visiting arrangement from 1964 onward. Hate mail and telephone terror with death threats against Heinz Dehn show how incited public opinion is in Cold War West Berlin.

It was only after 1969 that Willy Brandt – now as Federal Foreign Minister – began to implement the “change through rapprochement” strategy developed by Egon Bahr (SPD), which culminated in the Grundlagenvertrag<sup>18</sup> (Basic Treaty) of FRG and GDR in 1972.

### **“100,000 for Vietnam”**

The “Informationsdienst” publishes documents from East-West negotiations and international conferences are published in full text - in part for the first time in West Germany and in German. After the entry permit-regulations have been stepped up, the organization devotes itself increasingly to, among other things, collections of money, medicines and medical products for the benefit of the Red Cross of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (FNL).

In the ongoing Cold War, such activities incur the wrath of those in power. The West Berlin police chief had the committee’s bank accounts seized and banned the collection. At the time, this is also a declaration of war against the Cold War. The Senate and the media in Westberlin declare any criticism of the USA (and even more so of its war against Vietnam) to be an attack on the democratic society of the West, which is defended in Vietnam by the US. From Senate circles, an attempt is made at the end of August 1968 to ban the “100,000 for Vietnam” money collection run by the Arbeitsausschuß. This is one of the first actions of Hans-Joachim Prill (SPD) as interim police chief.<sup>19</sup>

On September 13, 1968, the Westberlin administrative court strikes down the collection ban by the police and the confiscation of the account. In the “Informationsdienst” both the police order and the verdict of the administrative court appealed to by the Arbeitsausschuß are documented verbatim. The court

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15 Cf. Wikipedia about Willy Kressmann, [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willy\\_Kressmann](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willy_Kressmann), retrieved Nov 20, 2023.

16 The GDR renounces diplomatic recognition. Instead of visas “entry permits” are issued in five offices in West Berlin by GDR officials who act as postmen.

17 Among the first signatures were the later West Berlin FDP (Liberal Party) chairman Wolfgang Lüder, the theatre critic Herbert Ihering, the actors Hans Hessling and Gertrud von Barga, the writers Christoph Meckel and Dinah Nelken and the publisher Wolfgang Haug.

18 The “Grundlagenvertrag” (basic treaty) of 1972 was based on a compromise: the GDR renounced formal diplomatic recognition. Permanent representations are set up instead of embassies.

19 Prill is referred to as „Neo Noske” by the extra-parliamentary opposition because of his overly harsh actions against leftists. Cf. „Der Spiegel” no. 32/1968; <https://www.spiegel.de/politik/schwarz-oder-rot-a-305a56f6-0002-0001-0000-000046020804>, retrieved May 11, 2023.

rejected, among other things, the claim that the funds did not reach the FNL: The court's last remark is a slap in the face of the Senate, which apparently wanted to silence the opposition. By mid-1976, more than 700,000 DM in money and medicine were collected in West Berlin alone.

The Arbeitsausschuß is also active internationally. At international conferences of the World Peace Council, Heinz Dehn meets acquaintances again: Heinz Altschul from Vienna is a Dunera Boy; Heinz knows the Labor politician and peace activist Sam Goldbloom from Australia. Even before the student movement, the working committee is helping to ensure that solidarity with Vietnam is supported by broad sections of the public in Westberlin and West Germany.

The demand for peaceful coexistence between East and West also brought more and more people together during the 1960s and 1970s, without having to ignore or abandon different political and ideological positions. The working committee made a small contribution to ensuring that Willy Brandt's "Neue Ostpolitik" (new eastern policy) was accepted and led to the "Grundlagenvertrag" between the Federal Republic of Germany and the GDR in 1972.

In April 1967, Heinz Dehn took part in the founding meeting of the Republikanischer Club Berlin e.V.<sup>20</sup> (RC). In Charlottenburg, the RC offers a meeting point and a platform for debates between the feuding left-wing groups, who can argue about current and ideological issues here. Heinz Dehn is not only member number 249, but



Heinz Dehn 1974.  
Photo: Jürgen Henschel.  
Dehn family archive.

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20 Invitation dated April 25, 1967 and the draft statutes with handwritten notes by Heinz Dehn. Dehn family archive.

also one of 20 limited partners of the GmbH & Co KG, which is intended to backup the club's operations, including a restaurant and bookstore. The Berlin RC became a model for other clubs in the Federal Republic. However, the Berlin association failed due to economic problems and differences between management, tax advisors and limited partners<sup>21</sup> and was dissolved in 1970.

