

BROOK LODGE SCHOOL – JANUARY-DECEMBER 1939

One of the Rector of Albury's many achievements in supporting the Czech Sudeten refugees in his Surrey parish was the setting up of a boarding school for the children. My father Herbert Lowit attended it throughout 1939. My mother Theresie Schneider joined it in the autumn term after girls were allowed. The school was run on "public school" lines, including competitive sports and 'prep'. The children were able to improve their English, while not forgetting their own language and culture, and were well equipped to continue their education in ordinary English schools after war broke out.



The schoolhouse with some 50 of the adult and child refugees who lived and/or studied at Brook Lodge during 1939. My father Herbert Lowit is seated second on the right in the white shirt. His future father-in-law Josef Schneider is standing at the back on the right with a cigarette in his mouth. Brian Bedford, son of the Brook Lodge landlords is in front row second left, next to his cousin.

From Article Written for The Sudeten Jahrbuch by Herbert Lowit in 1982:

[Link to "The Red Scouts of Brook Lodge"](#)

On Brook Lodge's land there was a garden house and already, by the middle of January 1939, lessons had begun. We lived separately from the refugee camp, but could be fed by the kitchen. This was proof of the enthusiastic and determined way Pastor Gray tackled projects. In his community he had found a senior school teacher who had recently retired and entrusted him with the running of the school. Mr. F.R. Cobbold had taught at a well-known private school and thus 'Brook Lodge School' was based on a typical public school, i.e. as a boarding school and originally only for boys. In these schools sport and physical education are on a par with academic education and the whole day is carefully filled not only with normal lessons, but also with preparation and revision, gymnastics, games and sport. At all times the pupils are under a regime of strict discipline for which not the staff but the pupils themselves are responsible - or rather prefects chosen from their circle - for in his school the Englishman learns his proverbial self-discipline.

Mr Cobbold taught English language and history. Dr. Rudolf Fischer supported him by teaching geography of the British Empire and very wisely kept up our mother tongue and awareness of our unsurpassed literature. Eduard Berner, fluent in English, was tasked with familiarising us with the peculiarities of English mathematics, weights, measures and currency while, outside the school timetable, keeping a fatherly eye on us. Much later, when girls too finally joined the classes, Miss Lydia Hyde took over some of the English lessons.

Letter to John Crisp of Kingston Day Commercial School Association from Herbert Lowit - 20 July 2000:

Already by mid-January the Rev. Philip Gray had organised a kind of boarding school for 'his' children. He commandeered a cottage standing empty in the grounds of the Brook Lodge Guest House, and recruited, amongst others, a retired House Master from nearby Charterhouse [*Cobbold*] and the former head of a Teachers' Training College [*Fischer*] from amongst us refugees. The school was run along the lines of a Public School, and by the end of the year (1939) we were deemed ready to continue our education at an equivalent English school.

Letter to Spectator from Reverend Philip Gray, Rector of Albury - 14 April 1939:

Eight boys, from ten to sixteen years of age, are being educated in a German- English boarding-school which has been started here. The boys are housed in a cottage adjoining one of the guest houses, and are under the charge of a retired English preparatory school head master, assisted voluntarily by two Sudeten school masters, who are resident in this settlement. The boys play football with the village school; have been enrolled as Boy Scouts and attached to a Guildford Patrol; they do their gym. and physical training under a Sudeten P.T. instructor; have their gardens and their carpenter's shop, where they have turned out simple furniture for their school.



This photograph, taken on the same day as the photo on page 1 judging by their clothes, shows some of the boys next to the school house: Hans Türk and Georg Weiss at the back; Walter Moc, Rudi Schor, Ivan Sommer and my father Herbert Lowit in the front. Note the knickerbockers!

From Gerhard Höfner's Memoir "One of the Lucky Ones" 2013:

There was a large school room upstairs together with four bedrooms. Downstairs was a smaller schoolroom used for music lessons and a bedroom occupied by our "House Master", a refugee who taught us maths. The Headmaster was an Englishman who was a retired public school master, who taught us English and several other subjects. The school was run on boarding school lines, with prep and homework. Meals were taken in the large classroom and were prepared in the main kitchen. The pupils were two older boys of about 15, Turk about 14. Sommer, Storch, Beck, Luft and myself about 12 and a younger lad of about 10 called Schor who left soon to emigrate to Bolivia. We 9 were taught intensively and very successfully and we very soon learnt English. The adults were taught English in a large summerhouse next to the main house by an Englishwoman, a Miss Hyde, a Quaker

*The two older boys were my father Herbert Lowit and Walter Moc.
Georg Weiss also attended the school but perhaps intermittently.*

From Walter Luft's Memoir written in 2002:

Three full-time teachers, two German and one retired English Professor, continued our basic secondary school education. Emphasis was on English so as to prepare us for public school. . . . "Brook Lodge" as the place was called, housed about 15 families, some with school-aged children and thus was chosen for the location of the school. The former carriage house provided a large classroom, bathrooms and a room for one of the teachers downstairs and the upstairs had been converted into two boys' dorms. The girls were quartered in the main lodge where the kitchen and dining hall were located. During our stay there, the menfolk, some of whom were carpenters, built a new all-purpose hall which then became our classroom.

From Article Written for The Sudeten Jahrbuch by Herbert Lowit in 1999:

[Link to "Exile in England – The First Two Years"](#)

. . . the Anglican vicar of the village, Reverend Philip Gray, had made the wellbeing of the refugees his responsibility. He devoted particular attention to 'his children' and, with the active support of his parishioners and of the [Czech Refugee] Trust Fund, managed by the middle of January to open a school (admittedly originally only for boys). There was a cottage and a summer house in the grounds of the Brook Lodge pension which were ideal for the education and accommodation of schoolboys. We lived separated from the refugee camp, but could be catered for by their kitchen. A retired senior primary school teacher, Mr F.C. Cobbold, took over the running of the school and the two main subjects, English and physical education. Very wisely, we were also to continue studying our mother tongue. Among the refugees in Albury there was also Dr Rudolf Fischer, professor at a Czech teacher training college. He taught us German as well as the structure and geography of the British Empire. Eduard Berner, also a refugee and fluent in English, instructed us in English weights and measures and the peculiarities of English mathematics. Finally we must mention Miss Evelyn Knight, who tried to interest us boys in the fine arts.

Mr Cobbold had taught at one of the famous exclusive English public schools, and based the Brook Lodge School on that pattern. The day began early with physical exercises. After the morning and afternoon lessons came sport (football or rugby in the winter, cricket in the summer), and in the evening there was 'prep', i.e. pupils did their homework and prepared for the next day's lessons. The Prefect appointed by the school administration was responsible for discipline and had the right to impose punishments. As for myself, however, I didn't make use of the physical punishment common in English public schools.

