

Selected records relating to Kindertransports RG-59.075

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive Summary

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Custodial History

Existence and location of originals: The original records are held by the National Archives (Great Britain), Kew Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU, United Kingdom. Tel. 011 44 20 8876 3444. More information about this repository can be found at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/default.htm>.

Processing History: Aleksandra B. Borecka

Scope and Content of Collection

Contains selected records from various government offices relating to the Kindertransports, including policy, the refugee situation, the Guardianship Bill, financial assistance, pamphlets and annual reports of the Refugee Children's Movement, and some personal case files.

System of Arrangement

This collection is arranged thematically.

Indexing Terms

Jewish children
Jews
Refugees--Jewish.
Kindertransports (Rescue operations)--England.
Refugees, Jewish--England.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
Great Britain--Foreign Office.

CONTAINER LIST

| File | Description |
|----------------------|--|
| CAB 75/17 | May-Dec 1943 [Kindertransport]: Large book. Cabinet—Legislation Committee: Memo by the Home Secretary putting forward the reasons for the bill. Copy of the Draft Bill Guardianship (Refugee Children). FO 371/21636-21637 1938 Jewish affairs |
| FO 371/ 22538 | Nov -Dec 1938 League of Nations. Documents RE scheme to enable Jewish refugees to take some of their property out of Germany, admission of refugees to Netherlands, Int'l Aid to German refugees, settlement of refugees from Germany, accommodation and training of refugee children in U.K., proposed int'l loan to aid settlement of Jewish refugees |

- FO 371/22540** 1938
Refugees: international assistance: convention regarding status of. Includes notes of a meeting with Hjalmar Schacht.
- FO 371/24074-24076** 1939
Jewish refugees - London Intergovernmental Committee
- FO 371/ 24074** Jan 1939
Refugees. File consists of many small individual files: Topics include: German and Austrian refugees, Childrens' Movement, Society of Friends Reports from within Germany Nov-Dec 1938, possible places for Jewish refugees, Sudeten refugees, Romanian refugees, the Inter-Governmental Committee reports, Refugees in the UK, Czech Refugees, the work of George Rublee
- FO 371/24075** Jan-March 1939
Refugees. Individual Files. Memo: Financing of Jewish Emigration from Poland by Michal Glazer to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Warsaw (52pp). Memo: The Jewish Problem and British Policy by Michal Glazer (75pp). Jewish settlement. Situation in various European countries. Refugees passing through Poland. Memo: An Approach to the Refugee Problem. Re refugee children coming to the UK. Re Inter-Governmental Committee. Report: Inter-Governmental Committee to Continue and Develop the Work of the Evian Conference, Statement by the UK Representative in continuation of the confidential memo LIO 14.
- FO 371/24083** Attitude of various countries to the refugee problem
- FO 371/24085** Feb – Aug 1939
Refugees: File is divided into many small individual files:
The majority of files deal with the position of the Jews in Danzig, their emigration to Palestine and the emigration of children from Danzig. RE refugees from Czechoslovakia in Poland including dispatch from Consul at Katowice.
Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Co-ordinating Foundation. Entry into Sweden of refugees from Czechoslovakia in Poland. RE position of Friends (Quaker) refugee workers in Germany. RE expulsion of Jews from Bohemia and Moravia. RE Movement for Children refusing to accept responsibility for further transports of children into the UK. RE continued Jewish emigration from Germany. RE situation for Jews in Germany and relief work. RE forced expulsion of Jews from German-occupied Poland. RE position of Jews in Italy; dispatch from Rome Embassy. RE authority of the High Commissioner for Refugees for those refugees in territory ceded by Czechoslovakia. RE recommendation of Sir Herbert Emerson as director of the Intergovernmental Committee.
- FO 371/24100** 1939
Entry into the UK
- FO 371/32676** Dec 1941-March 1942

Proposal to send refugee children from this country [UK] to America to join their parents: Includes 2 files: W.2420 & W.3462 German Jewish refugee parents in America. Two cases: Oppenheimer, father Karl, children Sigbert and Alfred. Lipschitz, father Kurt, child Wolfgang. Includes repeat copies of documents.