Post-reunification historians refer to the Arbeitsausschuß as “preliminary organization” of the West Berlin Communist Party SEW (Socialist Unity Party Westberlin). It is known that Heinz Dehn was a member of this party. It is not yet publicly known that he prevented the Arbeitsausschuß from being misused to recruit members for the party. The author remembers an extremely heated and loud discussion between Heinz Dehn (who was a rather quiet discussant) in the office room of the Dehn place with the liaison man to the SEW board when they wanted to enforce a corresponding demand.

Heinz did not live to see the peak of international activities against nuclear armament in the first half of the 1980s. He would have been very pleased by the great unity and strength of the socially broad peace movement.

Heinz Dehn headed the Arbeitsausschuß until his death on January 1, 1977 at the age of 71. He leaves behind his wife Ida and two children.

**Please note:** Unless sources are explicitly stated, this biography is based on stories told by the Dehn parents and the memories of their son Peter Dehn. The “Informationsdienst” of the working committee from 1961 to 1976 is part of the Dehn family archive. Further documents, e.g. from procedures for compensation and reparation for family members, are extensively preserved there.

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21 Correspondence of Heinz Dehn. Dehn family archive.

*Editor's note: We thank Peter and Paul Dehn for allowing us to publish their grandfather and father's diary, particularly in allowing us to publish it in four parts.*

## MERCHANDISE

We are delighted to share our new Dunera and Queen Mary merchandise. Items will be available at all events or can be posted (Australia only at this stage) for \$12. Pricing has been kept to a minimum with purchases financially supporting the Association.

<https://www.duneraassociation.com/merchandise/>

**Mug \$12 | Beanie \$15 | Cap \$15**



# Memorial Service at German War Cemetery - Tatura

## *Simon Chodziesner*

On Sunday 16th November, my brother, Paul, and I travelled to Tatura at the invitation of the German Embassy to attend a memorial service at the German War Cemetery in Tatura. Also in attendance for the ceremony were Dunera and Queen Mary Association members Tonia Eckfeld, her brother Steven, Kristin Otto, and her partner Dean.

The ceremony, called “Volkstrauertag”, is to commemorate the German and Australian victims of war, and honour those who died in internment in Australia during war time. The ceremony included speeches from the local RSL, representatives from the German Consulate and a representative of the Templar society. The tone of the ceremony was very much about recognising all those who were affected by war, the lives that were changed forever and the lessons to be learnt. I found the ceremony to be respectful and quite moving. The Dunera and Queen Mary Association attendance was acknowledged and appreciated.

Of special interest to us at the cemetery were the graves of five Dunera boys - Alfred Olivier, Nikolaus Meyer, Erich Meyerhof, Martin Schiessl and Ludwigg Mysa. Kristin Otto directed us to the graves where we spent a short time reflecting on their lives.

Afterwards, we were invited to lunch as guests of the German Consul and were also offered a complimentary visit to the Tatura Irrigation and Wartime Camps Museum.

This was my first time to Tatura and I enjoyed the experience.

Left: Simon & Paul Chodziesner, Krisen Otto & Dean Putting

Right: Event attendees in the German War Cemetery

Photos: Kaye Watson



# Georg Hans Frohlich: Memorial & Dedication

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## *Geoff Winter*

On 16 November 2025, two members of the Dunera and Queen Mary Association, Ron Brent and Geoff Winter, represented the Association by attending a memorial and dedication for Georg Hans Frohlich, a Dunera Boy who lived in Canberra once released from Camp. He was one of about five DBs who worked at Mt Stromlo Observatory as he was an expert in optics and much in demand, especially during WWII. Sadly, he passed away at the age of only 23 years, on the anniversary of the arrival of the Dunera in Sydney, 6 September 1942.

At the time there was no consecrated ground for Jewish burials in Canberra and no family members to participate in or conduct a burial service for him, which was and is the normal custom. The service was conducted by members of the Australian Jewish Historical Society. President of the ACT branch, Ms Adele Rosalky, delivered the eulogy and her husband, Dr David Rosalky, ex-Permanent Head of the Commonwealth Departments of Family and Community Services, and Industrial Relations, consecrated the grave and conducted the religious rituals.

A very moving day on behalf of Mr Frohlich and the Association.

## Research included with permission of Carol Bunyan

### Georg Hans Fröhlich (aka George Hans Frohlich)

Date of Birth - 23/2/1919

Place of birth - Berlin, Germany

Nationality - German

Religion - Jewish

Hay - Arrived 6-7/9/40 and in Hut 18 of Camp 8

Tatura - Arrived 20/5/41 and in Camp 2

### Family

His father, Albert Martin Fröhlich, was born 1882 in Leobschütz (now Głubczyce), in Upper Silesia, Prussia. A medical practitioner, a specialist in surgery and women's health, practicing at 98 Berliner Strasse, Tegel, in the 1910s, he was still listed at that address in the 1938 telephone directory. There is no listing for 1939, but the 1940 telephone directory has an entry for Albert Israel Fröhlich, Dr. Med at 13 Marburger Strasse, Charlottenburg. His mother, Dora nee Moskiewicz, was born in Breslau (now Wrocław), Silesia in 1887.