<u>Lowit.</u>	<u>Report.</u>	<u>Easter Term.</u>
<u>Age.</u> 15 $\frac{3}{4}$		<u>Weight increase</u> 6 lbs <u>increase</u> <u>or decrease.</u>
<u>English.</u>	Excellent work always. He has really learnt a good deal, most satisfactory to teach and quite neat in his work. T.R.S.	
<u>German.</u>		
<u>Geography.</u>	The best boy in both subjects. Very qualified for study at a Grammar School. D.R.F.	
<u>Arithmetic.</u>	He is an excellent worker. I am very satisfied with him. Pp.	
<u>Drawing.</u>	Has done good work. EK. Excellent in the class.	
<u>Head Master's remarks.</u>	Very satisfactory in every way.	
	Read by Rev Philip Gray 3. 3. 39	

Herbert Lowit's first Brook Lodge School report – March 1939

On 15th May 1939, Rev Philip Gray organised a repeat trip to Windsor - the first one had taken place on 21st November 1938 before the women and children had arrived.



The children in the back row are Margareta Fürch, Helga Werner, Edi Eger, Gerhard Höfner, Walter Moc, Herbert Löwit, Gundi Distler. The boy in front of the unknown teacher/adult on the right is Leo Hieke. Refugee teacher Eduard Berner is on the left. Next to him are (I believe) Gerhard Beck, Heinz Storch, unknown, Rudi Schor.

From Herbert Lowit's English exercise book May 1939:

An Excursion to Windsor

Yesterday we went for an excursion to Windsor castle. We started at one o'clock from Brook Lodge. There were two buses. We boarded and the journey began. We were not only the school but also the people from the settlement [Brook Lodge] and four people from Surrey Hills. The buses were quite full. The journey to Windsor was very fine. It was not too hot, but the sun was shining a little. We went through Guildford and some other towns and villages. After about one hour we arrived at the wonderful Windsor park. We saw many tame deer which grazed on the green meadows.

Then the buses stopped at Windsor. We got out and went to the castle. That was a beautiful look! At the door stood a man of the guard. At first we went into St George's chapel. A German speaker explained all the history to us. We saw the tomb of King George V. Then we saw some other tombs of members of the Royal family. After this we went up the hill to the state apartments. We saw the rooms in which the King and Queen or foreign visitors live. There were many excellent pictures of the world, things out of pure silver, old armours and weapons, precious stones and so on. We saw that Windsor castle is one of the richest castles in the world.

Then we went out of the castle and had tea in a restaurant. Then we went again into St George's chapel to hear the evening divine service. In this old old building we heard the wonderful voices of the choir. I think nobody had heard anything like this before. After that we had no more time and we hastened to our buses. During the return journey we sang some songs and were soon we were back at Brook Lodge.



This blurry photograph, taken I believe in the summer term 1939, shows the three girls who were now allowed to join the school: Helga Werner (my mother's best friend), Gerda Tscherny and Gundi Distler. The boys are: (back row) Gerhard Höfner, Walter Moc, Heinz Storch?, Hans Türk, Gerhard Beck, Herbert Lowit. The Brook Lodge School headmaster Mr F R C Cobbold is centre back, with the refugee teachers Dr Rudolf Fischer on left and Eduard Berner on right. The boys in the front row may be Rudi Schor and Walter Luft.

My mother Theresie Schneider is not in the photograph as she was working in domestic service, but she did join the school in the autumn and the teenage romance with my father continued.

Dear Mr. Gray,
 I like to be in the Brook-Lodge-School. We are eight boys and three girls and we endure us very well.
 I came to England in December 1938, during Christmas I ~~was~~ ^{was} stayed at Hovey Hills, and then 3 weeks in London. On the 25th of January I came to this school. When I came, I did not know half so much English as I know now. I were not able to write an English letter, as I can do it now. Also on Geography, Arithmetic and Singing I learned very much, what I did not know

Summer Term Report.

Lowit. Age. 16 Years.

Arithmetic. Excellent. His work is extremely good and his writing is legible. E.B.

German. Reliable, very diligent, and intelligent. A very good knowledge in grammar. Should continue to study either at Commercial School.

Drawing. Is drawing with greater ease. A dreamer - but a good steady worker + ready to help in any way. EK.

Geography. Excelling the other pupils by his profound knowledge.

English.
 I am very pleased indeed with this boy's work. His writing work is excellent. H.C.

Headmaster's Report.
 A very satisfactory boy, both in work and conduct.

PHILIP GRAY.
 29 JUL 1939

Herbert Lowit's Reflections and School Report - July 1939

"In September the next and final school term began under changed circumstances. Great Britain was on a war footing. . . ."

It would appear that Mr Cobbold left the school to become Superintendent of a Dr. Barnardo's Home in Plymouth; it is not known who if anyone replaced him as head of Brook Lodge School.

Brook Lodge School Magazine

Foreword.

Well, that is the first edition of the Brook-Lodge-School-Magazin. We are a little afraid to give it over to the public, because we think our English is not so perfect as it should be and we have not much experiences in writing articles.

We have made up our minds and have tried to write. Our word lies before you.

We have to thank Miss Hyde who gave us the idea to make this Magazine and who kindly read the articles and troubled about all.

When the first number is not so good as it should be, you must excuse us. You may be sure that the next edition will be better and perhaps more interesting. If you have any suggestions, please inform us.

Well, let us stop talking now, we will let speak the articles to you. May you have great pleasure in reading them.

The Editor:
 Herbert Lowit.

The copy of the magazine that has survived is on flimsy carbon paper - [here it is](#)

This was the first (and I assume only!) edition of the Brook Lodge School Magazine which my father Herbert Lowit edited and which was overseen by Miss Lydia Hyde, the English teacher who had taught some of the adults and had now been brought to the school to teach the girls.

The articles are:

- The Sudetenland by Walter Moc (born 1924, emigrated in 1960s to the USA, remained friends with my parents for the rest of his life)
- Carlsbad and My Last School by Theresie Schneider (born 1923, my mother - the only girl to contribute)
- The Journey to England by Herbert Lowit (born 1923, my father - married my mother in 1948 and settled in England)
- Hitler's influence on my life and the life of the Germans by Hans Türk (born 1925, emigrated in 1950s to Australia)
- The view from my bedroom-window in Prague and at Brook Lodge by Georg Weiss (born 1924, tragically died in London in 1944)
- The Schoolway to Brook-Lodge by Rudi Schor (born 1928, emigrated in December 1939 to Bolivia)
- Christmas-time in Carlsbad by Leo Hieke (born 1926, settled in England)
- The R.A.F. Fighters, The Bombers and Marionet-Play - authors unknown, maybe a group effort by the boys

“By the end of 1939 Brook Lodge School had completed its allotted task: their pupils were able to complete their school studies, interrupted by Munich, at appropriate English schools.”

