

# **Cyril Pearl Collection, 1941-1983**

## **RG-69.008M**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
Tel. (202) 479-9717  
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### **Descriptive summary**

Title: Cyril Pearl collection

Dates: 1941-1983

RG Number: RG-69.008M

Accession Number: 2012.137

Extent: 3 microfilm reels, 35 mm; 1,445 digital images (PDF).

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126

Languages: English

### **Administrative Information**

Access: No restrictions on access.

Reproduction and use: Permission must be obtained from the University of Sydney, Archive of Australian Judaica for any type of use other than research.

Preferred Citation: [file name/number], [reel number], RG-69.008M, Cyril Pearl Collection, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition Information: Purchased from the University of Sydney. Archive of Australian Judaica, Australia.

### **Custodial History**

Existence and location of originals: The original records are held by the University of Sydney. Archive of Australian Judaica, Fisher Library FO3, Room 237, University of Sydney, Sydney

NSW, Australia 2006. Tel. 011 61 2 9351 4162. More information about this repository can be found at <http://judaica.library.usyd.edu.au/index.html>.

Processing History: Aleksandra B. Borecka

### **Biographical History**

Cyril Pearl (1906-1987) was an Australian journalist and writer. His book, "The Dunera Scandal. Deported by Mistake" describes the German refugees who were seeking asylum in England and were sent to Australia as an enemy alien and interned in Australia at the Hay internment camp. In 1941-42 three internment camps were constructed and utilized about three kilometers away from the township of Hay. Each camp held 1000 internees from Italy and Germany. The Allied forces had detained these civilians because they were perceived as a security risk to the European war effort. Despite early newspaper reports that the internees of Hay were dangerous, guards described their detainees as "well educated and anti-Nazi". The internees were not fighting men. Most were intellectuals detained as a matter of precaution and "national security".

### **Scope and content of collection**

Contains the research papers and original sources used by Cyril Pearl in his book on the Dunera ship ("The Dunera Scandal: Deported by Mistake") and the records on the internment camps in Australia. In 1940 German refugees seeking asylum in England were sent to Australia as an enemy alien aboard the Dunera ship and interned in Australia at the Hay internment camp for a year and a half. In 1942, England realized their mistake in holding these refugees and they were released. Records include ephemera from the Hay camp, newspaper clippings about the Dunera affair, 1941-1983, hansard extracts, 1940-41 on aliens and refugees, graphics and watercolors by Frederick Schonbach, photographs of the Dunera ship and Hay camp, and letters to Ruth Swann, the Sydney Quaker, from the internees at the Hay camp. The letters reinforce the internees' feelings of isolation from their families and disenfranchisement from their European homes, as well as a strong anti-Nazi sentiment. The collection contains also papers from the internment camp at Orange 1941-1943, and accounts of Pearl's battles to have opened the long-secret files containing the Dunera's passenger list (which he won). The Dunera ship brought many foreign migrants to Australia who later became major artists, writers and scholars.

### **System of arrangement**

This collection is arranged thematically.

### **Indexing terms**

Pearl, Cyril, 1906-1987.

Swann, Ruth.

Schonbach, Frederick.

Dunera (Ship)

Dunera News.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Concentration camps -- Australia -- Periodicals.  
 World War, 1939-1945 -- Refugees.  
 World War, 1939-1945 -- Prisoners and prisons, German.  
 World War, 1939-1945 -- Prisoners and prisons, Australian.  
 Political refugees -- Great Britain.  
 Political refugees -- Germany.  
 Jewish refugees -- Australia  
 World War, 1939-1945 -- Australia -- Victoria -- Tatura -- Prisoners and prisons.  
 Prisoner-of-war camps -- Australia -- Victoria -- History.  
 Alien detention centers -- Australia -- Victoria -- History.

Tatura (Vic.)  
 Orange (N.S.W.)

Hay (Australia)

Ephemera.  
 Photographs.  
 Hansards.  
 Graphic arts.  
 Watercolors.  
 Drawings.  
 Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)

**References**

Pearl, C. The Dunera Scandal. Deported by Mistake. London: Angus & Robertson, 1983.  
 John Kaufmann Collection. 1 booklet. The collection located in the USHMM Archives. Acc. 2007.355.1.  
 Bevege, M., Behind Barbed Wire - Internment in Australia during World War II. University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, 1993; Internees letters, 1941-42,  
 Internment camps in World War II in Australia:  
<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/snapshots/internment-camps/WWII/index.aspx>

**Inventory:**

Reel	File	Description
1		Box 1 Folders 1-6:
	File 1:	Schonbach Graphics: drawings Hay, Orange, and Tatura internment camp, 1940, watercolors, May 1941
	File 2:	Newspaper clippings, photographs, correspondence

- File 3: Camp Theater, programs, tickets
- File 4: 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Employment Company nominal roll
- File 5: Papers from collection-letters, photos of reunion
- File 6: Letter and papers from Luise Flavin

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Box 2 Folders 1-2

- File 1: Clippings and Correspondence, "Dunera News", 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion
- File 2: Magazine, newspaper clippings, articles, publications

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Box 2 Folders 3-4

- File 3: 1983-1993 photos, newspaper clippings, correspondence, "Dunera News"
- File 4: correspondence