



SPRING/SUMMER 2024 SPECIAL EDITION

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2024 Newsletter of the Friends of Mill Road Cemetery.
This is a special edition of the newsletter dedicated to the memory of

Dorothea Loewenstein (1922-1941).

Dorothea's remarkable story, researched and written by her nephew Pastor Mark Lewis,
is introduced by Caro Wilson of the History Group of the Friends.

The Friends work with other parties to help preserve the Cemetery as a place of
history, remembrance, spirituality, and nature. Thank you for your support.

Please join us at our Annual General Meeting on 25 June – details on the last page of this newsletter.

Special edition



The resting-place of Dorothea Loewenstein (pictured left) lies in a very overgrown part of the Parish Area of Holy Trinity. The inscription reads:

“In very dear memory of
our beloved eldest daughter
and sister
DOROTHEA LOEWENSTEIN
Born 28th May 1922
Died 12th April 1941.”

As the website entry ([Dorothea Loewenstein – Mill Road Cemetery](#) HT234) records, Dorothea died at 92 Castle Street. But until recently, “nothing else” was known about her life.

The FOMRC History Group is very grateful to Mark Lewis for alerting us to Dorothea's monument and for sharing her remarkable story with us. Many thanks to Mary Naylor for locating the monument, and to Claire and Haakon Martinsen for helping to make it accessible. Mark had his grandparents' original marriage certificate but further research by Claire indicated it was amended by Nazi officials in the 1930s. According to the regulations then in force, Mark's grandfather Ernst was renamed “Israel” as were many adult Jewish men. Claire is also now helping Mark to research the family history of Professor Carnegie Simpson in the hopes that he might be able to send his thanks to some of Simpson's descendants and share with them this story of their ancestor's generosity.

Mark got in touch with us in February of this year looking for our help to find the monument which he planned to visit in March on a short trip from America, where he lives, to Ethiopia. An important part of the trip for him was to honour his recently deceased father, Herbert Lewis, by visiting Dorothea's grave. It was a privilege to meet him and hear this story direct from him.

- Caro Wilson, FOMRC History Group



AMONG THE MOST ICONIC IMAGES of Britain in the 1930s are pictures like this one of children and young people arriving by ship from the Continent as refugees from the persecution of the Nazi regime in Germany. The Kindertransport, as it was known, was the outcome of petitioning by Jewish organisations, churches, and the Quakers to relocate children from Germany to England, where they would be fostered by English families. On the morning of 2 December, 1938, the first arrivals walked down the ramp from the ship that had brought them to safety via the Netherlands, and stepped onto British soil.

Many years later, a brief glimpse of an old BBC newsreel incorporated into a documentary about the Kindertransport sent a shock of recognition through Herbert Lewis (Dorothea's "little" brother), who was watching the documentary with his son Mark. This is the story Mark shared with us. Some of

it is based on an oral history obtained from the late Steffie Smith (Dorothea's younger sister) and provided by Vivien Smith (Steffie's daughter).

DOROTHEA (THEA) LOEWENSTEIN, BORN MAY 28, 1922 in Berlin, Germany, was the eldest daughter of Ernst and Henrietta Loewenstein. Thea's younger sister Stephanie (Steffie) was born January 5, 1932. Their younger brother, Herbert (Herbie), was born April 17, 1933.

As Hitler's Nazi party began persecuting the Jews in Germany, Ernst and Henrietta began pursuing means to get the family safely out of the country. After various attempts to write and get someone in the UK to sponsor the family had failed, they decided that it would be wise for Henrietta to travel to England on her own to see if she could find a way to move the family to safety.

Realising that Henrietta's Jewish surname and German nationality would prohibit her from leaving, Ernst and Henrietta chose to get "divorced" so that Henrietta – who had been born in London – could reclaim her English nationality and travel to England. This might make it easier to find someone who would give an affidavit for her family.

During their mother's absence, Steffie (now 5 years old) and Herbie (4) had to stay in an orphanage because Ernst was working and trying to get the family out of Germany and





couldn't care for them on his own. Henrietta went to work as a nanny for a family in the North of England. The husband was of Jewish heritage, but he did nothing to help his nanny's family with an affidavit.

Steffie does not remember her mom leaving – she was just gone. She remembers her father leaving her in a big building (the orphanage or Children's Home). She was 5 at the time, so her memory is fragmented. She also remembers having a sense that something horrible was going to happen. Her brother, Herbie, was at the same orphanage, but lived in a separate area with the boys, so Steffie only saw him occasionally at a distance. Her dad, and sometimes her sister Dorothea, would come and visit. Steffie and Herbie lived in the orphanage for two years, until they were 7 and 6 years old respectively. Their big sister Dorothea (known as Thea) was living with a Quaker teacher at the time.