My father Herbert Lowit went on to Kingston Day Commercial School. Walter Luft and Gerhard Beck had already moved on to Central High School in Guildford. Gerhard Höfner, Ivan Sommer and Heinz Storch attended the local village school in Albury, as did Leo Hieke. Heinz Storch may have gone on to Warwick School where his brother had a place. Georg Weiss went to the County Technical School in Stoke Park before joining his family in London. For further information about the pupils see Appendix 2.



The schoolhouse had once been the stable block and coach house of Brook Lodge. The cottage that accommodated the school still exists and is a private house. The photograph above was taken in August 1976 (with thanks to the Albury History Society).

Appendix 1 - Some Essays from Herbert Lowit's English Exercise Books

Dear Mr Cobbold,

Yesterday I got up at eight o'clock, washed my hands and face and had my breakfast. After this I went on a bicycle to my parents who are at Surrey Hills. I went with parents and with other people to the Albury church. At mid-day we went home to Surrey Hills and we had our lunch. After lunch my parents went with me a little way but I had to be back at three o'clock at Brook Lodge with my bicycle. Arrived in Brook Lodge here was a new pupil. We thought the Scouts would come but they didn't. We had our tea and our supper and at nine o'clock we went to sleep.

Dear Mr Cobbold,

I am with seven German boys in a little school. We have a very good time-table and I will tell you what we do every day. Every morning we get up at seven o'clock, wash ourselves and have breakfast at half past seven. After, we have a walk for an hour and when we come back, the school begins. At first we have German, geography or arithmetic. When this is finished we have an English lesson. Then we have a little physical drill and after, English till half past twelve. At one o'clock is lunch. Then we play football. When we come home, there is singing, drawing, arithmetic or carpentry. At half past four is tea, after we have preparation for English, German, arithmetic or geography. At seven o'clock we have our supper and at nine o'clock we go to bed.

Dear Mr Cobbold,

When I have a whole holiday, I will go on a bicycle to my parents at Surrey Hills. There, there are also many friends of mine and I will talk with them. I will play some games of table-tennis and will read the newspapers. After lunch I will go with my parents for a little walk and after tea I will go home to Brook Lodge. There I will work in my piece of garden. After supper I will read a nice book and then I will go to bed. I hope that I will soon get a whole holiday.

Dear Mr Cobbold,

You asked us what employment we will do when we grow up. It is difficult to answer because I don't know what will be my future. If I was still living in my native town in Bohemia I would answer without long reflection. Now I think is not right when I have wishes on account of my future. I think I will go to Canada. There I cannot search out my occupation: I will be a farmer whether I want to or not. I have delight to be a farmer. It will be very fine, when I will cultivate my fields. I will have some animals. Horses, cows, pigs etc. I will live in my own house. I don't know much about agriculture but I like to learn it. With my parents, my sister and my brother I will build us a new future.

An Excursion

I am going to tell of an excursion on bicycles which I made two years ago [age 13].

Early one morning we – two friends and I – started on our bicycles for a big journey. We had all big rucksacks with us because we would travel 14 days. The weather was not fair, it was beginning to rain. The first town we arrived at 7 o'clock was Turnov [17 miles]. There one boy had a little fall and his bicycle was broken. We took it to a car-workshop and in half an hour we rode on again. Now it was raining. But at

noon, when we arrived at Nova Paka [20 miles], the sun was shining and we rested for an hour on a meadow. Then we rode to Trutnov [25 miles] where we would sleep. It was about six o'clock when we found a place where we could sleep.

The next day we rested at Trutnov, cleaning our bicycles. On the next day we went on. We rode about two hours when we saw that we were on a wrong way: we came to the Czech-German [Czech-Polish?] frontier. We had to ride the whole way back, then we arrived at Nachod in the afternoon and Giesshübel [Olešnice in the Orlické Mountains, 30 miles from Trutnov] when it was already dark.

In Giesshübel we had a good friend and we stayed there four days. We made little excursions to mountains in the Orlické Hory. When we rode again on our bicycles to Hradec Kralove it was about 60 miles on a very fine road to Poděbrady. There we slept in the big castle of the Bohemian king Jiri [George] of Poděbrady. The next day we rode to Prague [35 miles]. There one boy became sick and had to go to our hometown Liberec by train. We two others rode after four days via Brandys, Stara and Mlada Boleslav back home [70 miles]. The journey was a very nice one.

Our First Bathe

Last Saturday [soon after the 15 May Windsor excursion] we went bathing for the first time this year in a swimming pool. It was not very hot, the sun was behind the clouds. We started about two o'clock. Six boys rode their bicycles, two boys and the two girls went with Mr Cobbold in his care to Shere. The journey was not very long and in a few minutes we all arrived at Shere church. We left the car and the bicycles outside the church-yard and went to the pool. We were the only visitors. We put on our bathing-suits and went into the water. But it was awfully cold! We could not breathe when we were in that cold water. There came Mr and Mrs Bedford [who ran Brook Lodge] and some friends of ours and they also went into the water. But we had had enough and dressed. We went to the car and to the bicycles and went home. We hope that we will go for a bathe again very soon.

Dear Mr Gray,

I like to be in Brook Lodge School. We are eight boys and three girls and we endure us very well.

I came to England in December 1938, during Christmas I stayed at Surrey Hills and then 3 weeks in London. On the 25th January I came to this school. When I came I did not know half so much English as I know now. I was not able to write an English letter, as I can do now. Also on Geography, Arithmetic and Singing I learned very much what I did not know before. We are also learning Cricket, Drawing, Carpentry, Gardenwork and a lot of other subjects. Saturday and Wednesday are half-holidays, Sunday we are free. On these days I may go to my parents at Surrey Hills. Twice a week we go to the Shere swimming pool. The best of all is that we boys are Boy Scouts. We have a Scout class each Monday evening. Very often we go on Sundays with the Scouts for walks. During Whitsuntide we had our first camp.

I think that my parents shall go to Canada soon. There I will with my brother and sister build us a new future. I will always in my life remember the time which I spent in Brook Lodge School.

Only Herbert's brother Ludwig went to Canada (in July 1939) on the scheme to settle some of the refugees as farmers

The exercise books also include English grammar, dictation, English poetry (e.g. Wordsworth's Daffodils), some German and 'lines' (e.g. "I must not be late for preparation")

Appendix 2 – The Pupils of Brook Lodge School

BROOK LODGE (SCHOOL)				
1939	NAME IN FULL		TOWN	AGE
APRIL 24 th	HÖFNER	GERHARD	PIHANKEN	10
	MOC	WALTER	AUSSIG	15
	LÖWIT	HERBERT	REICHENBERG	16
	LUFT	WALTER	↑	12
	SCHOR	GERHARD	WIEN	10
Woolbourne	STORCH	HEINZ	BODENBACH	10
	BECK	GERHART	BRÜX	13
Hayes	TÜRK	HANNIS	WIEN	14
	Weiss	George		15
	Sommer	Loan	36 Carlton Mans Randolph St. N.Y.	12

This is an extract from the Brook Lodge Visitors' Book – courtesy of Kenneth Birbeck, nephew of Walter and Olive Bedford who ran the Brook Lodge hostel – showing the 8 boys who were attending the school on 24th April 1939. Added in pencil are 2 boys who presumably joined a little later.

