

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain



Researching the Kindertransport at The UK National Archives



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by

JGSGB Education & Mentoring
JGSGB 33 Seymour Place London W1H 5AP

Email <education@jgs.gb.org.uk>

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The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain - 33 Seymour Place London W1H 5AP
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Introduction

On Thursday 3 February 2011, JGSGB welcomed Ela Kaczmarek to speak to us about her research into previously unpublished documentation at the UK's National Archives on the Kindertransport.

A former teacher, Ela is now an Education Officer at The National Archives, and is currently studying for Master's degree in Holocaust Studies. Ela's research discovered hitherto unexamined Foreign Office and Government files relating to the Kindertransport and Jewish refugees arriving in England. Ela's talk was very interesting and was illustrated by showing electronic copies of some of the documents.

The Files

The following list of files was kindly supplied by Ela as part of her talk to JGSGB. Each of these files is very large and needs to be examined individually and in person. Relevant papers may also exist in files with close reference numbers.

HO 294/181	Hechalutz and David Eder Farm
HO 45/22391	RCM numbers and lists of Kinder under the Guardianship Act
HO 45/25143	Guardianship Bill
HO 213/232	Internment of children over 16
HO 396/15	An example of an Enemy Alien Internment Exemption Certificate
KV 4/390	Tribunals- General questions about Enemy Aliens at the age of 16
RG 48/1869	Guardianship Act
ED 121/256	Provisions for "enemy aliens" attending elementary schools

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CO 733/455	Displaced persons camps and correspondence with Jewish agencies
PREM 1/326	Correspondence with Lord Samuel and The PM's office on entry of Jewish children and financial support of Jewish agencies
FO 371/21585	Correspondence with Capt Gracey of Save the Children's Fund
FO 371/21637	Correspondence from British Embassy in Berlin on Kristallnacht
FO 371/22538	Reports of Kindertransports
FO 371/24074	Save the Children correspondence
FO 371/24075	Reports on numbers of children passing through the Netherlands
FO 371/24076	As above
FO 371/24083	Visas for Jewish children
FO 371/24085	Cessation of Kindertransports and reasons
FO 371/24100	Registration of children at German consulates. The Jewish Chronicle's response
FO 371/21637	Anti- Jewish rioting in Germany and Austria - Kristallnacht
FO 371/21636	As above
MH 55/704	Lists of Kinder arriving from Hamburg to Southampton. Some medical reports on individuals
MH 55/689	Reports on Dovercourt

Ela conducted her research at Kew over several months. If you intend visiting The National Archives to undertake your own research, please don't expect to visit for an hour or two and to walk out with the full history of the Kinder!

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What Do the File Prefix Codes Mean?

The National Archives website has a useful page that explains the meaning of the prefixes for Government Departments. You can use a department code to narrow down your searches as you browse a particular area of the Catalogue. The Popular Department Codes page is located here: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/popularcodes.asp

Links and Further Resources

UK National Archives

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/

Research Guide Anglo-Jewish history, 18th to 20th centuries

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/anglo-jewish-history-18th-20th.htm

Popular Department Codes

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/popularcodes.asp

The Kindertransport Association

www.kindertransport.org

The Kindertransport Association's Resources Page

www.kindertransport.org/resources.aspx?cat=8

The page also includes a useful booklist

Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR)

www.ajr.org.uk/

AJR Kindertransport Page and Resources

www.ajr.org.uk/kindertransport

Wiener Library

www.wienerlibrary.co.uk/

Can you help?

If you have a suggestion for an update to this information, please send your suggestion to education@jsgsb.org.uk Thank you.

Jeanette Rosenberg

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