In November 1938 Kristallnacht occurred. Steffie remembers hearing banging on doors and other loud noises, and seeing flickering light from the fires outside on the ceiling of her dormitory room. Luckily the children's home where she was living was spared. The next day the children were sent to school as usual. The streets were deserted, and the feeling was ominous. The school was closed so the little group of children made their way back to the home. Sometime later, the children were moved to a home for the elderly.

During the night of Kristallnacht, Ernst was able to hide in a neighbour's apartment. The neighbour was a member of the Nazi party, though evidently – because he was willing to hide Ernst – not a supporter of its racial and political position; membership in the party was often required to get a job. The neighbour had friends over playing cards, so Ernst had to remain in the closet throughout the evening.

Jewish organisations, churches, and Quaker groups had been petitioning the British government to help save Jewish children (under age 17) by allowing them to travel to Britain as unaccompanied minors and enter the country as refugees. This led to the launch of the Kindertransport program. Beginning at the start of December of 1938, Jewish children would be moved from Germany to England by train and boat to be fostered by English families.

Dorothea had not yet turned 17 and Ernst was able to get her on the first train. Thus it was that Thea was one of the first two hundred children – forty girls and 160 boys, aged 5-17 – to arrive in Harwich, on December 2, 1938.

THERE ARE VARIOUS OLD NEWS REEL CLIPS AND PHOTOS of the first Kindertransport that show Thea walking down the ramp as they arrived off the boat into England. The photo at the head of this article comes from an [online archive](#), where the accompanying information explains:

“Some Jewish refugee children arriving from Germany landing at Harwich 2nd December 1938. These children were among the first group of 160 boys and 40 girls aged five to seventeen to arrive in the UK. The usual passport formalities were waived by the authorities but each child was issued with a special form as an identity paper. The ILN [Illustrated London News] reported that the children came from ‘middle-class homes in Berlin, Hamburg, Leipzig, and Breslau’.”



This is one of the often-seen photos of Thea walking down the ramp onto British soil after the boat ride from the Netherlands.

Herbert's son, Mark, recalls being seven or eight years old and watching BBC documentaries with his father in the early 1970s. His dad (then in his late 30s and living in the San Francisco Bay Area of California, USA) would often sit watching such programmes with tears in his eyes. He went on to explain to his son how relatives perished in the Nazi concentration camps. He also began to share some of what he, his sisters, and their parents experienced in fleeing the Nazis.

He also shared that their true last name was "Loewenstein" and how, due to concern of antisemitism, they chose to change it in the early 1940s to Lewis.



Mark has a memory of sitting with his father while watching a documentary on the Kindertransport. There was an old black-and-white BBC newsreel that showed teens wading down the ramp from a boat that had just arrived in England from the Netherlands. He vividly recalls his father saying, "My God, that was my sister Dorothea." The clip lasted a mere three or four seconds. Of course, there was no way to rewind a television show in the early '70s. The moment was gone.

But the memory remained. Herbert was convinced he had seen his big sister, Dorothea, walking down the ramp.

Fast forward to 1999. With the internet opening doors for finding information, Mark's cousin, Malcom Smith (one of Thea's nephews and son of Steffie), found an online newspaper clipping photo of their aunt Dorothea walking down the ramp. It could be verified by other photographs the family had. Mark noticed it was "owned" by Getty Images. He emailed Getty, shared the family story, and was allowed to purchase some prints of the photo.

Some video footage of Dorothy has been located on YouTube. Since she arrived with the first group of Kindertransport children, there was significant news coverage. There are film clips taken from at least two different vantage points that include Thea, as well as at least three different photos of her coming down the boat ramp. The film and photos of "the woman on the ramp" seem to be rather iconic images of the Kindertransport operation.

UPON HER ARRIVAL IN ENGLAND, THEA STAYED in a holding camp near Harwich for a few weeks before being sent via train to live with an elderly Quaker woman in the North of England. It was on the train that Thea met an elderly professor of Theology from Cambridge University named Professor Carnegie Simpson. She had studied some English in school and



explained to him her worries about her family. Professor Simpson told her to contact him if he could be of any help and gave her his address. A few weeks later she wrote him a letter (the draft is in the family's possession) asking for help. She shared that her father, Ernst, had been knocked down in the street by the "brown shirts" (the private militia of the Nazi party). Though Ernst was a total stranger, Professor Simpson immediately offered to sponsor him.

Ernst was able to get Steffie and Herbie on the Kindertransport in the subsequent weeks. With her English passport, Henrietta could now travel freely between England and Germany. She had returned to Berlin to help Ernst with preparations and was able to see Steffie and Herbie off as they departed on the Kindertransport train to the Netherlands, where they would board a ship to Harwich.

It was obviously terribly distressing to send their six- and seven-year old children to live with strangers. However, Ernst and Henrietta knew that they'd be able to see them again in England because, thanks to Professor Simpson, they were finally getting permits for Ernst to leave. However, they would not see their kids for another nine months.

Even so this was a better experience than some families who had no way to get out of Germany. Many had to send their kids away hoping for a safer life for them without knowing if they would see them again. Many parents did not survive.



Ernst and Henrietta arrived in Cambridge, England in late summer 1939 to reunite with their children – Herbie, Steffie, and Thea. Just a few weeks later, on September 1, 1939, World War II broke out.

Shortly after being reunited as a family, due to his German/Jewish last name, Ernst (along with many other refugees in England) was interned to the Isle of Man on suspicion of being a Nazi sympathizer. A doctor by profession, he was aware that his daughter Thea (now 18) was very ill due to a weakened heart caused by rheumatic heart disease from rheumatic fever/strep throat she had at age nine.

Desperate to get back home and tend to his ailing daughter, Ernst pretended he was mentally ill by regularly soiling himself...and, as a last resort, he cut his wrists. He was eventually deemed "insane" and sent back to the mainland to a mental institution – where, a couple of weeks later, he was "miraculously healed" and released.



ABOUT TWO MONTHS AFTER ERNST RETURNED HOME, on April 12, 1941, Dorothea passed away at age 19. Just over a month before her twentieth birthday.

She was laid to rest in Mills Road, Cemetery, Cambridge, England.

Her younger sister, Steffie met and married Derek Smith (Derek and Steffie Smith).

Herbert, her younger brother, married Jeannette Van Giesen (Herbert and Jeannette Lewis).

Both couples would eventually find their way to California's San Francisco Bay Area where they would settle down, buy homes, and start families.

Derek Smith passed away August 25, 2010. Stephanie (Steffie) Smith passed away March 21, 2018.

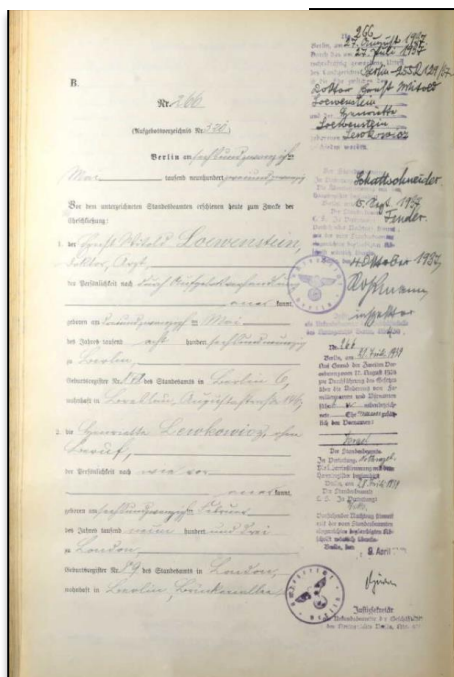
Herbert (Herbie) Lewis passed away February 6, 2022.

As of this writing, Jeannette Lewis is still enjoying life in California.



If any reader of the newsletter is able to help Mark as he continues to research Dorothea's story, please get in touch: LionStoneFamily@gmail.com.

In particular, Mark is interested in tracking down more footage from the BBC, or other film or photo archives, of Dorothea's arrival on the Kindertransport. He would also like to trace members of the Carnegie Simpson family.



MALE ENEMY ALIEN EXEMPTION FROM INTERNMENT-REFUGEE

(1) Surname (block capitals) LOEWENSTEIN Released INTERNEED
 Forfeiture Ernst Witold 26.1.41 EC

(2) Date and place of birth 23-5-1896 Berlin

(3) Nationality German

(4) Police Regn. Cert. No. 747716 Home Office reference, if known 617091
 Special Procedure Card Number, if known 396

(5) Address 216, Mill Road Cambridge

(6) Normal occupation Medical Doctor

(7) Present Occupation None

(8) Name and address of employer

(9) Decision of Tribunal Exempt from Internment Date 6-11-1939

(10) Whether exempted from Articles 6 (a) and 9 (a) (Yes or No) Yes

(11) Whether desired to be repatriated (Yes or No) No

Form 9-39 (7/39) 31222/213 Nov. 1939 G.P.O. 1124



Clockwise from top left: the Loewensteins' (amended) marriage certificate; Ernst's exemption from internment as an "enemy alien"; Ernst and Henrietta with Herbie and Steffie; Herbie and Ernst in St Anne's on Sea, August 1939; Dorothea.

Video footage of Thea's arrival in England can be seen on <https://vimeo.com/916551649>.



National Cemeteries Week 2024

National Cemeteries Week is an annual event that recognise and celebrates the role of Cemetery Friends, highlighting the work they do and the benefits that they bring to their area. This year the event runs from Saturday 8 June to Sunday 16 June. Furthermore, Mill Road Cemetery will be represented at the AGM of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends, being held at Foster Hill Cemetery in Bedford in early June. We hope to come away with lots of ideas from other Friends organisations throughout the UK and to make new connections.

Special events for National Cemeteries Week at Mill Road Cemetery

Once a year the National Federation of Cemetery Friends invites members to arrange special events for National Cemeteries week. We are very pleased to say that the Friends of Mill Road Cemetery have organised a series of six Cemetery tours from 8 to 15 June. All events are free, but we do ask that people pre-book using Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/manage/collections/3329679/events>

Saturday 8th June 2pm

Sporting Heroes of Mill Road Cemetery

Join Nigel Fenner for an action-packed tour of the Cemetery investigating the sporting lives of some of those buried at Mill Road Cemetery including one of the greatest cricket players from the early 20th Century.

Sunday 9th June 2pm

Publicans of Mill Road Cemetery

Mark Tinkler will keep you entertained with tales of publicans. Victorian Cambridge was full of pubs and Mark is a font of knowledge on the history of inns.

Tuesday 11th June 5.30pm

How Mill Road Cemetery came to be

Ever wondered how the Cemetery was planned, why it's located where it is, or just what the various engravings and symbols mean? Claire Martinsen will share some of the fascinating history of the Cemetery.

Wednesday 12th June 2pm

Stories from newly discovered monuments

Mary Naylor is a mine of information about the Mill Road Cemetery and on this tour she will show you some of the newly discovered Victorian monuments and tell their stories.

Friday 14th June 2.30pm

Biodiversity at Mill Road Cemetery

Guy Belcher, Biodiversity Officer for Cambridge City Council will explain some of the unique features of the Cemetery and the biodiversity plans that are in place for the nine-acre site.



Saturday 15th June 10am

The Trees of Mill Road Cemetery

Local expert Diana Cook will explain some of the interesting trees within the Cemetery.
A fascinating exploration of the nature at Mill Road Cemetery.

The tours are available to all – but obviously we hope that the Friends and Supporters of the Cemetery will take the opportunity to attend the tours during National Cemeteries Week!

Feel free to display the poster on the following page to help promote the tours.

Mill Road Cemetery gets Social!

Did you know that the Cemetery is on Social Media? We are on X (Twitter), Instagram and Facebook. It's a valuable way for people to keep in touch with what is going on in the Cemetery and for relatives to reach out for help. We regularly get enquiries from across the globe - and its always interesting to see just how many people follow the Cemetery going-ons from so far away. If you are on any form of Social Media, do follow Mill Road Cemetery:

Twitter/X : @MillRdCemetery

Instagram: @millroadcemetery

Facebook: Friends of Mill Road Cemetery

Annual General Meeting 25 June 2024, 6.30-8pm St Barnabas Church, Mill Road

This year's AGM will be held on Tuesday 25 June, at St Barnabas Church. We're planning a social event, with food, wine, and time to chat, as well as updates from the Friends Committee. Attendance post-Covid has been lower than in the past, so we very much hope that you will put the date in your diary and come along! It's your chance to influence the decisions that are made about the Cemetery, have your say and show your support.

Feel free to display the poster on the last page of this newsletter to raise awareness of the AGM. See you on the 25th!

St Barnabas Church, Tuesday 25 June, 6.30-8pm

*The Friends of Mill Road Cemetery is a member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.
All events and activities in Mill Road Cemetery take place with agreement from
Cambridge City Council and the Parochial Burial Grounds Management Committee*



Mill Road Cemetery Tours

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National
Cemeteries
Week 2024

Please
register
in
advance
via
Eventbrite





Friends of Mill Road Cemetery Annual Meeting

Tuesday 25th June 2024
6.30PM - 8PM

St Barnabas Church
Mill Road

Food, wine and drinks

All Local Residents, Friends, Supporters and
Users of the Cemetery are invited to come and
learn more about this wonderful space