Most of the 'main' 8 boys were children of prominent members of the German Social Democratic Workers' Party in the Czechoslovak Republic (DSAP) and/or officials of trade unions. Endangered political activists and their families such as these were brought to England in autumn 1938 and spring 1939 by the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia (BCRC) and supported by its successor organisation the Czech Refugee Trust Fund (CRTF). Some of the families were also Jewish.

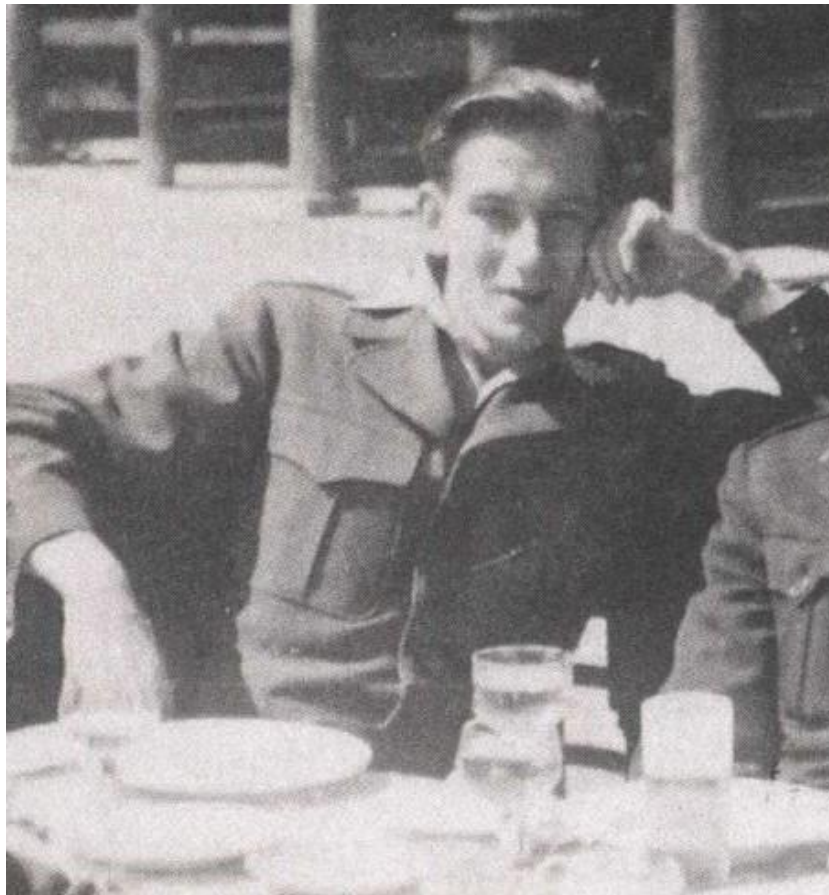
"Some of the boys had both their parents staying in the hostel but myself, Türk, Sommer and Beck were on our own." Gerhard Höfner from his memoir "One of the Lucky Ones"

In the September 1939 National Register (census), 4 boys are listed as being "at school" at Brook Lodge (Löwit, Weiss, Moc and Beck) with 4 or 5 names redacted.

- Höfner's divorced mother was working at Wonersh Chase. His remarried father survived the war in Czechoslovakia and was relocated to Germany in 1949.
- Türk's mother was in domestic service in Hayes, Hillingdon (then in Middlesex) with her new husband Karoly/Charles Dukasz. His father was transported from Prague in November 1941 and murdered at Riga in the Holocaust.
- Beck's parents were at Clifton House, Guildford with some evacuees.
- Weiss's parents and sister were living in Willesden, Middlesex.
- Moc's widowed father was at Brook Lodge, along with Schor's father and Storch's parents.
- Löwit's parents were at Surrey Hills camp nearby, along with Luft's parents and twin sister.
- Sommer's mother was living in a household in Maida Vale in London (address in pencil in Visitors' Book above). His father died in Prague in October 1940.

The Main Boys

Gerhard (Gerry) Höfner was born on 27 May 1927 in Pihanken (now Běhánky) in the Teplice district of north-west Bohemia. His family were staunch social democrats. In the summer of 1938 Gerhard and his mother Antonia (1904-1984) moved to Prague and applied to Bolivia for visas. On 12 January 1939, Gerhard was put on the first flight to England organised by the “Barbican Mission to the Jews” (though he himself was not Jewish). He lived in Chislehurst Kent until his mother arrived in March 1939 on a domestic visa and was accommodated at Brook Lodge hostel. After Brook Lodge School, Gerhard attended Albury School in the village while still living at Brook Lodge and went on to Guildford Junior Technical School in 1941. From March 1941 he lived at Wonersh Chase with his mother (who had been working there as a cook since May 1939) and his step-father Ernst Graf (1898-1947) an anti-Nazi refugee from Germany who was now released from internment. In September 1942 the family moved to 103 Grange Road, Stoughton, Guildford where Walter Moc and his father lodged for a time. In 1943 Gerhard started work as an apprentice toolmaker at the Guildford Glass & Metal Works and studied on a City Guilds course in “Fitting & Turning” at the Technical College. In April 1946 he left for Germany to work with the United States military government in the Civilian Censorship Division, based at Pullach outside Munich. He returned to England a year later on the death of his step-father. In April 1948 he and his mother became British citizens, still resident in Guildford: his occupation was machinist and hers was needlewoman. In June 1953 Gerhard married Ailsa Verrall (1922-2000) in Surrey South Western where they had 2 children. In 2009 he married Yvonne (? – 2018). In May 2024 he celebrated his 97th birthday and was still living in the Albury area.



