Kindertransport - Rescuing Children from the Bring of War

Local Survivors

HANNAH LORSCH
Hannah (Lazarus) Lorsch was born on December 16, 1923, in Berlin, Germany to Arthur and Erna Lazarus. Erna died when Hannah was young.

After Kristallnacht, Arthur arranged for Hannah and her younger brother George to leave Germany on a Kindertransport. Arthur's sister-in-law in Glasgow, Scotland found sponsors for at least four relatives—Hannah and George, a cousin named Kurt, and a fourth cousin. In Glasgow the children attended school and lived with various families.

By 1941, Hannah had trained as a nurse for infants and worked in several homes. From 1943 to 1946 Hannah served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), the women's branch of the British Army, as a cook and was stationed in Wales. She regularly sent food packages to her brother and cousins in Scotland.

In December 1940, Arthur secured passage to Havana, Cuba. His quota number for the US came through in April 1941. By 1946 both Hannah and George had immigrated to the US. Hannah met and married another Holocaust survivor, Berthold Lorsch, and raised a family in Chicago. Hannah died in 1998.

ERNIE HEIMANN
Ernst "Ernie" Klaus Heimann was born on January 26, 1929, in Mainz, Germany. During Kristallnacht, Ernie's school and synagogue were destroyed. On February 1, 1939, Ernie was placed on a Kindertransport; this was the last time Ernie saw his parents. Ernie's maternal aunt was visiting England at the time and sponsored him. His aunt arranged for him to live with a family, just outside of London, since she was living in a single hotel room. Ernie settled into his new home, but the threat of war constantly loomed over the country. Eventually, Britain entered the war, and in September 1939, Ernie and others from his school were evacuated to the countryside, where he was boarded by a family in Northampton. Ernie remained there for four years. Ernie's brother Werner had immigrated to the US in 1937 to continue his education. Werner later volunteered for the Army Air Corps and because of that was given special dispensation to bring Ernie into the US, regardless of the quota. Ernie arrived in 1943. Their parents were both killed in the Holocaust.

FELIX WEIL
Felix Weil was born in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1927, where he lived with his parents and sister. After Kristallnacht, Felix's parents applied for places for their children on the Kindertransport. They received notification that Felix had been granted a place and should report to the train station on August 10, 1939. This turned out to be the second to last transport, as the war began a few weeks later. After saying goodbye on the train platform, Felix never saw his family again.

Upon arrival in London, a clerical error was discovered—the seat Felix had been given on the transport had been intended for a girl named Felicia, who was not related to him but had the same last name. Felix later learned that Felicia had made it to England on an earlier transport.

Felix spent the war living with a family in Northamptonshire. In 1945, he immigrated to the US. In 1946, Felix was drafted into the US Army and sent back to Germany. He arrived in Frankfurt on a train that pulled up to the platform next to the one where he said goodbye to his family seven years earlier.

After completing Army service, Felix moved to Dayton, Ohio, where he married and raised a family. In recent years, Felix relocated to the Chicago area to be closer to his children and grandchildren.

FRITZ PORGES

Fritz Porges was born on October 25, 1926, in Vienna, Austria to Arthur and Hermine Porges. Through the Inter-Aide Committee, his parents were able to secure a place for him on a Kindertransport that arrived at Harwich, England on July 13, 1939. When the German bombing of London began, he attended the Jews' Free Boys School in Evacuation in Ely, where he excelled at cricket, as noted in the school paper. His mother, Hermine, had been able to immigrate to England in March 1939 and worked as a finisher in a leather factory. For the duration of the war, his father, Arthur, was incarcerated at the Ferramonti di Tarsia internment camp in Italy. All three survived the war and set sail for New York in July 1947.

LORE KIRCHHEIMER

Lore (Baer) Kirchheimer was born on October 16, 1928, in Mannheim, Germany, to Hellmuth and Hedwig (Wolf) Baer, and had an older brother, Max. They were an observant Jewish family who kept kosher, attended synagogue, and kept the Sabbath, and Lore attended Jewish school. During Kristallnacht, German SS officers ransacked the family's apartment, arrested Hellmuth, and sent him to Dachau. Hedwig secured his release in December 1938 and managed to get him passage to Shanghai. Max was studying at boarding school in Italy. In May 1939, Hedwig put ten-year-old Lore on a Kindertransport. Lore arrived at Liverpool Street Station in London and was taken in by the Pizers, a working-class Polish Jewish family in the East End. Lore spoke no English, so they communicated through limited Yiddish. During the Blitz, Lore was evacuated to the countryside, and the Pizers' house was destroyed in a bombing raid. Later, the family, including Lore, relocated to Nottingham.

