

Flight of Austrian Jews: Christadelphians Foster A Child

In hopes of finding a safe haven for children, one path was to petition the Fürsorge-Zentrale der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinde Wien Auswanderungsabteilung (the Emigration Department of the Welfare Center of the Jewish Community of Vienna).

The Jewish Community of Vienna had initially been shut down by the Nazis during the Anschluss, but was reopened in May 1938 and forced by the Gestapo to organize the emigration of Jews including Kindertransports. By January 1939, the Emigration Department had received 43,336 applicants with 74,643 dependents.

Helga Wertheimer Bellenger was such a dependent. She was taken in by the Joseph Powell Bland family, living in Kidderminster, England. The Bland family were Christadelphians, a small Christian denomination that are distinguished theologically by their rejection of the doctrine of the Trinity. They see themselves as having a religion that is very much in harmony with Judaism. Despite their modest numbers, Christadelphians sponsored approximately 250 of the 10,000 children who went to Great Britain via the Kindertransport.

6165

This document of identity is issued with the approval of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to young persons to be admitted to the United Kingdom for educational purposes under the care of the Inter-Aid Committee for children.

THIS DOCUMENT REQUIRES NO VISA.

PERSONAL PARTICULARS.

5236


Name WERTHEIMER HELGA

Sex FEMALE Date of Birth 5.4.30.

Place WIEN

Full Names and Address of Parents
WERTHEIMER - ARTUR & MARGARETE
23, VOLKERTSTR.
WIEN 2

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(copy)

Helga's Red Cross identity card #6165 allowing her entry into the United Kingdom on June 28, 1939.

(Replica: Image from William Kaczynski book, Fleeing From The Führer (2011), cover page and page 26.)