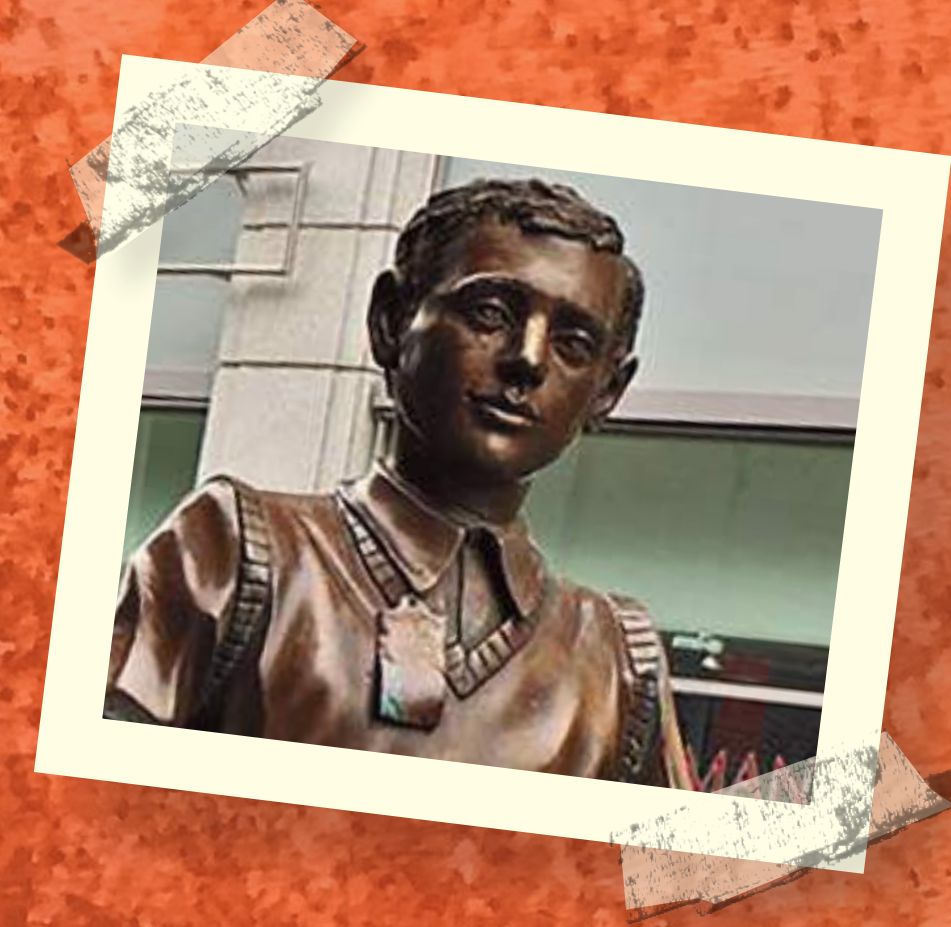


THE KINDERTRANSPORT BOYS

The story of ten
young refugees who
came to Gloucester
in 1939



KINDER



IN THE MONTHS BEFORE
THE OUTBREAK OF THE
SECOND WORLD WAR IN
SEPTEMBER 1939, THOUSANDS OF
JEWISH CHILDREN WERE BROUGHT
FROM GERMANY UNDER THE
KINDERTRANSPORT (CHILDREN'S
TRANSPORT) SCHEME.

*On arrival in Harwich they were housed in a former
holiday camp before being dispersed around the country.*

*This is the story of ten refugee boys who came to
Gloucester and were cared for by the Gloucester
Association for Aiding Refugees (The Association).
They were cared for in a hostel at 18 Alexandra Road.*

KINDER



THE UK TOOK IN NEARLY 10,000 PREDOMINANTLY JEWISH CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 1 AND 17.

They were subject to Nazi persecution from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the Free City of Danzig

Though these children were separated from their families, many of them would have faced the same fate as their families if they had stayed. The vast majority of the Kindertransport children never saw their parents again.

Visa and passport restrictions were lifted and children of seventeen and younger were able to enter Britain with a 'white card'. The majority had 'guarantors' who would cover the re-emigration costs. These guarantors were mostly people who had some kind of connection with the families of the refugees or who had responded to the many advertisements in the newspaper, the Jewish Chronicle from families seeking help. But, at a time of uncertainty in employment and with the country on the brink of war, few households could pay the sum of £50 required, the equivalent of £2000 today. Financing the 'unguaranteed' children, those who did not have a previously arranged place of stay, became the responsibility of the Movement for the Care of Children in Germany, later known as the Refugee Children's Movement. The R.C.M. relied on charitable donations alone as it had been previously agreed with the Home Secretary that no refugee child would become a burden on state finances.