Gerhard Höfner - Königssee, Germany while working for the US Military Government - 1947

Gerhard's 2013 memoir "One of the Lucky Ones" is published on the Albury History Society website:

<https://alburyhistory.org.uk/attachments/File/One%20of%20the%20Lucky%20Ones%20by%20Gerhard%20Hofner.pdf>

Walter Moc was born on 13 June 1924. He came from Warnsdorf (now Varnsdorf) in the Aussig (Ústí nad Labem) district in north Bohemia. His father was Oscar Stephan Moc (1898-1984), a widowed trade unionist. In November 1938 father and son came to England on the same transport as Theresie Schneider's father and were accommodated at Brook Lodge. Walter's education/work after Brook Lodge School is not known but for some time he lodged with his father at the Höfners' rented home at 103 Grange Road Stoughton near Guildford. In November 1942 Walter registered with the Czechoslovak Military in the UK and served with the Royal Air Force, I believe as ground crew. In September 1947 he became a British citizen, living at 6 Shepherds Hill, Guildford with his father, occupation fitter & turner. In May 1948 he was best man at Herbert Lowit's wedding in Yorkshire; they remained in touch for the rest of his life. In the 1950s Walter moved with his father to the Hampshire coast, working on aircraft design. In the 1960s he moved to the United States to work for Boeing, initially at Seattle and St Louis, then California where he settled. In April 1970 he married Oralia from Mexico. He died in June 2010 in Long Beach, California age 86.



Walter Moc - Skegness, England - February 1943

Herbert Emil Löwit / Lowit was born on 1 May 1923 in Teplitz-Schönau (now Teplice) in north-west Bohemia into a Jewish family. His father Karl Löwit (1887-1965) was a trade union official and a social democratic party activist. In 1928 the family moved to Reichenberg (now Liberec, north Bohemia). In September 1938 the family fled to Budyně nad Ohří, inner Bohemia. In December 1938 Herbert was transported to England with his mother Johanna (1888-1951) and joined his father at Surrey Hills. After a brief stay in London with a Jewish family, he joined Brook Lodge School in January 1939 as head boy. In 1940 he completed his education at Kingston Day Commercial School and started his first job in the town. In April 1941 he registered with the Czechoslovak Military in London and joined the Czechoslovak Brigade at Leamington Spa a month later. From October 1944 to May 1945 he served at the Siege of Dunkirk and after the garrison's surrender returned to Czechoslovakia with the Brigade. From September 1945 to

December 1947 he lived and worked in Prague before returning to England to marry Theresie Schneider (1923-2020), a fellow refugee whom he had met at Brook Lodge. In January 1949 the couple moved to London where 2 daughters were born (including me). In September 1955 Herbert became a British citizen, resident in Ilford, Essex, occupation warehouse manager. He worked for various refugee-run firms until his retirement in 1988 and also taught German part-time in adult evening classes from 1968 to 1998. He died on 17 January 2012 in Waltham Forest, London age 88.



Herbert Lowit – Visiting Jablonec (formerly Gablonz), Czechoslovakia – June 1945

Herbert's family story is being told on the Facebook page "The Lowit Family – from Bohemia to Britain and beyond"
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070073161353>

Walter Erich Luft was born on 27 June 1927 in Reichenberg (now Liberec) in north Bohemia. His parents were good friends with Herbert Lowit's parents; his father Gustav (1901-1948) was a party official, trade unionist and journalist. In September 1938 Walter moved with his mother Anna (1906-1985) and twin sister Ingeborg to their aunt's house in Prague. In November 1938 he came on a transport to England with his mother and sister, and joined his father at Surrey Hills. In spring 1939 he briefly attended a school in Coolham, West Sussex, but then joined Brook Lodge School and later Central High School in Guildford when the family were living at 26 York Road, a three-story townhouse which they shared with the Beck and Löbl families. Between 1941 and 1946 the Luft family moved to South Croydon and then Cardiff, with Walter joining his father in working as a mechanic in light industrial firms. In August 1946 he joined the civilian workforce of the United States Army of Occupation in Germany, based at Offenbach near Frankfurt. In September 1950 he married Hannelore Roentgen (1928-2012) in the German state of Hesse. In October 1951 the couple emigrated to the United States where Walter enjoyed a career with the United States Army Reserve. He became a US citizen in April 1957. He died on 24 October 2015 in Alabama age 88.

Walter Luft wrote a memoir "Memories of a Refugee – Man Without a Country" and sent it to Herbert Lowit in November 2002

Gerhard Oscar (Rudi) Schor was born in 1928 in Vienna, Austria. On the Czech Refugee Trust Fund list he is shown alongside Arnost/Ernst Schor (born 1901), presumably his father who had been a (Jewish?) store manager. I have not been able to find out when and how they came to England but by April 1939 Rudi was at Brook Lodge School. In the September 1939 National Register, Ernst is recorded as living at Brook Lodge and a month later he was exempted from internment as a stateless refugee from Nazi oppression. On 19 December 1939 Ernst and Gerhardt (sic) left Brook Lodge for the ship Orduña which sailed from Liverpool to Valparaiso. Ernst's occupation on the passenger list is recorded as doctor of political economy. Their country of future residence was recorded as Bolivia, a country that took in more than 20,000 mainly Jewish refugees from Central Europe between 1938 and 1941.

Heinz (Henry Louis Clifford) Storch was born in 1927 in Bodenbach (now Děčín) in north Bohemia. His father Rudolf Josef (1900-1983) was a social democratic party official who had been on the same transport as Herbert Lowit's father in November 1938. Heinz followed on a transport to England, presumably with his mother Anna Victoria (1901-1983) and his brother Rudolf Franz (1923-2014). Redbourne next to his name in the Brook Lodge School list on page 10 indicates that the family may have been living at Redbourn hostel in St Albans before coming to Brook Lodge. After Brook Lodge School Heinz attended Albury School in the village. I do not know his location and activities between 1941 and 1947, but his father may have got Heinz into a public school as he had done with Heinz's older brother who went to Warwick School. In January 1948 Heinz became a British citizen along with his parents, resident in Guildford. A post-war record states he was an electrical engineer. From 2002 to 2008 he was living at the Barnet address where his parents had died in January 1983.

Gerhart Rudolf Eduard (Gerald Edward) Beck was born on 26 February 1926 in Brůx (now Most) in north Bohemia. I have not yet found out when and how he came to England but by April 1939 Gerhart was at Brook Lodge School and in the September 1939 National Register his parents Karl (a lawyer, 1884-1942) and Anna (1886-1959) were living as anti-Hitler refugees at Clifton House, Castle Hill, Guildford. After Brook Lodge School Gerhart attended Central High School in Guildford, and lived at 26 York Road with his parents and the Luft and Löbl families. In 1944 Gerhart registered with the Czechoslovak Military in the UK and served in the Army. According to Walter Luft's memoir, Gerhart returned to his former hometown after the war but was caught up in the expulsions of Sudeten Germans and wound up on a transport to the Russian zone of occupation. However, he managed to return to Guildford where he became a British citizen in March 1948 while resident at 26 York Road with his widowed mother. In December 1989 he married Olive Novello Bright (?-2017) in Solihull, Warwickshire (perhaps a second marriage?). He died in 2005 in Solihull age 79.



In August 2020 I was sent this undated photograph by Ralph Samuel who believed it was of "Gert Beck's wedding in Guildford . . . Notice that the steps are lined by Scouts."

I have not been able to find a record of this marriage.