- FO 371/57873** 1946
Adoption of refugee children
- HO 45/22391** Sept 1944-1945
[Kindertransport]: re dissolution of guardianship on marriage-various cases. Appointment of Lord Gorell as guardian with schedule NR includes name, address, and d/b. Forms for 16 children with name, address, d/b, country of birth, arrival in UK, details of parents if known.
- HO 45/25143** Feb 1943 - Nov 1944
16 separate small files. All files relate to the drawing up of the Guardianship (Refugee Children) Bill. Copy of final Bill with various draft versions. Discussion regarding policy. Various reports and correspondence re attitude especially concerning religious upbringing. Request by the Scottish National Council for Refugees to be part of the consultation procedure. Correspondence referring to pamphlet: "Child-Estranging Movement". Correspondence from Schonfeld, H.A. Goodman (Agadas Israel), Lord Gorell, Pamphlet: Christian Council for Refugees from Germany and Central Europe: A Five-Year Survey. RE marriages of former refugee children. RE the Bill including all refugee children having come to the UK due to the war not just alien refugees.
- HO 213/232** Oct – Nov 1940
Registration – Enemy Aliens:
Policy regarding refugees turning sixteen, and being brought before the Regional Advisory Committee. Name of refugee concerned: Kurt Roniger.
- HO213/249** June - July 1939
German Refugee Children:
Corres, gov't HW notes and memo RE policy/procedure to enable refugee children to find traineeship's & employment. Concerning the Ministry of Labour, the HO, and Juvenile Advisory Committees and Juvenile Employment Committees. Prompted by a letter from Stephanie Smellie of the Movement for the Care of Children from German Ltd.
- HO 213/ 267** 1936-37
German Refugees - Agriculture. Topics includes ineligibility of non-Aryan refugee children from Germany to enter Canada on agricultural work scheme with intent of ultimately emigrating to Canada, Australia or one of the Dominions. Also discusses YMCA ag training scheme for British boys ("British Boys for British Farms" scheme) to be extended to a limited number of German boys. Letter from Jewish Refugee Committee re: "mischlinges" who might be considered for scheme.
- HO 213/ 295** Nov - Dec 1939

Refugees - Financial Assistance. Documents include government contribution towards the maintenance of refugees. Discusses Council for German Jewry & Jewish Refugee Cmte. Includes lengthy memorandum on different organizations. Also separate memo on financial assistance of refugees from Germany and discusses plight of German Jews at length. Memo from London refugee conference RE recommendation of sub-committee on regional organisation & voluntary organizations assisting refugees. Also discusses private sources that are supporting refugees (i.e., Baldwin Fund).

- HO 213/ 299** Sep - Nov 1940
Refugees - Govt. Financial Assistance. Topics include a brief for supplementary grant to Central Committee for Refugees. Hand-written spreadsheet of claims made on govt. from German & Austrian refugees. Also includes correspondence RE policies on assisting and housing refugee children. Includes budgets for Central Council for Jewish Refugees & various subcommittees dealing with Jewish refugees. [Note on file folder cover that says 47 - 53 destroyed]
- HO 213/ 300** Nov 40 - July 1943
Refugees - Financial Assistance. Memo from the Assistance Board RE refugee relief - identifies clients as Jewish refugees. Correspondence includes policies as well as budgets for housing & maintenance. Includes figures for refugee children. Drafts of govt. memos RE its role in assistance.
- HO 213/ 301** Jan 1942
Refugees - Govt. Financial Assistance. Topics include rates of maintenance, kinds of maintenance, and situation of refugee children who are boarded out with families, or in lodgings, schools or other institutions. (This would presumably include Kindertransport.) Includes monies to the Jewish Council.
- HO213/302** May 1940-1944
Refugees – Government Financial Assistance:
1) RE government grant for the Refugee Children's Movement. 2) RE the Central Committee for Refugees ability to maintain its role over refugee organizations. 3) Report: Refugee Children's Movement – Administration (11pp.). 4) Stats on children being maintained by the Movement. 5) Pamphlet: Instructions for the Guidance of Regional and Local Committees – issued under the authority of the Executive Committee of the Movement for the Care of Children from Germany, (May 1940), (28pp.). 6) Pamphlet: Movement for the Care of Children from Germany Ltd - First Annual Report 1938-9 (25pp.). 7) Pamphlet: Refugee Children's Movement, Ltd – Second Annual Report (1940).
- HO 213/ 611** Dec 42 - Mar 44
Legislation: Guardianship (Refugee Children) Act 1944. File includes copy of bill and act and notes on clauses. Transcript of debate over bill gives stats on numbers of children (approx. 12,500) in UK who have come as refugees. 8,500 came here in 1936-39 from Central Europe under arrangements made by the Refugee Children's Movement, and 3,500 have come from the Channel Islands. About 400 children came during Spanish Civil War.