THE ARNSTEINS

DR PAUL AND
EDITH ARNSTEIN
CARED FOR THE
KINDERTRANSPORT
BOYS



Paul Arnstein (1888-1985) and Edith Arnstein (1902-1978) were born and brought up in Carlsbad, now Karlovy Vary, in what was then Bohemia and part of the Austrian empire. Paul was a lawyer as was his father and also Edith's father.

Fleeing first with their sons Richard and Alfred, to Prague after the German annexation of the Sudetenland in 1938, they were then invited by the Cullis family, who Edith had been in contact with since the 1920's to come to Gloucester to run the hostel for refugee boys which had been set up by GAAR.

Paul, being a man of his times, would not, we think, have been very 'hands on' in looking after the boys but would have seen his role as being caring and protective, but principally as the keeper of discipline. Edith was a very motherly, caring person who loved looking after people and making sure they were

happy. We are sure that she would have really looked after the boys. An excellent cook, she would have cooked the food the boys were used to, which we are sure would have been appreciated in what to them must have been an alien world which they faced without their parents and families.

Music and the arts had always been their passion in life, together with a love of the countryside and a keen interest in current affairs and politics. They continued to live in Gloucester, where they had many friends, until the mid-1960's when they moved to London to be near to their sons and their families. We know that they would wish to acknowledge that without the generosity and care of GAAR and the Cullis family, they would not have survived to live the happy and fulfilled lives they enjoyed in this country.

PETER AND TIM ARNSTEIN 2019

WERNER ZOREK

A Journey from Breslau to Gloucester and Beyond

Werner, the only member of his immediate family to survive the Holocaust, was born on October 14, 1925, in what was then Breslau, Germany, which became Wroclaw Poland after WW2. He was the second child of Alfred and Frieda Zorek. His older sister, Erna, suffered from Down's Syndrome, which unfortunately meant that she became a potential victim of the NAZIs twice over.

To cope with the events he survived, Werner developed a selective memory and shared only parts of his life before the



YOUNG WERNER

war with his own family. His son Michael recounts that his father spoke of a happy childhood in Breslau and his seemingly unaffected response to Anti-Semitism across Germany from Hitler's rise to power. Michael notes that he never spoke of his Bar Mitzvah which occurred 19 days before Kristallnacht, nor that his father was imprisoned in Buchenwald shortly after.

He also never talked of the Kindertransport but recalled taking a "great adventure" when he was just eleven in 1936 two years before the Kindertransport even started, blocking out the events that were perhaps too cruel and difficult to remember.

Much of the information was discovered by his children after his death. One of the things his son noted was that Werner kept his Kindertransport tag for 67 years but never spoke about his experience.

Arriving in England, and after being housed at Harwich which had been turned into a holding camp for the children, Werner was moved to Barham house. From there he was chosen with other boys aged 12-14, considered too old to foster, to live in Gloucester.

Werner was lucky that he had people to vouch for him as at the outbreak of war the British Government was interning enemy aliens. When, in 1941, the Arnsteins, who were running the hostel, decided to retire he was able to stay in Gloucester rather than be interned, being rehoused with the family of a friend.

In 1945 Werner started looking for information about his parents and sister who had been sent to Auschwitz. In 1947 he received, like so many children who had survived, the unofficial information of their death.

His son prefaces his father's story with the description "a story" not "the story", but this is so true of so many people who survived the times before, during



BAR MITZVAH.

and after WW2; some unable to remember, some unable to face the horrors they or their family or friends survived. Much is conjecture based on bits of information. What is important is that people like Werner survived and went on to build new lives and families and left pieces of their lives as legacies to be seen by those who go after and remembered.

FROM: ZOREK, M 2019 'WERNER ZOREK: A JOURNEY FROM BRESLAU TO GLOUCESTER AND BEYOND'



WITH HIS SISTER

SIR NICHOLAS GEORGE WINTON MBE



SIR NICHOLAS LIVED
19 MAY 1909 - 1 JULY 2015

THERE ARE AROUND 7000 PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY WHO OWE THEIR LIVES TO NICHOLAS WINTON THROUGH THE KINDERTRANSPORT RESCUES.

They are the descendants of a group of refugee children, most of them Jewish, rescued by him from the Nazi threat in 1939. Winton organised the rescue from Czechoslovakia on the eve of the Second World War in an operation later known as the Czech Kindertransport. Winton found homes for the children and arranged for their safe passage to Britain.

In December 1938, Winton, a 29-year-old London stockbroker, was about to leave for a skiing holiday in Switzerland, when he received a phone call from his friend Martin Blake asking him to cancel his holiday and immediately come to Prague.

Soon after his arrival he went to visit the camps in which thousands of refugees were living in appalling conditions. The area had become overwhelmed with refugees after Germany had annexed the Sudetenland, a mostly German-speaking area of Czechoslovakia.