With thanks to Ralph Samuel for his memories of Gerhart Beck and the Turk/Dukasz family. Ralph was a German Jewish refugee who came to England on the Kindertransport, was evacuated with his mother to Newlands Corner, and lived in Guildford before emigrating to the United States in 1957.

Hanns/Hans/Jan/Ian Ludwig Türk/Turk was born 26 March 1925 in Vienna into a Jewish family. His father was Walter Türk (1902-1942) who came from Prague. When Austria was annexed by the Third Reich in March 1938, Hans fled to his (paternal?) uncle in Prague. In May 1938 his divorced mother Gertrude Elisabeth (1906-?) came to England from Vienna, presumably on a domestic visa. In November 1938 Gertrude married Karoly (Charles) Dukasz, a Hungarian refugee (1895-?) in Watford. Hans then came to England with one of his uncles [see his Brook Lodge School Magazine article for the full story] and was reunited with his mother in Hayes, also with his widowed grandmother Marie Altschul (1885-1957) and his aunt Annie Therese Altschul (1919-2001). I do not know Hans' location and activities after Brook Lodge School but he presumably joined the RAF at some point. In March 1947 as Ian Turk he married Florence Edith Whitehead (1924-?) in Yaxley, Huntingdonshire. In September 1947 he became a British citizen, resident at 154 Stoughton Road, Guildford (where his mother and step-father were living), occupation 'serving with His Majesty's Forces'. In November 1951 he was commissioned as a pilot officer in the RAF volunteer reserve for 5 years. In August 1956 he sailed from Sale in Cheshire for Melbourne, Australia with his wife and 2 sons, occupation electrical engineer. Later he became a company manager and consulting engineer, living in Castlecrag outside Sydney. He died on 1 March 2006 in Canberra age 80.

For more information about Hans Ian Ludwig Türk's family see his entry on Geni.com and associated links.

All the 8 boys above enrolled as Boy Scouts into the Red Falcons Scout Group, attached to the 9th Guildford Patrol. My account of the Red Scouts of Brook Lodge is [HERE](#).

The 'New' Boys

Georg/Jiří/George Robert Weiss was born on 26 September 1924 in Prague. In May 1939 he came on Nicholas Winton's Kindertransport from Prague to England, address listed as c/o Mr Weiss 43 York Street W, granted hospitality by Miss E Sturge of Selly Oak, Birmingham. From August 1939 the Czech Refugee Trust Fund maintained him at Brook Lodge hostel and at the County Technical School, Stoke Park, Guildford. Meanwhile his parents (Vladimir 1887-1962 and Josefa 1897-1976) and sister Sonia (1923-2008) were living with Esther Harrison at 37 Peter Avenue, London NW10 who was Georg's official guarantor; his family had arrived in England separately between January and August 1939. In May 1940 Georg moved to London to live with his family, now at 31 Chatsworth Court, Pembroke Road, Kensington W8. He continued his training (including a course at Leeds) as an engineering apprentice. He died on 20 June 1944 at Guy's Hospital following a 'tonsillectomy misadventure' age 19.

Theresie Schneider referred to Weiss and Türk a few times in her letters to Herbert Lowit in early 1940:

25th January: "Now everyone will be able to come up from the farm [Brook Farm] and live in the [Brook Lodge] cottage. Probably as early as Monday . . .Türk and Weiss will sleep downstairs until they leave too."

2nd February: "Weiss and Türk are staying in a hotel in Guildford."

20th March: "Weiss was here today, he's going to London tomorrow. They're already on vacation."

The list of the 669 children rescued by the Czechoslovak Kindertransport organised by Nicholas Winton is on

<https://www.nicholaswinton.com/wintons-children>

Another of 'Winton's children' who came to Brook Lodge was **Greta Jelinek** whose story is published on the Albury History Society website:

<https://alburyhistory.org.uk/attachments/File/Greta's%20Story,%20Greta%20Jelinek,%20Albury%20Sudeten%20refugee.pdf>

Ivan Jaromir Sommer was born on 4 May 1927 in Prague. His father Otto (1890-1940) was a Jewish lawyer and both parents were members of the Social Democratic Party. Ivan had arrived in England before April 1939 with his sister Hana (1925-2013). Their names are not on the list of Winton's children so they may have travelled on one of the other transports organised by the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia. Their mother Zdenka (1901-1996) left Prague on her own after the children's departure and arrived in England on 2 April 1939. Her children's guarantor was Robert Weatherall, a science master at Eton College who had a Czech wife: their son born in 1931 recalled that their house in Eton in the war years was filled with Czech refugees. Ivan lived for a time in a retired bank clerk's house in Windsor before coming to Brook Lodge at an unknown date. In 1940 according to Gerhard Höfner's memoir, Ivan went on to Albury School and in the autumn the two boys shared a room at Brook Lodge cottage. In April 1943 Ivan and his sister, both students, emigrated to the United States from a north London address with their mother, now a widow and a clerk; their two aunts Vera Beck (1905-1975) and Milada Menkart (1899-1974) had already managed to emigrate to the USA in 1939 and 1941 respectively. Ivan married Dorothy Wright (1930-2015) in 1951 in New York and they had 2 children. Ivan died on 17 September 1994 in South Carolina age 67. A profile and photograph of him and details of his family are on Geni.com.

The Girls

Helga W Werner was born on 29 November 1924 in Komotau (now Chomutov) in north-west Bohemia. Her father Willibald (1891-1967) was a leading trade unionist and party functionary in Karlsbad (now Karlovy Vary) in north-west Bohemia. In September 1938 the family fled to the union headquarters in Poděbrady where they were reunited with the Schneider family who were lifelong friends. In 1939 Helga was living at Brook Farm next to Brook Lodge with her parents including her mother Cecilie (1898-1991). In 1940 she moved to Bromsgrove with her parents and worked as a children's nurse. In February 1947 she emigrated to the United States to marry Philip J Weiss (1918-2013) whom she had met when he was a GI in Britain. The couple settled in Philadelphia and Helga's parents joined her in March 1950. She died on 24 November 1993 in Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania age 68.



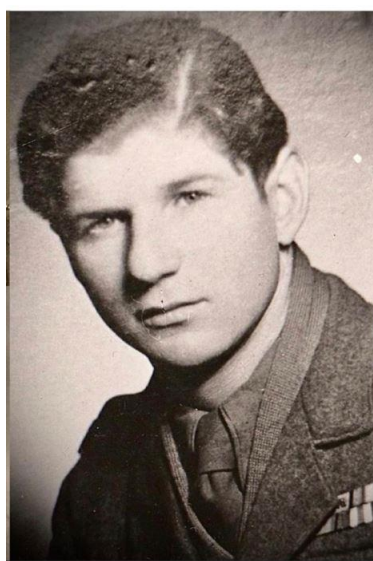
Helga Werner - Bromsgrove 1940

Gerda/Gertrude Olivia Clara Tscherney was born in 1928. She came from Platten (now Horní Blatná) in Karlovy Vary District, north-west Bohemia. Her father Franz (1896-1965) was a baker; his trade union/party activities are not known. I have not yet found out exactly how and when the family arrived at Brook Lodge but family photographs show they were there by spring 1939. Gerda's parents including her mother Anna (1893-?) appear to have remained in the Guildford area after the war; her sister Anna (1922-1992) moved to Hove; her brother Ernst (1917-?) served in the Czechoslovak Army. In 1953 Gerda married Ronald W C Still (1926-1995) in Surrey South Western where they had 3 children. Gerda died on 25 January 2013 in Bridport, Dorset age 84.

Gundi Distler was born on 2 September 1923. She came from Bodenbach (now Děčín) in north Bohemia. Her father Leonhard (1898-1958) was a party activist and engineer; her mother was Ermine (1900-1984). Family photographs show that the family were at Brook Lodge by spring 1939. In 1940 Gundi moved with her parents to north-west England. In March 1947 she married James H Hayes in Liverpool where they had 3 children. Gundi died in February 1992 in Liverpool age 68.

Also:

Leo Joseph Hieke was born on 28 May 1926 in Fischern (now Rybáře) in Karlovy Vary district, north-west Bohemia. His father Emil (1894-1975) was a party activist, member of the [Rote Wehr](#) (Republican Defence) and in Hitler's Black Book. In September/October 1938 the family fled to the Hotel Zalozna in Sedlec-Prčice to await transports from Prague. In March 1939 Leo came to England on a transport with his mother Josefina (1889-1975), sister Marianne (1924-2018) and younger brother Viktor (1933-2022); they were reunited with Emil at Surrey Hills. Leo attended Albury School from September 1939 to December 1940 and then worked at the Guildford Glassworks before joining the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (R.E.M.E.) workshops in April 1942 at Stoughton, Guildford. In June 1944 he registered with the Czechoslovak Military in the UK and served at the Siege of Dunkirk from October 1944, as did his two older brothers Wilhelm (1919-1992) and Alois (1922-2008). Leo returned to Prague after the war, was demobilised in September 1946, and came back to England the following month with his oldest sister Gabriella (1921-2008). In January 1950 he became a British citizen, resident at Brook Lodge (where his parents lived until 1952), occupation fitter/mechanic. In March 1951 he married Olive Squelch (1927-2016) in Surrey South Western where they had 3 children. Leo died on 21 September 1986 in Cranleigh, Surrey age 60.



With thanks to Leo's grandson Dr Graham Hieke who has provided additional information about the Hieke family

Theresie Schneider was born on 17 June 1923 in in Fischern (now Rybáře) in Karlovy Vary district, north-west Bohemia. Her father Josef (1900-1992) was a trade union official and party activist. In September 1938 the family fled from the metalworkers' union headquarters in Komotau (Chomutov), where Josef had been recently promoted, to the union's holiday home in Poděbrady to await transports to England. In December 1938 Theresie came to England on a transport with her mother Anna (1904-1949); they were reunited with Josef at Brook Lodge. In January 1939 Theresie worked in domestic service in Merrow until war broke out when she joined Brook Lodge School. In 1940 after a brief period of domestic service at Womersley Chase, then a short secretarial course at Clark's College Guildford, she moved to Yorkshire in September where Josef was now working at a glass factory. In spring 1941 Theresie was employed as a shorthand-typist at that glass factory. In October 1941 Theresie joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and was stationed at RAF Colerne throughout the war, working as a clerk/shorthand typist. In September 1945 she was posted to London to assist with the repatriation of New Zealand airmen. In March 1946 she was demobilised, returned to Yorkshire and resumed her secretarial career. In May 1948 she married teenage sweetheart Herbert Lowit in Yorkshire. In January 1949 the couple moved to London where their 2 daughters were born (including me). In September 1955 she became a British citizen, resident in Ilford, Essex, occupation housewife. She died on 5 March 2020 in Waltham Forest, London age 96.



Theresie Schneider - RAF Colerne 1942

Appendix 3 – The Staff of Brook Lodge School

F R C Cobbold

Felix Rudolph Chevallier Cobbold was born on 1 January 1895 in Jamaica. He came from the brewing and landowning family based in Suffolk. His prep school was St Ronan's in Worthing, Sussex where he represented his school in football and cricket. His senior school is unrecorded.

Mr Cobbold served in the First World War as Second Lieutenant in the Suffolk Regiment; one report says he was in the retreat at Mons in 1914 and on the Somme in 1916. He joined the Royal Flying Corps (the air arm of the British Army, later the Royal Air Force) and was shot down in the "Western Theatre of Operations". He was declared missing on 8th November 1917 and repatriated on 12th December 1918. The photo shows him in a prisoner of war camp in 1918.



In 1926 he married Mary Edith Wallace (born 14 October 1904) in St Martin, London, although there is also a marriage record in Thanet, Kent.

Little is known about his career between the two world wars except that he was joint headmaster with the founder of Aymestrey School, a preparatory school for boys in Worcestershire, from about 1930 to 1933. The school (then called Aymestrey Court) claimed to 'prepare pupils for Public Schools and the Royal Navy'. It encouraged outdoor games, had a large gymnasium and 'Physical Drill' took place daily. Mr Cobbold produced the 1931 Christmas magazine on the 'new Gestetner Machine'.

How Mr Cobbold was considered 'retired' aged 44, came to be in Albury by 1939 and was recruited to lead the school for a handful of refugee boys from Czechoslovakia is unclear, but my family are glad he was! Another mystery is that in September 1939, he and his wife are recorded in the National Register as living in Plymouth, Devon as Superintendent and Lady Matron of Dr Barnardo's Home "Welby", 'Ever Open Door' shelter. My father Herbert Lowit's memoirs contain little hint that Mr Cobbold left Brook Lodge School before the end of December 1939. Whatever Mr Cobbold's movements, it does seem that he and his wife had a focus on humanitarian work.

The last bit of information I have is that Mr Cobbold died in 1972 in Cardiganshire. His wife died in 1993 in Swansea and their son Ralph died in 1997 also in Swansea.

With thanks to Anthony Cobbold of the Cobbold Family History Trust

<https://family-tree.cobboldfht.com/people/view/334>

See also <https://www.aymestreyschool.com/> and <http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/PlymouthDB/>

Eduard Berner

The Brook Lodge School 'housemaster' came to Brook Lodge from Brůx (now Most) but details of his life in Czechoslovakia are not known. I also cannot find him in the September 1939 Register. According to Czechoslovak military records, he was born on 29 October 1903 in Prague and registered with the Czechoslovak Army in London in July 1942 and again in June 1943. He was naturalised as a British citizen in June 1949, now living in Hampstead, occupation 'Partner (General Agencies)'. He married Ursula Irene Miller (1919-1963) in Hampstead soon after his naturalisation and they had a daughter in 1950. Eduard/Edward Berner died on 29 September 1954 at The Middlesex Hospital in London.

Dr Rudolf Fischer

Dr Fischer was born on 28 June 1887 in Gablonz (now Jablonec nad Nisou) and was headmaster of a state training college in Aussig (now Ústí nad Labem). As an active member of the social democratic party (and Jewish) he was evacuated to England by the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia in autumn 1938. In December he was joined by his wife Hedwig (1890-1956) who came on the same transport as Herbert Lowit: she remembered the teenage boy as always being hungry! In the September 1939 Register Dr and Mrs Fischer were living in Sopperstol, Broadford, Shalford. They later moved to Onslow Village, Guildford, then Cheadle, Cheshire where they became British citizens in February 1948. Dr Fischer was then teaching languages at a local grammar school. Four of his sisters had died in the Holocaust. In November 1949 the couple sailed from Liverpool for Fremantle, Western Australia, apparently emigrating with their younger daughter Friedl (1920-?) and her family. Hedwig Fischer died in Western Australia in 1956. Rudolf Fischer sailed from London for Fremantle on his own in 1959; still a UK citizen and still intending to settle in Australia: perhaps he had been visiting his older daughter Lotte (1916-1985)? However, he must have returned to live in London again because he died in Camden in June 1972.

Herbert Lowit's father Karl refers to Dr Fischer a few times in his English Journal (and kept in touch until the Fischers went to Australia):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JP7VnW5l1PL9QNwHMklC8PiOaxmQgmGY/view?usp=sharing>

"Sunday, 18th December, 1938: The Rev. Mr Gray had invited us also to attend an intimate recital of the Choir in his own home (the Rectory) on the same evening. So I went there, together with Dr Fischer (living in Shalford now). . . It was a wonderful evening in the rectory. Dr Fischer and I joined a merry party there, the conductor of the choir and the Rector delivered witty speeches, and finally there was a funny celebration of Mrs Gray's birthday."

Miss Lydia Hyde

Lydia Katherine (Bay) Hyde was born in the Guildford District on 8 December 1901 and baptized in Shere the following year. Her parents William and Kate were artists. In the September 1939 Register Miss Hyde is listed as a teacher, living at the family home Burnside, Shere with her widowed mother and sister Isabel who was in the Land Army. Lydia died in April 1980 in Guildford.

In the second half of 1939 Miss Hyde taught the girls at Brook Lodge School: my mother Theresie Schneider still remembered her to the end of her life. Miss Hyde also appears to have taken over some of the English lessons from Mr Cobbold (because he had moved to Plymouth by then?). She was also a dedicated teacher of the adult refugees at Surrey Hills Guest House as can be seen from my grandfather's English Journal:

“14th May, 1940: This afternoon Miss Hyde, our successful teacher at Surrey Hills for the last few months, resumed her lessons at 4, York Road [Guildford]. May success reward her untiring endeavours!”

Miss Evelyn Knight

My father’s Drawing reports were initialled “EK” and he named this art teacher in his 1999 account as ‘Miss Evelyn Knight’. But I can find no record of an unmarried Evelyn Knight living in the area at the time. There was a prosperous Knight family living in Godalming including Evelyn Emily Knight (1883-1968) who had married in 1923, and single women Ethel Egerton Knight (1883-1974) whose occupation in 1939 was Book Keeper in a boot shop (she had previously been a milliner and a ladies secretary) and Eva Margery Knight (1908-1992) whose occupation from 1926 to 1969 was GPO telephonist. It seems unlikely that any of these EKs would have had time to come over to Brook Lodge to teach art to a handful of German-speaking boys.

A more local single woman with surname Knight was May Knight born on 23 March 1891 in the Guildford District. In the 1901 and 1911 censuses she had been living with her parents William and Mary and sister Ada at Dalton Hill Cottage, Albury. Her occupation in 1911 was lady’s maid; her younger sister was a dressmaker. In the September 1939 Register May Knight is listed as living in Albury House with her invalid father, mother and sister; her occupation then was ‘household duties’. She died in 1979 in Surrey. To me she is an example of so many spinsters of her generation whose lives were just as much affected by the First World War as Mr Cobbold’s must have been.

Appendix 4 - Sources

- Lowit Family Archive for documents, memoirs, address books, photographs
- CAST website for lists of names of Czechoslovaks in Britain during the second world war http://www.geocities.ws/czechandslovakthings/WW2_aguide.htm
- Czechoslovak Military Archive Database for lists of Czechoslovaks who registered for military service during the second world war while abroad <https://www.vuapraha.cz/databaze-vha/>
- Find My Past website, particularly useful for the September 1939 National Register (census) but also details of marriages, deaths, probates, passenger lists, entries in Hitler’s Black Book
- Geni.com website, useful for tracing some Jewish families
- Discovery National Archives including access to National Archives records
- The London Gazette for details of British naturalisations
- Biographisches Handbuch Der Deutschsprachigen Emigration Nach 1933–1945 – published by Institut für Zeitgeschichte; Research Foundation for Jewish Immigration, New York 1999 - for biographies of some of the pupils’ parents <https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783110968545/html?lang=de>

With special thanks to Trevor Brook of the Albury History Society

<https://alburyhistory.org.uk/>

Postscript

In May 2024 I found a tiny blurry photo buried in my family's archives with a caption in German on the reverse (not in my parents' handwriting): "All the Children at Brook Lodge August 1939".

The photo does not in fact show all the children but a good number of them (plus an unknown adult). Three of those in the photo were English and related to the couple who ran the Brook Lodge hostel. But all the rest had been rescued from Central Europe by the efforts of a range of political, Christian and humanitarian agencies and individuals in 1938/1939. All but one survived the war to lead lives that they would not have had otherwise.



Front row:

1. Hans Türk (later Ian Turk)
2. Brian Bedford
3. Shirley Bedford?
4. Theresie Schneider (later Lowit)
5. Bernard Smith (cousin of Brian Bedford)
6. Edi Eger
7. Georg Weiss

Middle row:

1. Ivan Sommer?
2. Teacher?
3. Helga Werner (later Weiss)
4. Gerda Tscherney (later Still)
5. Rudi Schor
6. Margareta Fürch (later Stagg)
7. Greta Jelinek (later Roberts)

Back row:

1. Ilse Jelinek
2. Lotte Jelinek (later Lewis, Fletcher)
3. Gundi Distler (later Hayes)
4. Herbert Löwit (later Lowit)
5. Walter Moc
6. Heinz Storch?

Not pictured:

- Gerhard Beck
- Leo and Viktor Hieke
- Gerhard Höfner
- Walter Luft