



Kindertransport

Introduction

In 1933 Meeting for Sufferings (the executive body of the Society of Friends) set up the Germany Emergency Committee (GEC), later renamed the Friends Committee for Refugees and Aliens (FCRA), in response to anti-Jewish laws of the new Nazi regime.

Kindertransport (1938-1939)

After *Kristallnacht* (9-10 November 1938) the General Secretary of the Germany Emergency Committee, Bertha Bracey accompanied Lord Samuels in a deputation to ask the Home Secretary for admission for children without visas. The first trainload of children left Berlin on 1st December 1938. In Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia, the Quakers were often able to operate where the Jewish relief agencies were prohibited; in Britain, they worked alongside Jewish and other Christian groups to find homes and support for the children. Approximately 10,000 children were eventually rescued in this way.



Published works

Although this selective list focuses on the Kindertransport, it also includes works about the Friends Committee for Refugees and Aliens

Bentwich, Norman. *They found refuge*. London: Cresset, 1956 066 BEN

Brent, Bern. *My Berlin suitcase: memories of a childhood*. Farrer: Tacitus Publishing, 2000 (2008 printing) 066.40 BRE

Darke, Dorothy M. *The leaves have lost their trees...long term effects of a refugee childhood*. York: Sessions, [1999] 066 DAR

Darton, Lawrence. *Account of the work of the Friends Committee for Refugees and Aliens*. London: Friends Committee for Refugees and Aliens, 1954 066 DAR

David, Ruth. *Child of our time: a young girl's flight from the Holocaust*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2003 066 DAV

Emmanuel, Muriel and Vera Gissing. *Nicholas Winton and the rescued generation: save one life, save the world*. London: Vallentine Mitchell, 2002 066.42 EMA

Gathered stories: commemorating the Kindertransport. London: Britain Yearly Meeting, 2008 Box 599/21 & 22

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Germany Emergency Committee/Friends Committee for Refugees and Aliens *Annual reports* published in Proceedings of London Yearly Meeting, for the years 1934-1954

Germany Emergency Committee/Friends Committee for Refugees and Aliens pamphlets
066.34 [FCRA 1/1-34]

This volume contains 39 pamphlets produced by the GEC/FCRA and other related organisations between 1933-1944

Gillespie, Veronica. "Working with ...Kindertransports" in ed. S. Oldfield, *This working-day world*. London: Taylor & Francis, 1994 051.2 OLD

Gissing, Vera. *Pearls of childhood*. London: Robson Books, 2007 066.42 GIS

Greenwood, J. Ormerod. *Friends and Relief* ("Quaker Encounters", vol. 1) Chapter 15 Quaker relief before and during the Second World War: The Germany Emergency Committee (Later called the Friends Committee for Refugees and Aliens), 1933-1950. York: Sessions, 1975 033.1 GRE

Kindertransporte '38-'39 commemoration, July 16 1989. [London]: Commemoration Concert Committee, 1989 Box L 77/5

The last goodbye : ... rescue of children from Nazi Europe... education resource about the Kindertransport. London: The Jewish Museum, 1989 Box L 132/20

Leiser, Clara. *Refugee*. London: Rich and Cowan, 1942 066.36 LEI

Ed. B. Leverton and S. Lowensohn. *I came alone: the stories of the Kindertransports*. Lewes: Book Guild, 1996 066 LEV

Orsten, Elisabeth M. *From Anschluss to Albion: memoirs of a refugee girl 1939-1940* Cambridge: Acorn Editions, 1998 066 ORS

Presland, John. *A great adventure: the story of the Refugee Children's Movement*. London: Refugee Children's Movement, 1944. 066 [Relief 2/1]

Schmitt, Hans. *Quakers and Nazis*. Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1997 033.943 SCH

Sherman, A.J. *Island Refuge*. London: Paul Elek, 1973 066 SHE

Reunion of Kindertransport, *Fiftieth anniversary year: reunion of Kindertransport, Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st June, 1989, Harrow Leisure Centre, Harrow, Middlesex*. London: J. E. Emanuel & Co., 1989 Box L 77/9

Archives of the Holocaust: an international collection of selected documents. Vol. 2: American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia. London: Garland Publishing, 1990 L 066.36 AME

Kate Tacker & Frederich Huth, "Das Berliner Quäkerburo" in *Der Quäker* Vol. 63 (1989) no.6 (Juni) pp. 137-140 & no. 7 (Juli) pp.178-181 Pers/Q5 & Box L 78/9

Press Cuttings

There is a series of press cuttings concerning work with refugees from Europe in the press cuttings collection for 1933-39. Please note these are filled by year.

Press Cuttings 1933-1939 066/066.34

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Visual Resources

The image on this guide is taken from LSF 066.34 FCRA 1/21 *Caring for the child refugees*. Visual material is very limited but what we do hold come from pamphlets or personal archives. Please email the Visual Resources Development Officer with your request. library@quaker.org.uk

Related material held elsewhere

There are other resources which may be useful to former Kinder and their families.

The Jewish Refugee Committee of World Jewish Relief assisted people fleeing Nazi persecution in the 1930s and 1940s. Contact the JRC Archives at the Association of Jewish Refugees (www.ajr.org.uk), Stanmore, Middlesex, e-mail: jrc@ajr.org.uk.

Ex members of Kindertransport may also get some information from Reunion of Kindertransport. Records are now at the Wiener Library (www.wienerlibrary.co.uk). Admission is to accredited searchers with permission.

There is a list of organisations that dealt with refugees from around 1938 in the Friends Committee for Refugee and Aliens records at FCRA/19/9

The records of the Kindertransport are held at the National Archives

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

These are now available at www.findmypast.co.uk

There are 41 browseable documents in this collection including: minutes of the War Cabinet legislation committee and a copy of the Guardianship (Refugee Children) Bill draft; documents from the Education Department & Board of Education on the problems faced by gifted Jewish Kindertransport schoolchildren progressing to higher education facing financial problems and an enquiry from the German government on the well-being of German internees.

These are available to search at

<http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/kindertransport>

There is also the Kindertransport Association that unites these child Holocaust refugees and their descendants.

<http://www.kindertransport.org/>

Further information

Library opening hours

Tuesday- Friday

10.00am - 5.00pm

Please note the Library normally closes for a week in spring and in autumn. It is advisable check the Library webpage, to telephone or email prior to visiting. New readers will need to complete a registration form and show proof of permanent address. The registration form can be downloaded from our website www.quaker.org.uk/library or requested from the Library.

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For further information or help in using the Library please contact us either by email to library@quaker.org.uk, or telephone 020 7663 1135 or write to:

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