In October 1940 Lore received a letter from her mother that she was interned at Gurs camp in France. The final message Lore received from her was in 1942, informing her she was having an operation. After the war, Lore discovered that Hedwig had been taken to Drancy transit camp on August 10, 1942, and then deported to Auschwitz, where she was murdered on September 2. Lore learned from the Red Cross that her father died in Shanghai on May 19, 1946. Max was killed in 1942.

Lore remained in London, completed school, and began to work. Shortly after the war ended, Lore's quota number came up and in May 1946, she sailed to the US. Through relatives, Lore met another Holocaust survivor, Harry Kirchheimer. The couple married in 1949 and settled in Highland Park, where they raised three children. Lore died in 2019.

LUCILLE WOLF

Lucille Wolf was born Liselotte Wollmann in Breslau, Germany on October 11, 1923, to Walter and Lilli Wollmann. After Kristallnacht, and with only two days' notice, Lucille was one of 200 children chosen to be included on the first Kindertransport arriving in Harwich, England on December 2, 1938. Upon arrival, Lucille and the other children were mobbed by reporters. Lucille and a young boy she met on the train

were soon on the front page of numerous newspapers around the world. Lucille's older sister, who had immigrated to Rochester, NY, saw her younger sister in the newspaper and only then knew Lucille had gotten out of Germany.

Lucille and the other children were sent to live at Dovercourt Bay Holiday Camp, approximately two miles from Harwich. After a week, Lucille was sent with twenty other girls to a Jewish orphanage. She was hired to work as a nanny and lived with a family in York. Lucille sailed to the US in May 1940 and settled in Chicago.

JOHN CARLISLE

John Carlisle was born Ulrich Neidermann on August 12, 1925, to Jewish parents, Josef and Anna (Scheier) Neidermann. At the age of 13 in December 1938, his parents secured him a place on a Kindertransport from Vienna to Harwich, England. John and two other boys were sponsored by a donor and housed with a caretaker. Three years later, John met his future wife Doreen at a church youth group. At age 18 John joined the British Army as a paratrooper. He was sent for training to Carlisle, England, where his name was changed from Ulrich Neidermann to John Carlisle in case he was captured.

John's two older sisters, Berta and Helene, emigrated to the US in 1938 and 1939. His younger sister Melanie was sent to France and then escaped to Spain. John's parents fled to Belgium and later were murdered in Auschwitz.

John and Doreen married in 1949. They immigrated to the US in 1952 to join John's sisters. Melanie and Helene lived in Skokie, Berta in Washington, DC, and John and Doreen settled in Elk Grove Village. John died in 1985.

FRED SINAY

Fritz (Fred) Sinay was born on November 16, 1921, in Vienna, Austria to Else and Berthold Sinai. The family owned a fine men and boys' clothing factory. Fred attended the local Gymnasium and had his bar mitzvah in the largest synagogue in Vienna, Leopoldstädter Temple on Tempelgasse, in 1934.
The day after Kristallnacht, Berthold was arrested and taken to Dachau.

Else arranged for Fred to leave on a Kindertransport on December 10, 1938—the second transport with 522 children on board. At age 17, Fred was put in charge of a group of boys, helped them during the journey, and supervised them at Pakefield Camp in Lowesoft, England for a month. He then lived with two different host families. Fred went on to study at the London Polytechnic until it was evacuated to Winscombe, Somerset. Fred's quota number came up and he arrived in the US on June 12, 1940.

In May 1940, Else got Berthold released from Dachau, and he left for Miami without a visa. Berthold was interred in Cuba until December 1941, when his US quota number came through and he made his way to family in Chicago. Else stayed in Vienna and worked as a nurse at the Rothschild Hospital until she was told she and her sister were going to be deported. They managed to buy visas from the Salvadoran consulate and traveled through the Soviet Union to Shanghai. In January 1942 Else arrived in the US.

In November 1942 Fred was drafted into the US Army and was assigned to interrogate German prisoners. For a time, he served under General Patton. He worked in POW camps in France and Belgium and was discharged in December 1945. Back home, Fred married Lillian Lefkowitch and they had three

children and six grandchildren. Fred Sinay died in 2008.

LARRY SHELTON

Larry (Ludwig) Shelton was born in 1922 in Hofheim, Germany. In 1936, as Nazi persecution of the Jews intensified, Larry's parents sent him to a boarding school in Florence, Italy. While living there, he was arrested by the Gestapo and held for three months in a Florence city prison. Following his release, his parents brought him back to Germany. After Kristallnacht, Larry's parents decided he needed to leave Germany again. In May 1939, he was placed on a Kindertransport to London. Larry's parents and many of his relatives were murdered in the Holocaust. Larry immigrated to the US in 1946 at age 24. Larry and his wife Gloria settled in Morton Grove and raised a family. Larry died in 2018.