It is possible that he and his wife Dora, nee Moskiewicz, moved or were forced to move to an area which had Jewish people and organisations. Both were deported to Theresienstadt in 1942 and from there to Auschwitz in 1944 where they died.

Georg named Ursel Froehlich of Beltane School in Wiltshire as his next of kin on his Australian documents. She was not identified as such, but was his sister, born in Tegel in 1922. She moved to the USA after the war, married, and died in California in 1989. I have not found anything that indicates that he had other siblings.

### Pre-war and period in Britain

Details of his pre-war education and life are unknown. While a man of his age from Berlin is on a Buchenwald list there is insufficient detail to determine if it was him. In May 1939 his address was the same as his parents according to an online family tree on Ancestry. He applied for a US visa in Berlin on 13 June 1939 and accordingly, must have left for Britain after that date. In Britain he registered with the Jewish Refugee Committee. The 1939 Register, a survey taken in early September, has him living in London and working as an optician trainee.

George appeared before an enemy alien tribunal on 5 October 1939, giving his normal occupation as none and his current one as Trainee. While he was deemed a refugee, this tribunal decided that he was a threat to British security, Category A, and he was immediately interned. This decision was reviewed, date unknown, and on release, he was placed in the lower Category C, deemed not to be any threat to Britain. He was re-interned as part of the general internment of all males over 16 and under 70 in Category C between 25 June and 10 July 1940. The date of his re-internment, 25 June, suggests he was unemployed at the time. He was at Huyton camp near Liverpool prior to boarding the Dunera on 10 July 1940.

## From the Archives

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### Hans Jacobus (Berlin) Sent Us This Little Story

It must have been the Camp called ORANGE, on the other hand might have also been TATURA, it used to be a racecourse. Our huts were located in the middle of the field around which the jockeys used to run the horses in peacetime when there were no internees in the way of sportive excitement. We could walk around the course, and were allowed on the grandstand. From one of the upper rows, you could overtook the beautiful landscape and dream of life at another place, and with your family, and maybe even a girlfriend, whatever that meant, one did not know a great deal about such things - except one could dream.

But there was a very special atmosphere, if one was lucky enough. Music could be heard from underneath the grandstand. An old piano in one of the rooms downstairs, somehow joined by a violin that found its way into the camp. PETER STADLEN was one of us, I have forgotten the name of the violinist. They played Beethoven's "Spring Sonata" for violin and piano. Since then I have heard it many times in the last half-century, but there in the camp it was the very first time. My parents were musical people but had no instrument. I did not know classical music and we had other problems when the Nazis came and threatened our lives. So, this sonata brought me in touch with music, under very rare special conditions .

Later, on the way back to Europe on the "Stirling Castlen, a fellow refugee by the name of Landau tried to explain to me the difference between C-major and minor, but without success. I never was able to read music or by hearing a piece, decide which major or minor that might have been. It must have been very trying for Landau.

Anyway, back in London, I visited as I had promised, Wolfgang Leidert's girlfriend, and I gave her a present of the Tschaiowsky Violin Concerto - alas only the first part, I did not have enough money to buy the whole work, then on records.

The only result of that visit were that I took to going to concerts, almost weekly (and unfortunately alone) in the Royal Albert Hall where they had the "Promenade Concerts." For one knowing you got standing room only at the rear of the wide circle. But that way I got to know composers, from Bach to Shostakovitch, and artists like Myron Hess and John Barbirolli, and acquire the habit of listening to and understanding classical music. Sometimes I think to myself how it would be to hear a Beethoven Sonata performed on a race track. Maybe it can be likened to an old love - never like the first time.

Hans Jacobus rejoined the ranks of our readers, he lives at Gartenstrasse 5, 12526 Berlin, Germany.

# Dunera & Queen Mary 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 Queen Mary 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) or visit [www.duneraassociation.com](http://www.duneraassociation.com)

Find us on 

## Friends of the Dunera Boys Public Group

**Admin and Moderators:**  
**Simon Chodzieisner &  
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.

In order for your membership to be confirmed applicants must answer two security questions.

## Useful contact and links

### **Dunera Museum at Hay**

Carol Bunyan (Canberra)  
Volunteer Researcher  
[carolbunyan1940@gmail.com](mailto:carolbunyan1940@gmail.com)

### **Dunera Hay Tours**

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

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

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## The Dunera Association Inc

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