A week later, after Kristallnacht Nov 9-10th 1938, when the Nazis carried out attacks on Jews and Jewish properties in their territories, Jewish & Quaker representatives petitioned the government to allow unaccompanied endangered children into the UK. After a debate in Parliament on 21 November, the government agreed. The Kindertransport commenced – but only from Austria and Germany, not Czechoslovakia.

After seeing destitute families stuck in the refugee camps and being asked by many parents

whether he could get their children to safety. Winton decided to act.

He obtained permission from the British government to allow Czech children to come into the UK on the condition that each child was matched to a host family who would care for the children until they were 18, and each child had to have a guarantee of £50 paid by their family.

Winton was able to arrange for 669 children to come to the UK over the next few months. The last train of children was scheduled to leave on

1 September 1939. It was cancelled because war broke out; Winton believed that 'none of the 250 children on board was heard of again'

Winton wore a ring given to him by some of the children he saved, inscribed with a line from the Talmud, the book of Jewish law: "Save one life, save the world."



SIR NICHOLAS HONOURED IN THE BBC SHOW, THAT'S LIFE IN 1983

THE BOYS ARRIVE

GLOUCESTER'S VERY OWN KINDERTRANSPORT CHILDREN

Most of the Kindertransport children were placed in foster care, but the boys who came to Gloucester were considered too old to be fostered.

The Gloucester Association raised £800 to buy the property 18 Alexandra Road as a hostel for the boys.

GOING TO SCHOOL

The Kindertransport boys spoke little or no English. To start with they were sent to Archdeacon Street Boys' School until they were old enough to start work.



18 ALEXANDRA ROAD



KINDERTRANSPORT CHILDREN



ARCHDEACON SCHOOL

WELCOME TO GLOUCESTER

GLOUCESTER'S VERY OWN KINDERTRANSPORT CHILDREN

To look after the boys, the Association employed Dr and Mrs Arnstein, a German-speaking Jewish couple from Prague, at a salary of £100 a year. Dr Arnstein, a lawyer, had already been in trouble with the Nazi authorities in Prague. The offer of this job allowed the Arnsteins to leave Czechoslovakia and enter Britain.

By Christmas 1939, the Second World War had started. A Gloucester department store organised a party for the boys at which they were given presents.

REFUGEE BOYS FOR GLOUCESTER HOSTEL

		Years	Months	
1.	Walter Kolpak.	12.	0.	Vienna.
2.	Guenther Mayer.	14.	10.	Bochum.
3.	Ivan Mularsky.	1?.	??.	Luebeck.
4.	Julius Mularsky.	12.	8.	" (brother).
5.	Peter Nebenzahl.	13.	9.	Hamburg (orphan).
6.	Kurt Reimann.	14.	0.	Dansig.
7.	Robert Suschitski.	12.	8.	Vienna.
8.	Arnold Ullman.	13.	7.	Berlin.
9.	Harry Vorgang.	13.	5.	Vienna.
10.	Werner Zorek.	13.	8.	Breslau.

THE CITIZEN

JUNE 22, 1939



GERMAN REFUGEES IN GLOUCESTER: Jewish children, escaping from the Nazi reign of terror, have found refuge in a hostel at 10, Alexandra-road, Gloucester. In our picture are some of the children at dinner. With them are their guardians, Dr. Arnstein, a Jewish lawyer, and his wife, who have twice fled before the Hitler regime.

A MEALTIME CAPTURED BY THE CITIZEN IN 1939

MOVING ON

GLOUCESTER'S VERY OWN KINDERTRANSPORT CHILDREN

LIFE IN LODGINGS

In November 1941 the hostel was closed following the resignation of the Arnsteins. The boys were found lodgings for which the Association paid 22 shillings and 6 pence per week per child. The Association continued to provide other support to the boys.

GOING TO WORK

Günther Meyer was the first boy to leave school and start a job, in October 1939.

By the autumn of 1940, seven of the boys had jobs and by August 1941 all ten had left school and were in work. They were expected to contribute towards their keep.

Peter Nebenzahl started work on the 29th July 1940 with W. Judd, printer and stationer, 19 St Johns Lane, as compositor. His work is chiefly composing and doing small goods like visiting cards and a few errands. His wages are 11 shillings 6d a week, his contribution 7 shillings a week.

Werner Zorek started work on the 29th July 1940 at W. J. Nicholls Ltd. Builders and Decorators, St Paul Road Gloucester. He worked in the saw mill and will continue so until he reaches the age of 16. Then he will start to work as a cabinetmaker and commence his apprenticeship. His wages are 16 shillings 6d a week, his contribution 9 shillings a week.

INFORMATION ON GLOUCESTER
KINDERTRANSPORT BOYS
PROVIDED BY GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHIVES