

THE SUDETEN TABLE - Discovered September 2019

Albury History Society - alburyhistory.org.uk

In 2019 this table was found in Upham, Hampshire, and about to go on a bonfire during a stable and outbuildings clear out. It had been at the premises 40 years previously when the present owners arrived. They looked on the internet and contacted Albury History Society.

It seems the table was constructed by Sudeten Czech refugees living at Surrey Hills Guest House camp in Albury. After starting with bell tents, refugees lived in chalets which they had constructed.

An inscription underneath in black paint reads: (sic)

**Sudeten German Refugees
works for the comrades in
Surrey Hills
Thomas Haberkorn - Heinrich Wirnitzer
Henry Weisbach
17th March 1939**



At some point the legs and side panels have been painted black and the edging white. It seems a black paint brush was randomly wiped underneath to clean it and this partially obscures the inscription.



Haberkorn, Wirnitzer and Weisbach, [known to have been at Surrey Hills](#), are presumably the craftsmen who made this table. In 1939, chalets, beds and tables would have all been constructed by the refugees. The table is WHD 1660x740x710mm and partially dismantled.

The direction of tongue and groove interlocks means rainwater would flow out if the inscription were upright, so it is possible the table was made much later and had originally been part of a chalet wall. The lack in the wood of unused screw or nail holes suggests the table was its first use though.

The table had been in outbuildings for at least 40 years. There were several occupants before the 80s and in 1939 the house was a small worker's cottage. When and why it reached Upham is not known.