- HO 213/781** July – Sept 1945
Chief Rabbis' Religious Emergency Council Submits Proposal to Bring Children from Allied Liberated Countries for Recuperation:
Discusses various schemes, French, Dutch & Belgium. Pamphlet: Young People from Occupied Countries. Names include: Schonfeld, Otto Schiff, C.D.C Robinson (HO Aliens Dept).
- HO 213/913** Jan-March 1946
Proposal: Repatriation of the Czech Jewish Child Refugees. Children under the care of the Czech Refugee Trust Fund. Some stats.
- HO 213/990** Jan 1942 – May 1945
Government financial assistance towards the cost of the care of refugee children: RE special grant arrangements for the assistance of boarding out of refugee children. Letter from the Central Committee for Refugees to the HO describing the current state of affairs (May, 1945). Some stats totals only.
- HO 213/991** Nov 1946-Sept 1947
Refugee Childrens' Movement Financial Difficulties and Question of Guardianship: [Kindertransport]: Minute notes discussing the shortfall in funding. Transferring some children to the Jewish Refugee Committee. RE future of Movement in light of depleted funds. Breakdown of excess expenditure. Names include: Mrs. D. H. Hardisty, Sir Alexander Maxwell, Mr. Stephany, Anthony de Rothschild, Otto Schiff, Lord Gorell.
- HO 213/992** Dec 1942-July 1948 Kindertransport-Refugee Children Policy:
Re: refugee children in the UK applying for warrants as Guiders (The Girl Guides Association).
- HO 213/993** Refugee children: guardianship
- HO 213/994** Feb – May 1944
Refugee Children: Emigration: RE policy towards refugee children who were brought to Britain by the Refugee Children's Movement wishing to emigrate. Specific cases mentioned Lippmann and Brieger both with parents in the US, Abraham Gornicki mother in Argentina.
- HO 294/59** May-Aug 1941
Report to the Trustees: File consists of minutes (General Committee) and corres RE the Central Welfare Department for Refugees from Germany and Central Europe (Bloomsbury House). Committee members include Bracey (Germany Emergency Committee), Steibel (Jewish Refugees Committee), Hardisty (Refugee Children's Movement), Tomlinson (Domestic Bureau?), Verschoyle (The Czech Refugee Trust Fund)...
- HO 294/181** Jan 1939-July 1940

Jewish Refugees: Agricultural Committee: RE release from internment. RE David Eder Farm. RE Manor Farm. Minutes of the Trustees' Meeting Friday May 17th 1940 – list of German Jewish Agricultural Cases. Correspondence includes: Central Council for Jewish Refugees Agricultural Committee, Hechalutz, HMG Inter-Office Communications, The Zionist Federation of GB & Ireland, The Czech Refugee Trust Fund. Report on the council for German Jewry Agricultural Committee – Czech cases by Czech Refugee Trust Fund (4pp). Various NR including for those not accepted. Memo Governing the Training and/or employment of refugees in Agriculture and work on the land

HO 382/64

June 1939-Jan 1966

[Kindertransport]: Personal file for Alexander Hamburger: Arrived with a Kindertransport Feb 1939. Agricultural training and work in the UK and then to Canada on the SS Sobiecki. Re internment and work in Canada. Request in 1966 from his brother Erwin Peter Hall (formerly Hamburger) for information regarding his deceased brother.

HO 382/70

Feb 1992 – 1948

Lewin, Nathan: Came to the UK from Poland on Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council – Collective Passports. Requesting a copy of collective passport – obtained from Immigration and Nationality Department Croydon. Bulk entry report. Jewish Secondary Schools Movement (Schonfeld). Passport like; 'Travel Document (Agreement of 15th October, 1946)'. Photograph. Application for travel document. Copy of a list of those travelling on the collective passport – NR38 with name, d/b, location – all Poland. Names of relatives with whom children staying within UK. p/copy of passport [?]- one page document.

ED 10/278

Dec 1943-Feb1944

The problems faced by Jewish 'kindertransport' refugee schoolchildren who showed particular academic talent. The refugees were expected to leave school and secure employment at sixteen, but several progressed to higher education where finance became a severe problem. The refugees generally had no money of their own and had to rely on charity or the generosity of individual sponsors. The former Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin is mentioned as a donor in one case. Refugee children continuing education (over the age of 16). Minutes Central Committee for Refugees Standing Sub-Committee Dec 14th 1943.

ED 22/220

March 1936-Dec 1940

No Heading: Report: Board of Education Technical Training for non-Aryan Christian Refugees from Germany and Austria. General re technical training. Pamphlet: Gov't Training Centres and Emergency Training Establishments. Pamphlet: Courses for Tool Room Operatives and tool Makers. Only one specific document.

ED 121/256

March – April 1940

No Heading: Re German enquiry as to the social welfare of Germans interned in the UK. Parliamentary questions re the provision of education for German child refugees in the UK.

- MH 55/689** Dec 1938-June 1942
Children- Jewish Refugees Camp – Dovercourt Essex: Re Guardianship. RE concern over religious upbringing. Reports on inspection visits to Dover Court. Report on inspection visit to National Council of Social Service’s camp at Rhoose, Glamorganshire. Weekly menu for Dover Court. Re nutrition.
- MH 55/704** 1938-39
Refugee children from Germany: medical condition.
- KV 4/390** 1939 Jan 01 - 1940 Dec 31
Control of aliens: Enemy Aliens' Tribunals 1939-1942. Miscellaneous papers regarding the workings of the aliens tribunal